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Vietnam and the Home Front: How DoD Installations Adapted, 1962–1975

Ellen R. Hartman, Susan I. Ensore, and Adam D. Smith

June 2014



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Vietnam and the Home Front: How DoD Installations Adapted, 1962–1975

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Abstract

In the United States, the buildup for the Vietnam War included construction of mission-related buildings and structures to support the war. The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, requires federal agencies to inventory and evaluate their cultural resources, usually as they near 50 years of age. The Vietnam-related structures are about to turn 50 and there is no existing historic context describing the development, construction, and use of these facilities. A broad overview from 1962 through 1975 highlights the Vietnam-influenced construction that created facilities on many installations. This new construction augmented the existing World War II-era infrastructure that became heavily utilized in support of the Vietnam War. By providing a broad foundation of the U.S. military's involvement in Vietnam, this report can be utilized to develop more detailed research that will lead to identification and evaluation of Vietnam-era facilities at Department of Defense military installations in the United States. This report's historic context provides military cultural resources professionals with a common understanding for determining the historical significance of Vietnam-era facilities, greatly increasing efficiency and cost-savings of this necessary effort.

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Preface

This study was conducted for the Legacy Resource Management Office under Project 12-518, “Vietnam and the Home Front: How DoD Installations Changed, 1962–1975.” Technical monitoring for the project was provided by staff from the Legacy Resource Management Office.

The work was performed by the Land and Heritage Conservation Branch (CN-C) of the Installations Division (CN), U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center – Construction Engineering Research Laboratory (ERDC-CERL). At the time of publication, Dr. Michael Hargrave was Chief, CEERD-CN-C; and Ms. Michelle Hanson was Chief, CEERD-CN. The Deputy Director of ERDC-CERL was Dr. Kirankumar Topudurti, and the Director was Dr. Ilker Adiguzel.

COL Jeffrey R. Eckstein was the Commander of ERDC, and Dr. Jeffery P. Holland was the Director.

Unit Conversion Factors

| Multiply | By | To Obtain |
|---------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| feet | 0.3048 | meters |
| inches | 0.0254 | meters |
| miles (U.S. statute) | 1,609.347 | meters |
| square feet | 0.09290304 | square meters |
| square miles | 2.589998 E+06 | square meters |
| square yards | 0.8361274 | square meters |
| tons (2,000 pounds, mass) | 907.1847 | kilograms |
| yards | 0.9144 | meters |

Abbreviations

| Term | Meaning |
|-------------|---|
| AB | Air Base |
| ACDC | Army Combat Developments Command |
| AFB | Air Force Base |
| AFIT | Air Force Institute of Technology |
| AIT | Advanced Individual Training |
| AMC | Army Materiel Command |
| AMEDD | Army Medical Department |
| ANG | Air National Guard |
| ATC | Air Training Command |
| BASOPS | base operations |
| BCT | Basic Combat Training |
| BOQ | bachelor officers' quarters |
| CCTG | Combat Crew Training Group |
| CDC | Combat Development Command |
| COIN | counterinsurgency |
| CONARC | Continental Army Command |
| CONUS | Continental United States |
| CRAF | Civil Reserve Air Fleet |
| CRM | Cultural Resources Manager |
| DEW | Distant Early Warning |
| DMZ | demilitarized zone |
| DoD | Department of Defense |
| ECM | electronic countermeasures |
| ERDC-CERL | US Army Engineer Research and Development Center- Construction Engineering Research Laboratory |
| FBM | Fleet Ballistic Missile |
| FSR | Force Service Regiment |
| HQMC | Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps |
| MAAG | Military Assistance Advisory Group |
| MAAG-V | Military Assistance Advisory Group – Vietnam |
| MAC | Military Airlift Command |
| MACV | Military Assistance Command, Vietnam |
| MACDC | Military Assistance Command Directorate of Construction |
| MATA | Military Assistance Training Advisors |

| Term | Meaning |
|-------------|--|
| MCAS | Marine Corps Air Station |
| MCAS (H) | Marine Corps Air Station (Helicopter) |
| MHTG | Marine Helicopter Training group |
| MIPR | Military Interdepartmental Purchase Request |
| MOS | Military Occupational Specialty |
| MSTS | Military Sea Transportation Service |
| NAF | Naval Air Facility |
| NAAS | Naval Auxiliary Air Station |
| NAS | Naval Air Station |
| NATO | North Atlantic Treaty Organization |
| NATTC | Naval Air Technical Training Center |
| NCO | non-commissioned officer |
| NHPA | National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 |
| NRHP | National Register of Historic Places |
| NTC | Naval Training Center |
| PACAF | Pacific Air Forces |
| POW | prisoner of war |
| ROTC | Reserve Officers Training Corps |
| SAC | Strategic Air Command |
| SEAL | Sea, Air, Land (Navy special forces) |
| SVN | South Vietnamese (Army) |
| TAC | Tactical Air Command |
| TERM | Temporary Equipment Recovery Mission |
| USAF | United States Air Force |
| USATC | U.S. Army Training Center |
| WOC | Warrant Officer Candidates |
| WORWAC | Warrant officer Candidate Rotary Wing Aviator Course |
| UIUC | University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign |
| UPH | Unaccompanied Personnel Housing |
| USABRDL | U.S. Army Biomedical Research and Development Laboratory |
| USAIDR | U.S. Army Institute of Dental Research |
| USARIEM | U.S. Army Research Institute for Environmental Medicine |
| USAMRMC | U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command |
| USAMRDC | U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command |
| WRAMA | Warner Robins Air Materiel Area |
| WWII | World War II |

Executive Summary

In the United States, the buildup for the Vietnam War included construction of mission-related buildings and structures to support the war. These structures are about to turn 50 years old and there is no existing historic context describing the development, construction, and use of Vietnam War mission-related facilities. This report, funded by the Legacy Resources Management Program, fills that gap to provide a broad historic overview from 1962 through 1975, highlighting the Vietnam-influenced construction that created facilities on many installations.

The overview nature of this report is meant to provide common ground for understanding the need for construction on military installations in support of the conflict in Vietnam. This overview is planned to be supplemented by more detailed reports that focus on important historical trends that drove construction. As a result, this overview of historic context does not provide determinations of eligibility or character-defining features of property types. Those aspects of property evaluation will be part of the subcontext reports.

This report does, however, identify several thematic areas related to stateside construction in support of the war effort under which significance can be defined: (a) ground training, (b) air training, (c) special warfare, (d) schools, (e) housing, (f) medical facilities, and (g) logistics facilities. Subcontext reports on the themes of ground training and air training (specifically the role of helicopters) are currently being produced.

The primary findings of this report, apart from the thematic areas identified, serve to distinguish construction related to the Vietnam War from that associated with previous conflicts in two main ways: the high level of available building stock and the long duration of the war. When the troop buildup for Vietnam was instituted, most military installations still retained a large number of World War II (WWII) buildings which were then pressed into use as necessary to support increased troop levels. Additionally, a substantial building modernization construction and rehabilitation program had begun in the 1950s and was still underway at the start of the Vietnam War.

Consequently, there was no need to repeat the massive WWII effort to establish and fully construct working installations in a few months time. In actuality, one of the ways the Vietnam War differed from previous 20th century conflicts was the decade-long duration of the conflict. With no need for massive amounts of new facilities, and a period of construction lasting many years, there was no major overarching construction program across the Department of Defense as a response to the U.S. military activities in the Vietnam War. As a result, there was also no large-scale effort to produce standardized designs to be replicated across the county. Aside from creating new training areas to accommodate new training methods (e.g., “Quick Kill” ranges and Viet Cong villages), construction was largely piecemeal and focused on specialized training needs.

For cultural resource management purposes, several types of buildings likely to have been constructed in large numbers during this period are covered under existing program comments (e.g., Unaccompanied Personnel Housing Program Comment (barracks) and the Ammunition Storage Facilities Program Comment). Although most barracks were built as part of barracks complexes that contained other standard building types, the other buildings in the complexes (except for mess halls) are not covered under the UPH Program Comment. While a large amount of family housing was constructed during this period, it was ancillary to the thematic areas, and it is now largely privatized and out of DoD authority for making NRHP determinations of eligibility.

1 Methodology

1.1 Background

Congress codified the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA), the nation's most effective cultural resources legislation to date, in order to provide guidelines and requirements for preserving tangible elements of our past. This was done primarily through the creation of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Contained within this piece of legislation (Sections 110 and 106) are requirements for federal agencies to address their cultural resources, which are defined as any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object. Section 110 requires federal agencies to inventory and evaluate their cultural resources. Section 106 requires the determination of effect of federal undertakings on properties deemed eligible or potentially eligible for the NRHP.

What the Department of Defense (DoD) constructed at U.S. installations in response to the efforts in Vietnam has significance for the NRHP at the national level. For all areas of significance identified for this Vietnam War-era construction, they would be significant under Criterion A and also have the potential for significance under Criterion C. For either criterion, the property must still retain its integrity from the period of significance from 1962 through 1975. Properties constructed in the United States to support the Vietnam War effort must still convey a sense of historic and architectural cohesiveness through their location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

1.2 Objective

The objective of this effort was to research, analyze, and compile a broad historic context to illustrate how DoD installations in the United States were affected by the conflict in Vietnam. Since very little has ever been researched and written about DoD construction history from 1962 through 1975, this effort looked at the broad history of construction on the home front and highlighted areas that need more in-depth research; in that way, this report is unlike most historic contexts which include a list of important building types, integrity analyses, and character-defining features. In addition, this report contains proportionately more information about the Army, relative to other military services, as a result

of the Army having proportionally both more troops in Vietnam and more installations in the United States.

1.3 Approach

1.3.1 Project funding

Under a Military Interdepartmental Purchase Request (MIPR), the Engineer Research and Development Center-Construction Engineering Research Laboratory (ERDC-CERL) was retained by the DoD Legacy Resources Management Program to complete a broad historic context of the Vietnam War years from 1962 through 1975.

1.3.2 Previous reports

While there are thousands of books, journal articles, and studies on what the United States did in Vietnam, very little has been written regarding how the DoD reacted to the conflict at its own installations in the United States. No previous reports or studies were found that discuss the construction programs in the United States related to the Vietnam War for the DoD during the period of significance from 1962 through 1975. Several reports did cover aspects of construction during this period such as the Unaccompanied Personnel Housing (UPH) historic context and the Ammunition Supply Point historic context.^{1,2}

1.3.3 Research design

ERDC-CERL researchers developed a preliminary list of research questions that shaped initial investigations. The researchers developed these questions based on previous experience with similar historic contexts. The primary focus of the research was to determine how the DoD's architectural legacy resulting from the Vietnam War during the years of 1962 through 1975 impacted DoD installations across the United States. Another focus was to develop how NRHP eligibility criteria may be applied to the properties constructed during that time span. Research questions included the following: What role did each military service have

¹ Kathryn M. Kuranda, et al., *Army Unaccompanied Personnel Housing (UPH) During the Cold War (1946-1989)*, (Frederick, Maryland: R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc. for the U.S. Army Environmental Center, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, 2003).

² Kathryn M. Kuranda, et.al. (R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc.), *Army Ammunition and Explosives Storage During the Cold War (1946-1989)*, (Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD: U.S. Army Environmental Command, 2009), 8-10–8-11.

during the Vietnam War era? Which entities designed and constructed the majority of the properties during the Vietnam War era? What was left from that era?

The overview nature of this report is meant to provide common ground for understanding the need for construction on military installations in support of the conflict in Vietnam. This overview was always planned to be supplemented by more detailed reports that focus on important historical trends that drove construction. As a result, this overview historic context does not provide determinations of eligibility or character-defining features of property types; this information will be part of the subcontext reports.

This report does, however, identify several thematic areas related to the stateside construction efforts in support of the war effort under which significance can be defined: (a) ground training, (b) air training, (c) special warfare, (d) schools, (e) housing, (f) medical facilities, and (g) logistics facilities. Subcontext reports on both the themes of ground training and air training (specifically the role of helicopters) are currently being produced.

Literature review

Due to the lack of secondary sources and previous reports related to the DoD construction during the period of significance, researchers initiated a literature review of books, archival repositories, and online resources related to the Vietnam War. The following places were contacted and/or searched:

- National Archives and Records Administration (College Park, Maryland; Washington, DC)
- Library of Congress
- University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Library
- ERDC Library
- Pentagon Library
- U.S. Office of History, US Army Corps of Engineers (online USACE field histories and email)
- Marine Corps History Office
- Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps (HQMC) Records, Reports and Directives Mgmt Section (email)
- Archives and Special Collections Branch, Library of the Marine Corps, Quantico, Virginia (email)

- Air Force History (online)
- Air Force Historical Research Agency (online and email)
- Air Force Historical Studies Office (online)
- Air University, U.S. Air Force (online)
- Air Force History Index (online)
- Air Force Civil Engineering History Office, Tyndall, AFB
- U.S. Army Center of Military History (online and email)
- Naval History and Heritage Command [Naval Historical Center] (online)
- Navy Library
- Texas Tech University, The Vietnam Center and Archive (online)
- Defense Technical Information Center (DTIC) (online)
- Individual military installations and bases (phone calls and email)
- Individual military museums (mostly online)
- Online searches

Found items were entered into a spreadsheet and noted with location and pertinent details (please see Appendix).

Sources

Once the literature review was completed, the researchers determined that the best method for determining “what happened where” and “what was built where” was to trace military decisions in Vietnam back to the United States. This method was necessary because the majority of existing Vietnam War-related material addresses military action in theater. To develop a context for what changes were made to military facilities in the United States, researchers correlated events that occurred in Vietnam to corresponding locations in America. Two research assistants utilized the vast resources of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) library system, and one of the ERDC librarians utilized the online library catalog search functions provided through the ERDC library system to search for both primary sources and secondary sources (see Appendix B).

Primary sources

Through the literature review and research assistants’ review of library resources, the main primary sources for discovering the history of what the DoD constructed on its installations in the United States during the period of significance were:

- DoD Annual Reports (digitized in the UIUC Library);

- Department of the Army Continental Army Command (CONARC) Annual Histories (U.S. Army Center of Military History at Fort McNair, DC);
- monographs related to the Army buildup for Vietnam (U.S. Army Center of Military History);
- oral interviews from Vietnam War veterans (Library of Congress);
- U.S. Congressional appropriation bills (digitized in the UIUC Library);
- photographs (National Archives in College Park, Maryland);
- Air Force Annual Reports (digitized at the Air Force Historical Studies Office);
- digitized items ranging from individual training certificates to interviews to government documents on training (The Vietnam Center and Archive at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas); and
- online histories of Vietnam from the United States Army Heritage & Education Center at the United States Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania.

Secondary sources

The researchers culled through as many secondary sources as possible and found the divisions, brigades, battalions, and units that had served in Vietnam and traced as many of them as possible back to their duty stations on the installations located in the United States. Secondary sources were those biographies and histories written regarding duties and time served in Vietnam during the period of significance.

1.3.4 Site visits

One researcher conducted a site visit to Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California, to tour buildings and structures from the period of significance and to collect historical information and data from Camp Pendleton. The site visit occurred in October 2013.

In addition to the site visit, two members of the research team traveled to Washington, DC, to gather information from the Library of Congress, the National Archives in downtown, and the National Archives located in College Park, Maryland.

1.4 Authors

This project was conducted by ERDC-CERL in Champaign, Illinois. The authors were Susan Enscore (Ph.D) with over 20 years experience in military history; Adam Smith (M.Arch), with 15 years experience in military architectural history; and Ellen Hartman (M. Landscape Arch), with 4 years experience in military landscape architectural history. In addition, the project utilized two research students from UIUC for general background research (Tina Chui, M.Arch; and Martin Smith, MA).

2 The Cold War and the Conflict in Southeast Asia

The United States' involvement in Southeast Asia throughout the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s was caused by a wide range of political interests and by complicated and often-convoluted global political thinking. The reasoning for what would later become a 10-year conflict in Vietnam was closely intertwined with the conflict between capitalism and communism known as the Cold War—the larger, more complex set of political events that developed throughout the mid-to-late 1940s into the early 1990s. Throughout the Cold War, the DoD was involved in multiple missions, programs, and campaigns that stretched resources across the services. The financial demands of the Cold War ultimately affected the funding available for Vietnam-related construction in the United States.

2.1 Post World War II

The use of atomic bombs by the United States that ended World War II (WWII) also marked the beginning of the Cold War (1945–1991). Rather than a hot war waged through the exchange of gunfire, this new, protracted conflict stemmed from sustained political and military tension between two superpowers who held dominance across the globe in a bipolar opposition. The resulting conflict was also unique because the war potentially threatened the very existence of humanity by nuclear annihilation—a stark reality of the period that was unimaginable to previous generations.

Although the United States and the Soviet Union were allies during WWII, at the end of that war tensions between the two newfound superpowers quickly developed, as each country worked toward developing postwar political ideologies. The United States' leaders were particularly troubled by the Soviet Union expanding its sphere of influence by politically and economically backing communist forces in countries such as Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Greece, Turkey, Korea, and Vietnam. From the U.S. perspective, the Soviet Union appeared to be an aggressor nation with a mission of world conquest.

2.2 Policy of containment

Fearing that if one country fell to communism then a “domino effect” would ensue and communism would spread to surrounding nations, the administration of President Harry S. Truman adopted a policy in the late 1940s of opposing communism anywhere in the world. The idea became known as “containment,” and it meant that the United States had committed to fund, support, or even engage in combat to halt or deter the spread of communist ideals. This policy of containment would eventually precipitate U.S. involvement in wars fought in Korea and then Vietnam.³

To stop the spread of communism and the influence of Communist-bloc nations, the United States adopted what was its central, overarching policy during the Cold War—global military containment. First used by diplomat George F. Kennan in his 1946 “Long Telegram,” containment expressed anticommunist sentiment that believed much more was at stake in the Cold War. As Kennan described the situation, the Soviet Union wanted no less than world domination, and there was a master plot by the Soviet Union that “[U.S.] society be disrupted, our traditional way of life be destroyed.”⁴ Kennan and U.S. Cold War-era leaders argued forcefully that the United States must not allow communism to spread beyond the borders of the Soviet Union. The United States would rely on the policy of containment to provide the ideological justification for economic spending that prioritized national defense and financed defense contractors. During this period and utilizing anticommunist rhetoric, the United States vastly expanded its geographic reach by constructing military bases around the globe, financing new jet-engine aircraft fighters, and building aircraft carriers and nuclear-powered submarines.⁵

2.3 Expanding spheres of influence

Though described by U.S. leaders as a struggle between its own free-market democratic ideals and a totalitarian communist state that denied civil liberties, the Cold War is best understood as the attempt by both sides to expand their respective spheres of influence, particularly throughout

³ George C. Herring, *America's Longest War: The United States and Vietnam, 1950-1975*. (New York: McGraw-Hill, Inc, 1996), 11.

⁴ George F. Kennan, “Long Telegram.” Telegram written 22 February 1946 in reply to U.S. Treasury. Accessed online: <http://www2.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/coldwar/documents/episode-1/kennan.htm>.

⁵ John Lewis Gaddis, *Strategies of Containment: A Critical Appraisal of American National Security Policy during the Cold War* (Oxford University Press, Inc.: New York, 2005), 24–36.

the developing world. Even with the Bandung Conference (1955) which crystallized the Non-Aligned Movement, many former colonies of Old Europe felt compelled to align with one or the other superpower. In so doing, they formed neocolonial bonds of compliance with the Soviet Union or the United States in which the superpowers' economic and political interests held sway over a given country's self-determination.⁶

The foundation for U.S. and Soviet Union interventions into other countries (beyond the immediate post-WWII divisions) was laid in the late 1940s when the Soviet Union blocked access to West Berlin. The Berlin Blockade, as it was called, is regarded as the first major international crises of the Cold War (24 June 1948–12 May 1949). The blockade's intention was to force Western powers to allow the Soviet zone to supply Berlin with resources, giving the Soviets control over the city. The blockade initially halted all Western Allies' rail, road, and canal access to the Allied-designated sectors of the city. Not to be easily defeated, the Western Allies organized airlifts to carry supplies to West Berlin. The resulting massive airlift campaign prevented an all-out war, but the incident highlighted the military strengths and weaknesses of the two emerging superpowers.⁷

Both the United States and the Soviet Union had benefits and drawbacks to their political ideologies, both of which were manifested in their military might. In the late 1940s, the Soviets held a substantial advantage in conventional forces, while the United States was still the sole possessor of the atomic bomb. Faced with escalating military tensions and postwar budgetary restrictions, leaders in the United States soon came to view nuclear weapons as a relatively inexpensive means to offset any Soviet military advantage while also being politically acceptable. Recognizing the economic and political benefits of atomic weapons quickly led the United States to begin producing smaller, more powerful nuclear bombs while still dramatically reducing its defense budget.⁸

The United States further extended its influence to other nations in April 1949 with the political and military alliance known as the North Atlantic

⁶ Gaddis, *Strategies of Containment: A Critical Appraisal of American National Security Policy during the Cold War*, 264.

⁷ Adam Smith, et al., *FLW Rolling Pin Barracks and Associated Buildings Context and Inventory*. ERDC/CERL SR-07-8. (Construction Engineering Research Laboratory: Champaign, IL, June 2007), 17-18.

⁸ John Lewis Gaddis, *The Cold War: A New History* (New York, NY: The Penguin Group), 225.

Treaty Organization (NATO). NATO was originally comprised of the United States, Canada, and ten west-European countries with Greece, Turkey, and West Germany joining over the next six years. The NATO treaty provided for U.S. military assistance to Western Europe in the event of a Soviet-backed invasion. The U.S. nuclear bomber force was viewed as a cheap and effective solution to fulfilling its NATO commitment. Innovative technological developments produced the B-36 intercontinental bomber, which had the power to be launched from military bases in the United States to threaten targets deep within the Soviet Union. The United States viewed NATO as a defensive alliance, but Soviet officials saw NATO as an organization with the ultimate aim of pushing the Soviet Union back to its prewar position. In response, the Soviet Union created its own alliance with other communist governments in Eastern Europe. This alliance was formalized in 1955 with the signing of the Warsaw Pact.⁹

2.4 Continuing nuclear development

In 1949—the same year NATO was organized—Soviet scientists detonated their first atomic bomb. The event signaled an end to the U.S. monopoly on nuclear firepower and provided the impetus for the United States to develop the even more powerful hydrogen bomb. A few months after the Soviet atomic detonation, Chinese communist revolutionary Mao Zedong's Red Army defeated the forces of Chiang Kai-shek, the long time ally of the United States. As a result of this defeat, Mao established the People's Republic of China, through which the Soviets consolidated their alliance with the Chinese. This turn of events made it appear to the United States that a billion people had joined the enemy camp. With the Soviet atomic bomb test and China's shift to communism, the United States significantly altered its defense policies throughout the 1950s and 1960s, resulting in an immediate buildup of nuclear and conventional forces.¹⁰

In late 1952, the Cold War acquired a new and far more disturbing character when the United States detonated the world's first thermonuclear device, the hydrogen bomb. Only ten months later, the Soviet Union detonated their first hydrogen bomb. As a result, the security of the United States was far from being ensured because, for the first time in history, two competing powers possessed the means to entirely destroy

⁹ Adam Smith, et al. *FLW Rolling Pin Barracks and Associated Buildings Context and Inventory*. 18.

¹⁰ *ibid.*

the human race. The corresponding defense policy in America came to be known as “massive retaliation.” An idea that relied on the long-range bombers of the Air Force’s Strategic Air Command (SAC) as the most effective deterrent to a possible Soviet nuclear attack. The threat of a devastating retaliation on targets in the Soviet Union, it was thought, would deter any unprovoked nuclear attacks.¹¹

2.5 Superpower tensions escalate

While the Cold War’s passive-aggressive tensions escalated, both superpowers recognized the futility of engaging in mutually assured destruction. In the United States, this realization sparked a debate over what type of war the nation should be prepared to fight—general versus limited, nuclear versus conventional—or what combination of these types of war would be acceptable. Ultimately, with the stalemate imposed by preventing a nuclear holocaust, the United States and the Soviet Union had few options for deciding military victory in the battle between the ideologies of democracy and communism. Nevertheless, the pervading tensions between the east and west and between democracy and communism occasionally and violently erupted onto tangible battlefields. The Berlin Blockade served as a precursor to the Cold War physical tactics to be employed in Korea in the 1950s; similarly, the Cuban missile crisis in the early 1960s preceded Vietnam in the 1960s and early 1970s.¹²

After WWII and the Allies’ division of Europe, Germany became center stage for the Cold War. Tensions had been brewing in Berlin for several years when in 1961, John F. Kennedy was elected president of the United States.¹³ Around this time and while still resenting the Western powers’ occupation of Berlin, Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev initiated a diplomatic push for control of the entire city. Controlling Berlin was strategically important to the western allies, who viewed Berlin as a primary front against Soviet expansionism. Initially, Khrushchev attempted to go through diplomatic channels to gain control of the city, but after these failed, he threatened war. In response, Kennedy called for a large

¹¹ Karen J. Weitze. *Cold War Infrastructure for Air Defense: The Fighter and Command Missions*, prepared for Headquarters, Air Combat Command, (Langley Air Force Base, VA. Sacramento, CA: KEA Environmental, Inc., November 1999), 13.

¹² Adam Smith, et al., *FLW Rolling Pin Barracks and Associated Buildings Context and Inventory*, 19.

¹³ *ibid.*, 20.

military buildup.¹⁴ Under this retaliation, Khrushchev backed down and moved to construct a physical wall that divided the city into eastern and western zones. The wall only served to raise tensions further, however, as access through the established checkpoints became increasingly problematic. By the fall of 1961, U.S. tanks had taken up residence at Checkpoint Charlie, a main crossing point. On 27 October, ten Soviet tanks came within 100 yards of the checkpoint. Both sides prepared for battle and a 16-hour standoff ensued. Despite all resources being put on high alert, the stand-off ended quietly, when Kennedy asked Khrushchev to withdraw the Soviet tanks, and said he would do the same.¹⁵ Both sides were aware of how close they had come to war.

After a brief respite, tensions again flared, this time much closer to the United States. The United States had located missiles in Turkey, which Khrushchev regarded as too close to the Soviet Union for comfort. Khrushchev retaliated by placing missiles on the Cuban coast, where a new communist regime had recently won control. On 14 October 1962, American spy planes captured images of the missile sites, catapulting the Kennedy administration into a fierce debate about the appropriate U.S. response. Options ranged from air strikes to naval blockade to land invasions. A naval blockade was identified as the most effective option, and on 21 October, 180 Navy ships were sent to block incoming Soviet military materials. The American actions instigated an alert for Warsaw Pact forces, and Khrushchev threatened to sink the Navy ships. Four days later, on 25 October, the United States began intercepting ships, while Kennedy prepared an invasion force as well as sending two aircraft carriers toward Cuba. Concurrent to the military initiatives, diplomatic efforts were also thrown into high alert. In a turn of events, the Russians made the first offer to dismantle the missiles if the United States promised not to invade Cuba. Further intense negotiations on 26 and 27 October resulted in an agreement with several provisions, one of which was an unwritten commitment from the United States to remove its missiles from Turkey.¹⁶ Ultimately, the standoffs in Berlin and Cuba were both relatively peaceful examples of Cold War military tactics.

¹⁴ Sheila A. McCarthy and Roy L. McCullough, *Fort Hood Military Family Housing of the Cold War Era: McNair Village & Chaffee Village*, (Omaha, NE: Midwest Regional Office, National Park Service, 2003), 24.

¹⁵ Smith, et al. *FLW Rolling Pin Barracks and Associated Buildings Context and Inventor*, 20.

¹⁶ *ibid.* 20–21.

The tensions of the Cold War impacted the postwar decolonization movements from Old Europe that occurred throughout Asia and Africa. While there was no hot war between the Soviet Union and the United States, the two powers engaged in proxy wars—conflicts primarily in the developing world in which each superpower indirectly supported the fighting through military aid, assistance, and training—all characteristics of U.S. involvement in Vietnam. In general, the United States and its Central Intelligence Agency-backed forces had been aligned with Europe's colonial past and were fiercely anticommunist, while the Soviet bloc and China supported national liberation movements that opposed foreign interventions by the West.¹⁷

2.6 Transitioning military strategy

In contrast to the Cold War conflicts described above, the conflict in Korea was the first serious military engagement of the United States since WWII. Although initially the United States was reluctant to join the United Nations in defending South Korea from the communist North Korean invasion, eventually the United States became one of the primary contributors to the effort. Because the United States previously had committed to the policy of global containment, there was little choice but to engage militarily. The Korean War ultimately served as an important testing ground for American military ideology and technology.

The decision to get involved in the Korean conflict caught the United States in a period of transition. The location of the Asian country and the traditional ground combat tactics used by the aggressors also meant that U.S. nuclear strategy was rendered ineffective. After WWII, many of the U.S. industrial plants had been mothballed under the assumption that traditional weaponry was not as necessary in the Cold War climate. Additionally, U.S. military advisors assumed the Korean conflict would be short lived, and so they advised the president and Congress not to invest too heavily in the effort. All these situations created problems; the United States would become more and more involved in the war over the next three years during which its troops fought with WWII-era weaponry, before the conflict finally resolved in a truce.

President Kennedy expanded the military strategy lessons learned through the Korean War into a policy of flexible military response as Cold War

¹⁷ Gaddis. *The Cold War: A New History*, 24-36.

tensions escalated.¹⁸ In 1961, Kennedy established a more involved, interventionist national strategy that increased the importance and capacity of the nuclear strike force as well as developed the counterinsurgency capabilities of the military, providing the President with increased flexibility in ordering military responses.¹⁹ The notion of deploying a flexible response changed the military's operating tactics during the Vietnam War.

The Korean War, the Berlin Blockade, the Cuban missile crisis, and new policies of global containment and flexible response illustrated ways the United States needed to diversify its military operations to meet the ever-changing demands and definitions of combat in the post-WWII, Cold War world. The challenges of adapting to the new Cold War climate affected all aspects of the military and would subsequently alter the built environment of defense installations.

Military construction during the Cold War was determined by the unique demands of the technology-driven escalation of power. Although Cold War nuclear combat was never physically realized, defense construction in anticipation of that war was widespread across the United States and the globe. On the home front, most DoD facilities were physically augmented to accommodate the new combat tactics while specific Cold War defenses included the Distant Early Warning (DEW) Line—radar-monitoring sites spread throughout the arctic to spot an incoming Soviet missile strike; a variety of missile launch sites scattered throughout the country to counter a possible air attack; and monitoring sites such as Cheyenne Mountain that connected the increasingly complex web of defense infrastructure.²⁰

The Cold War lacked a clearly defined geography, but the conflict in Vietnam polarized aspects of the Cold War into a physical hot war. Technological advances did contribute to the conflict, but ultimately the Vietnam War relied heavily on human involvement, and defense facilities were rapidly modified to meet the necessary increases in personnel, manufacturing, and logistical support. U.S. involvement in Vietnam was classified as a “limited” war, a concept that promised not to expend all of

¹⁸ Dr. Philip Shiman, *Forging the Sword: Defense Production during the Cold War*. USACERL Special Report 97/77 (USACERL: Champaign, IL, July 1997), 46–49.

¹⁹ Stephen L. McFarland, *A Concise History of the U.S. Air Force*. (Washington, DC: Air Force History and Museums Program, 1997), 57–58.

²⁰ David F. Winkler, *Searching the Skies: The Legacy of the United States Cold War Defense Radar Program*. (United States Air Force Air Combat Command: Langley AFB, VA, June 1997), 26–28.

the nation's resources in the conflict. Though limited, the Vietnam conflict brought widespread changes to the American military, from the reinstatement of the national draft to a diversified military strategy that not only included nuclear weapons, but also utilized Special Forces personnel who could deploy quickly and act effectively.²¹ By the end of the Vietnam War, the U.S. military had drastically transformed itself through significant changes in military strategy, weapons systems, combat training, and relationships with the American people.

²¹ David F. Winkler. *Training to Fight: Training and Education during the Cold War*. USACERL Special Report 97/99. (Washington, DC: Department of Defense Legacy Program, Cold War Project & The United States Air Force Air Combat Command, 1997), 59–60.

3 The U.S. Military: Involvement in Vietnam

While the United States postured with the Soviet Union during the Cold War, the conflict in Vietnam required drastically different planning, execution, and operational requirements. Although the concentration of fighting was focused in North and South Vietnam, the conflict spread throughout Southeast Asia where the United States was also militarily involved in Cambodia, Laos, and Thailand. The war began gradually but by its end, it was the longest military engagement of the United States, one of the most costly in both human and materiel measures, and one which the United States was unable to secure a clear military victory over an underestimated enemy.^{22, 23}

Simultaneously pursuing the Cold War containment while conducting a hot war in Vietnam strained the U.S. military, and as the financial demands of Vietnam came to overshadow most military decisions and operations, increasingly few resources were allocated for anything other than the Vietnam conflict. In this way, mobilizing and supporting the Vietnam War undoubtedly impacted the rate of military construction in the United States. However, the urgency of the conflict and its gradual intensification led to reactive construction efforts that closely corresponded to the immediate demands of ever-changing combat requirements. The piecemeal approach of the building activity in the United States must, therefore, be explained through the major events that occurred in theater, including the advisory campaigns and combat operations. As the war's demands intensified throughout the 1960s, military operations were streamlined to focus on meeting those demands with the most minimal outlay of resources on the home front.

Officially, the United States escalated its involvement in the conflict in August 1964, when President Lyndon B. Johnson revoked existing restrictions on combat in the aftermath of the Gulf of Tonkin incident.²⁴ However prior to 1964, the United States had already been providing military advisors to the South Vietnamese military for a decade. Even in its

²² Over the 18 years the United States was militarily involved in Vietnam, \$150 billion was spent on the war effort and more than 58,000 military personnel lost their lives in the conflict.

²³ Herring. *America's Longest War: The United States and Vietnam, 1950-1975*, x.

²⁴ *ibid.*, 133-137.

advisory role, the United States was already heavily involved in military operations while working closely with the South Vietnamese government. After the war escalated in late 1964, the conflict would last almost another decade until President Nixon withdrew most U.S. troops by 1973. The U.S. military's involvement in the Vietnam War is commonly divided by historians into three major periods: the advisory years (1954–1964), the buildup (1965–1968), and withdrawal (1969–1973).²⁵ The following is a concise summary of the politics, events, and effects of the very complicated and resource-intensive Vietnam War.

3.1 Advisory years (1954–1964)

3.1.1 French rule

The involvement of the United States in Vietnam came after a long period of foreign rule and civil unrest in Southeast Asia going back to the early 1800s. The French had colonized what was then known as Indochina in the 1850s, which led to a nearly 100-year French occupation of the area by. Although the Americans distrusted the new French government and General Charles de Gaulle, the United States sent the 14th Air Force to support them in their efforts to fight the Japanese in Indochina.²⁶ By the time the Japanese surrendered in August 1945 to end WWII, the United States had already enlisted the support of Ho Chi Minh—the communist leader of the Viet Minh²⁷—for intelligence and assistance with rescuing downed 14th Air Force pilots from Indochina.²⁸

Although Vietnam was not directly related to the WWII European Theater, the Allied Chiefs of Staff at the Potsdam Conference decided to temporarily divide Vietnam at the 16th parallel for the purposes of operational convenience. It was also agreed that the Japanese forces would surrender in two parts: those in Saigon and the southern half of Indochina would surrender to British forces, while Japanese troops in the northern half would surrender to the Chinese. In the north, after the Japanese

²⁵ A few American citizens and diplomats stayed in Vietnam until the fall of Saigon on 30 April 1975.

²⁶ Ronald H. Spector, *Advice and Support: The Early Years 1941–1960*, (Carlisle Barracks: Center for Military History, United States Army, 1983), 28–33.

²⁷ The Viet Minh were a national independence coalition formed to seek independence for Vietnam from the French Empire.

²⁸ Spector, *Advice and Support: The Early Years 1941–1960*, 39.

surrendered, the communist Viet Minh coalition stepped into government control with no opposition.²⁹

After the Japanese surrender, the French retained control of the southern half of the country. Although the United States was significantly involved in French retaliation efforts, by December 1945 the United States had withdrawn its troops during the civil war in the south.^{30,31} The French retained an uncertain control over South Vietnam while fighting the communists for power in the northern half for another eight years until French forces were overwhelmingly defeated at Dien Bien Phu in 1954. With this defeat, France withdrew its troops and Vietnam was again divided, this time along the 17th parallel with the communists retaining control of North Vietnam.³²

3.1.2 U.S. aid to South Vietnam

In the opinion of U.S. observers, by the summer of 1954 the National Army of Vietnam had experienced a “complete breakdown of combat capabilities since the ceasefire and the stopping of supplies from the United States.”³³ Another problem for the South Vietnamese government was the influx of Catholic refugees from North Vietnam. Although the French had previously committed to help with evacuation, the great numbers of people wanting to move rendered the French incapable of addressing the task. Formally, on 7 August 1954, the South Vietnamese government requested help from the United States for the refugee situation. In response, the U.S. Navy under the direction of a newly established Evacuation Staff Group and General John W. O’Daniel from the Military Advisory Group, formed a special group (Task Force 90) to evacuate the Vietnamese and French wanting to leave the north. The evacuation lasted until May 1955, with Task Force 90 moving 311,000 of the 800,000 refugees.³⁴

Although the U.S. Navy was assisting with relocating refugees, by the end of 1954, U.S. advisors were reluctant to begin a long-term military training program unless specific conditions were met such as the establishment of

²⁹ Spector, *Advice and Support: The Early Years 1941–1960*, 58.

³⁰ *ibid.*, 56–60.

³¹ *ibid.*, 77.

³² McCarthy and McCullough, *Fort Hood Military Family Housing*, 27.

³³ Spector, *Advice and Support: The Early Years 1941–1960.*, 225 (quoting MAAG Monthly Activities Report No. 21 for Aug 54, 751G.5-MSP/9-2254, records of Dept of State).

³⁴ Spector, *Advice and Support: The Early Years 1941–1960*, 226–227.

a stable government. But with the unstable Diem government, Secretary of State John Foster Dulles thought that stabilizing the National Army of Vietnam through training was an efficient way of enabling the South Vietnamese government. The National Security Council and President Dwight D. Eisenhower agreed on 12 August 1954 to approve U.S. assistance in creating Vietnamese military forces for internal security. Under this plan, the National Army of Vietnam was reorganized as the South Vietnamese (SVN) Army. A few days later, the U.S. State Department told the French government that the United States was assigning a training mission to the Military Assistance Advisory Group (MAAG) in Vietnam (MAAG-V). In February 1955, the United States assumed the training of the SVN Army from the French forces and by 1961 more than a thousand Vietnamese personnel were trained in the United States each year, although much of the training occurred in South Vietnam.³⁵

The United States Air Force (USAF) was also involved in South Vietnam in the mid-1950s, when the United States agreed to support France's efforts to regain control in Southeast Asia. The agreement between the United States and France was in response to France's agreement to active participation in NATO. As a result, the United States sent munitions, aircraft, mechanics, and technicians to repair and maintain the American equipment. Most of the USAF's involvement in Vietnam throughout the 1950s was provided through military aid and air transports that reinforced French Air Force units. The MAAG-V air section had been formed in 1951, and it continued to provide a small number of Air Force officers and enlisted men to advise and help strengthen the South Vietnamese Air Force. Still, in the mid-to-late 1950s, U.S. advisors were unaware of just how involved in Vietnam the United States would become. In early 1956, the French began to phase out its forces and United States assumed full responsibility for training the SVN Army. In that transition, the United States inherited an army of over 250,000 soldiers that were poorly equipped and poorly trained. The American military advisors were sent as a team from the MAAG, which had invested millions of dollars to reorganize, equip, and train the South Vietnamese Army.³⁶ This effort extended through the late 1950s and cost the United States more than

³⁵ Spector. *Advice and Support: The Early Years 1941-1960*, 239.

³⁶ Stanley Karnow, *Vietnam: A History* (New York, NY: Penguin Books, 1997), 10.

\$1 billion in assistance to South Vietnam.³⁷ To facilitate the distribution of resources, the MAAG created a branch specific for Vietnam and activated a 350-member team to administer the U.S. military equipment that was provided to the South Vietnamese military. The team was called the Temporary Equipment Recovery Mission (TERM) and brought the overall American personnel level in Vietnam to 692 by 1956.³⁸ In 1957, the Far East Air Forces was renamed Pacific Air Forces, and the headquarters was relocated from the Philippines to Hickam Air Force Base (AFB), Hawaii.³⁹

While still acting in the capacity of advisors in the mid-1950s, U.S. military strategists were analyzing what military operations would be required if North Vietnamese forces were to invade South Vietnam. Operations with or without atomic weapons were evaluated as the Joint Chiefs of Staff considered what was needed to “repulse and punish overt Viet Minh aggression” and to “destroy the Viet Minh forces and take control of North Vietnam.”⁴⁰

Two years later in 1958, personnel levels across all branches of the military remained relatively static, while the military began restructuring and adopting new technology and combat strategies that were becoming important in Vietnam. For example, the 335th Tactical Fighter Squadron at Eglin AFB, Florida, received the first group of F-105B Thunderchief fighter-bombers as the importance of counterinsurgency warfare tactics was being realized. To foreshadow the later importance of Vietnam, the newly appointed Naval Commander in Chief of the Pacific Fleet, Admiral Herbert G. Hopwood, almost immediately warned policy advisors in Washington that the People’s Republic of China and the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (the official name of North Vietnam) were becoming increasingly aggressive in Southeast Asia.⁴¹

Although the military was gradually becoming more involved in the conflict in Vietnam, overall military staffing was being reduced due to budget restrictions. In 1959, the Army had 861,964 officers and enlisted

³⁷ Joel D. Meyerson, *United States Army in Vietnam: Images of a Lengthy War*, Fort McNair: US Army Center of Military History, 1986, 36.

³⁸ Colonel Raymond K. Bluhm Jr., ed., *The Vietnam War: A Chronology of War*. (New York: Universe Publishing, 2010), 36.

³⁹ *ibid.*, 42.

⁴⁰ Quoted in Spector. *Advice and Support: The Early Years 1941–1960*, 270.

⁴¹ Bluhm Jr., *The Vietnam War: A Chronology of War*, 44.

men, the lowest total since 1950.⁴² Nevertheless, during this time the MAAG-V was effectively developing the South Vietnamese military. By the early 1960s, the United States was becoming increasingly committed to the anti-communist efforts in Vietnam, which enmeshed the American military to the nationalistic conflict between North and South Vietnam, but it still operated under the assumption that the South Vietnamese Army would eventually be able to resist the communist forces on their own.

To assist with this anti-communist effort, in early 1961 the USAF supported the South Vietnamese with “six squadrons available for combat—one fighter jet, two transport planes, two liaison craft, and one helicopter.”⁴³ Although the South Vietnamese armed forces were restructured to resemble the U.S. military (with ground, sea, and air components), the Viet Cong continued to fight as a guerrilla army that was organized and trained to swiftly strike in ambushes and engaged in acts of terrorism, which caused problems for the then nuclear-focused USAF.

At the outset of the 1960s, the United States continued its commitment to advising the Republic of Vietnam’s military without much overall impact to the operations of the American armed forces. In 1960, the final year of the Eisenhower administration, the overall size of the U.S. Army was 873,078 personnel with 760 U.S. military serving in Vietnam. By the end of the year, the number of military personnel in Vietnam rose to 900, while overall personnel levels in all branches of the armed forces remained relatively stable.⁴⁴ In September of 1960, the 5th Special Forces Group, 1st Special Forces was activated at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Eventually, the 5th Special Forces Group was given overall responsibility for the special operations conducted in Vietnam.⁴⁵

3.1.3 Increasing American aid to South Vietnam

The military momentum in Vietnam that was building throughout the late 1950s began to be actualized by late 1960 and into 1961. The American forces’ efforts in Vietnam were further reinforced when President Kennedy signed the Treaty of Amity and Economic Relations in 1961, “declaring

⁴² *ibid.*, 48.

⁴³ John Schlight. *A War Too Long: The History of the USAF in Southeast Asia*. (Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1996), 4.

⁴⁴ Bluhm Jr., *The Vietnam War: A Chronology of War*, 52.

⁴⁵ *ibid.*, 55.

intention to render military aid to the Republic of Vietnam.”⁴⁶ The Soviet Union was providing support to the Pathet Lao, a communist political movement and organization in Laos, and Kennedy resolved to make a stand in South Vietnam to stop the spread of communism.⁴⁷ As part of Kennedy’s tough stance on communism, his administration in its first 21 months had increased the size of the Army’s Special Forces by 150 percent.⁴⁸ By the end of 1962, there were 11,000 U.S. officers and enlisted men in Vietnam, including pilots assisting on combat missions.⁴⁹

Consequently, the Army’s presence in Vietnam was increased through the early 1960s in support of the military’s advisory role. After President Kennedy increased the strength of the Special Forces he then greatly enlarged their role in South Vietnam.⁵⁰ Although the Special Forces in Vietnam originally offered support and mediation between the South Vietnamese officials and ethnic groups, the range of Special Forces’ activities quickly grew as political animosities between the two factions developed. The initial support of the Army’s Special Forces was with village defense programs, but these programs evolved to include sponsorship of offensive guerrilla activities, border surveillance, and control measures.⁵¹

With President Kennedy’s policy of extending military aid to Vietnam, the military’s advisory activities expanded and the MAAG-V was reordered to form the U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) on 8 February 1962. Prior to 1962, operational engineering activities were centrally directed from Saigon under the United States Naval Support Activity. MACV differed in that it had a direct line of command from its headquarters in Saigon to the Pacific Command Headquarters in Hawaii. The first head of MACV was General Paul D. Harkins, who established a contract system between the U.S. Army and Japan for facilities engineering services. The contractor selected was the American firm of

⁴⁶ Lt. Gen. Carroll H. Dunn. *Vietnam Studies: Base Development in South Vietnam, 1965–1970*. Washington, DC: Department of the Army, 1991, 6.

⁴⁷ Meyerson, *United States Army in Vietnam*, 77.

⁴⁸ Winkler, *Training to Fight: Training and Education During the Cold War*, 60.

⁴⁹ Meyerson, *United States Army in Vietnam*, 69.

⁵⁰ Stewart, ed. *American Military History Volume II: The United States Army in a Global Era, 1917–2003*, 294.

⁵¹ *ibid.*

Pacific Architects and Engineers.⁵² Until President Johnson's escalation of the U.S. commitment in Vietnam, military leaders did not see a need to deploy U.S. engineering troops to Vietnam. As a result, military construction in Vietnam was accomplished through a mix of military personnel and contracted civilians.

In December 1961, the first helicopter transportation company arrived in South Vietnam. Although the importance of aviation in Southeast Asia was yet to be proved, within three years all of the South Vietnamese Army divisions and corps were supported by Army helicopters.⁵³ The development of Army aviation was a hallmark for Army operations during the war; it was also a contentious development that revived an ongoing disagreement between the Army and the Air Force over their roles and missions. However, the geography of Vietnam as well as the conditions of the roads dictated methods of transportation that relied less on traditional ground-based logistics. As war operations developed, helicopters were used for transporting men and supplies, reconnoitering, evacuating wounded, and providing command and control; thus, helicopters became the foundation for Army airmobile and air assault tactics. The evolution of airmobile tactics included armament by first adding machine gun-wielding door gunners and later, adding rockets and mini-gun arms to helicopters that protected troop carriers and delivered fire support to troops on the ground.⁵⁴

As the debate continued, the Army expanded its own "air force," demonstrating in 1963 and 1964 that helicopters could successfully replace land-based transportation for mobility as well as provide more effective fire support than ground artillery. By 1965, the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) was created as the first airmobile unit in the Army. The helicopter's effect on organization and operations in South Vietnam was equivalent to the influence of mechanized forces in WWII. Likewise, the technical concepts of airmobility were rooted in cavalry doctrine and operations, and these concepts further developed between 1961 and 1964.⁵⁵

⁵² General Harkins was succeeded 20 June 1964 by General William Westmoreland (Dunn, *Vietnam Studies: Base Development in South Vietnam*, 13, 14).

⁵³ Stewart, ed. *American Military History Volume II: The United States Army in a Global Era, 1917–2003*. 296.

⁵⁴ *ibid.*, 297.

⁵⁵ *ibid.*

As the U.S. military continued to provide an increasing amount of advisory assistance to the South Vietnamese, the Kennedy administration decided that encouraging economic development and a stable society were necessary to halt the spread of communism throughout the country. In 1961, the United States took military measures to reinforce American support of the Diem government. Included in these measures was a buildup of Air Force personnel throughout 1961, which was to symbolize American concern and to continue improving the military skills of the South Vietnamese armed forces. The buildup also allowed for the U.S. military to prepare for a potentially greater involvement. For the USAF, this meant that in September 1961, the first permanent unit was assigned to install radars to begin monitoring air traffic at Tan Son Nhut Air Base in South Vietnam. The USAF continued to train the South Vietnamese in the operation and maintenance of the equipment, but the core group of 67 USAF officers and airmen would form the initial nucleus of what would become the tactical air control system for the vast fleet of South Vietnamese and American aircraft.⁵⁶

While the Army and Air Force had been assisting in South Vietnam, the Marine Corps was the first service branch to officially deploy to Vietnam. Initial operations were conducted in the Mekong Delta during April–September 1962, while the task unit was based at Soc Trang. Then in September 1962, the task unit was reassigned to support operations from Da Nang near the 17th parallel that divided North and South Vietnam. The task unit had been relocated because the Marine helicopters provided superior lift capabilities in the mountainous terrain.⁵⁷

Increased use of aircraft highlighted the poor conditions of South Vietnam's infrastructure which necessitated that the U.S. military build its own logistical facilities. The incoming American forces were reliant on equipment needing extensive infrastructural support that was lacking in Vietnam. Consequently, the U.S. military had to engage in a massive construction program to house incoming units and provide them with operational and logistics facilities. An entire military infrastructure had to be built from the ground up including ports, warehouses, roads,

⁵⁶ Schlight, *A War Too Long: The History of the USAF in Southeast Asia*, 5.

⁵⁷ DoD, *Department of Defense Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1963* (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1964), 191.

cantonments, airfields, maintenance facilities, and a communications network among other necessities.⁵⁸

The advisory role of the U.S. military had little overall effect on the growing frequency and intensity of clashes between the Viet Cong and the South Vietnamese. Although the American government was reluctant to admit to the expanded role the U.S. military was taking in the country, the USAF began to directly engage in combat missions. Between 1961 and 1964, the USAF continued its advisory role, but its role was expanded to include developing night tactical operations that dropped flares and, as early as 1962, it began testing defoliation strategies on the jungle to expose enemy cover. Additionally throughout 1962, the USAF became increasingly involved in combat because Viet Cong activity had intensified and U.S. personnel were granted permission to engage the enemy under certain conditions, particularly those beyond the capabilities of the South Vietnamese air force. During the same year, the 2d Air Division was assigned as the command-and-control authority for USAF units in Vietnam, an assignment that lasted until 1966.⁵⁹

Continued instability of the South Vietnamese government was heightened by insurgent attacks from the north.⁶⁰ As a result, in early 1963 the number of U.S. military personnel in Vietnam was increased to about 14,000. Those stationed in Vietnam were to assist the South Vietnamese government in resisting communist subversion. The U.S. Navy provided training, airlift, communications, and advice to Vietnamese forces as well as administering an extensive military assistance program while working under the direction of the MACV. The stated objective of the military's assistance efforts was to "help the people of Vietnam maintain their independence and territorial integrity of their country."⁶¹ The buildup of in-country personnel was the result of an increased intensity in the communist guerillas' campaign of terror, propaganda, and armed attack throughout the preceding years. After careful field study, in 1963 the U.S. military determined that the objective for helping the South Vietnamese win the war involved not only standard training in counterinsurgency operations and in the use and maintenance of United States materiel, but

⁵⁸ DoD, *Department of Defense Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1966* (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1967), 6.

⁵⁹ *ibid.*, 6.

⁶⁰ McCarthy and McCullough, *Fort Hood Military Family Housing*, 28-29.

⁶¹ DoD, *Department of Defense Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1963*, 8.

also advice in the field on the best tactics to be employed and the most effective use in combat of the weapons and equipment furnished.⁶²

During this time, the Navy was operating with an emphasis on missiles, submarines, and aircraft carriers, but the shift toward counterinsurgency tactics left the Navy somewhat lacking in operational readiness. Nevertheless, as the United States crept toward direct combat in Vietnam, the U.S. Navy was the strongest in the world with the Pacific Fleet numbering 434 ships including 13 attack and antisubmarine aircraft carriers. Although the Navy was operationally prepared for conventional combat, the unique political and organizational circumstances of the Vietnam conflict meant it had to employ unconventional tactics to surmount the presented obstacles.⁶³

By late 1963, when then Vice-President Lyndon Johnson took the oath of office following President Kennedy's assassination, the United States had been assisting the Vietnamese state below the 17th parallel for nearly a decade.⁶⁴ After assuming office, President Johnson continued the policy of American military involvement in South Vietnam, to maintain the American commitment to containing the spread of Communism. At the start of Johnson's presidency, U.S. involvement in Vietnam remained a low priority that was overshadowed by Johnson's social programs agenda. Nevertheless, Johnson wanted to project a firm stance in Vietnam and as his term in office proceeded, he became more and more embroiled in the politics of keeping the military in Southeast Asia. By the end of 1963, Johnson had increased troop levels in Vietnam to 20,000 while offering assurances that the U.S. would stand firm, but not over commit in Vietnam. However, this stance was merely a prelude to the escalation in the conflict and troop requirements that would soon take place.⁶⁵

Specifically, in 1963 the personnel strength of the Marine Corps increased from 175,000 to 190,000. The increase in personnel provided the manpower for three combat-ready division/wing teams as well as the formation of a fourth team. Additionally, during 1963 the Marine Corps'

⁶² DoD, *Department of Defense Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1963*, 8.

⁶³ Richard L. Schreadley, *From the Rivers to the Sea: The United States Navy in Vietnam* (Annapolis, MD: United States Naval Institute, 1992), 53.

⁶⁴ James M. Carter, "A National Symphony of Theft, Corruption and Bribery: Anatomy of State Building from Iraq to Vietnam" in *Iraq: Tactics, Lessons, Legacies and Ghosts*. John Dumbrell and David Ryan, eds. (New York, NY: Routledge, 2007), 92.

⁶⁵ McCarthy and McCullough, *Fort Hood Military Family Housing*, 28–29.

amphibious lift capacity was improved through a commission for new amphibious transport and assault ships, with the assault ships being designed for vertical assault missions.⁶⁶ Additionally, the personnel strength of the Navy had risen from 627,000 on 30 June 1961 to 665,000 two years later. Nevertheless, the Navy had problems retaining personnel. The manpower requirements to meet the crisis in Southeast Asia were intense. Although more and more personnel were needed for the Vietnam conflict, the overall strength of the Navy and Marine Corps decreased by the end of the year because of the phase-out of the Cold War Distance Early Warning (DEW) Line. To meet the personnel requirements for Vietnam, the Navy issued a call for volunteers, to which 17,000 responded. The increased personnel requirements of Southeast Asia also necessitated a reduction of manning levels in the shore establishment and the Atlantic Fleet.⁶⁷

In 1964, military assistance to South Vietnam continued as one of the most critical missions of the U.S. Armed Forces. Communist aggression continued throughout the country and was supported by the government of North Vietnam. The United States maintained its pledge, dating back to 1954, to support the South Vietnamese with increased economic and military assistance in their fight for independence.⁶⁸ The number of military personnel in the country had risen in 1964 from 14,000 to 16,000 by 30 June.⁶⁹

3.1.4 Gulf of Tonkin incident

The United States was further entwined in the Vietnamese conflict when, on 2 August 1964, the North Vietnamese deliberately attacked the U.S. destroyer *Maddox*. The *Maddox* was on a routine patrol in the Gulf of Tonkin 30 miles offshore when three North Vietnamese patrol boats attacked. The destroyer retaliated with assistance by aircraft from the carrier *Ticonderoga*, and together they were able to ward off the attack and damage all three patrol boats. The attacks served as a warning to the United States which the North Vietnamese underscored the following day. The U.S. responded by stating that “the U.S. Government expects that the

⁶⁶ DoD, *Department of Defense Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1963*, 191.

⁶⁷ DoD, *Department of Defense Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1965* (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1967), 270.

⁶⁸ DoD, *Department of Defense Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1964* (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1967), 4.

⁶⁹ *ibid.*, 5.

authorities of the regime in North Vietnam will be under no misapprehension as to the grave consequence which would inevitably result from any further unprovoked offensive military action against U.S. Forces.”⁷⁰ In return, President Johnson ordered air strikes on North Vietnamese bases and critical infrastructure, and Congress passed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution on 7 August, providing the president authority to take “all necessary measures” to defend United States and allied forces, and, most importantly, to “prevent further aggression.”⁷¹ After the incident, Johnson instructed the Navy to continue patrols, but doubled the forces in the area to two destroyers. The Navy was also instructed to retaliate to any attack in international waters with the objective of destroying the threat.⁷²

Two days later on 4 August 1964, U.S. Navy destroyers were on patrol 65 miles off the coast of North Vietnam when they were attacked by a force of North Vietnamese PT boats. Under the new orders to destroy, the Navy retaliated and sank four of the PT boats and damaged others before the North Vietnamese broke off the engagement.⁷³ The attacks in the Gulf of Tonkin provided the tipping point that prompted President Johnson and his advisors to initiate a forceful military response. The U.S. response of additional deployments to Southeast Asia included an attack carrier air group, land-based tactical air squadrons, and antisubmarine forces for the South China Sea, plus selected Army and Marine Corps forces were put on alert for possible movement.⁷⁴

The retaliation strikes ordered by Johnson destroyed or damaged 25 patrol boats and 90 percent of the oil storage facilities at Vinh. At the time, there was some Congressional questioning of the need for retaliation, but the majority of politicians viewed these events as providing the reasoning to stand firm in Vietnam. Although Johnson decided to not escalate the war immediately, the strikes against the North Vietnamese committed the United States to further action. The result was a gradual escalation of the war in which Johnson removed all restrictions on U.S. military involvement, allowing U.S. personnel to directly engage in combat without the guise of training or advising the South Vietnamese. Without the

⁷⁰ DoD, *Department of Defense Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1965*, 5.

⁷¹ McCarthy and McCullough, *Fort Hood Military Family Housing*, 28–29.

⁷² DoD, *Department of Defense Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1965*, 5.

⁷³ *ibid.*

⁷⁴ *ibid.*, 6.

restrictions on military operations, the U.S. military rapidly built up its forces in Vietnam.⁷⁵

By late 1964, both the South Vietnamese and the Viet Cong were poised to increase their stake in the war. Although President Johnson acted cautiously in committing large ground combat forces to South Vietnam, in March 1965 he authorized the Army to begin deploying to Southeast Asia almost 20,000 logistical troops—the main body of the 1st Logistical Command.⁷⁶ A few weeks later, Johnson approved sending the first Army combat unit (173d Airborne Brigade) to Vietnam. Upon arrival, the 173d moved to secure the air base at Bien Hoa, just north of Saigon. The arrival of the 173d Airborne witnessed the United States' military strength passing 50,000, but the American ground forces had yet to engage in full-scale combat.

3.2 Troop buildup (1965–1968)

By 1965, Johnson continued publicly to support a resolution to the conflict but behind the scenes, intelligence was showing that an American defeat in Vietnam was possible. Nevertheless, increased interest from China and the Soviet Union in North Vietnam and a direct attack on U.S. forces at Bien Hoa encouraged further U.S. involvement. With an unstable government in South Vietnam, Washington's military commitment in the region was tested. Military advisors concluded that action needed to be taken to avoid a total collapse in South Vietnam and that aerial bombing campaigns were less risky than deploying ground forces. Airpower was found to be the solution to a complicated problem.⁷⁷

Viet Cong aggression continued to increase in severity until in 1965, the organization underwent a fundamental change in character.⁷⁸ According to U.S. military advisors, that character change indicated a communist decision to make an all-out attempt to overthrow the government of South Vietnam.⁷⁹ The aggression of the communist forces was due in part to the

⁷⁵ Herring, *America's Longest War: The United States and Vietnam, 1950-1975*, 133–137.

⁷⁶ Richard W. Stewart, ed. *American Military History Volume II: The United States Army in a Global Era, 1917–2003*, (Washington, DC: Center of Military History, 2005), 303, Accessed online: <http://www.history.army.mil/books/AMH-V2/AMH%20V2/chapter10.htm>.

⁷⁷ *ibid.*, 140.

⁷⁸ The Viet Cong was a communist political organization in South Vietnam that fought against the United States and the democratic South Vietnamese government in support of Vietnamese self-rule. Many Viet Cong members were former Viet Minh who had resisted French occupation.

⁷⁹ DoD, *Department of Defense Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1965*, 3.

instability of the Republic of Vietnam throughout the early 1960s. From November 1963 to June 1965, the government of South Vietnam underwent five major personnel changes that ended with Lt. Gen. Nguyen Van Thieu as Chief of State and Air Vice-Marshal Nguyen Cao Ky as Prime Minister. During this time, the rapid turnover of key military personnel had a negative impact on combat operations as well as disrupted the nation's political and economic structure.⁸⁰

The Viet Cong used the disruption in leadership to build up their forces. In 1964 alone, Viet Cong fighters increased from 95,000 to 170,000 and by June 1965, their number exceeded 205,000.⁸¹ Previously, the Viet Cong had relied on local recruitment but by 1964, they started bringing in large numbers of indigenous North Vietnamese personnel. The indigenous North Vietnamese were inducted into the armed forces specifically for duty in South Vietnam. In late 1964, the first regular units of the North Vietnam Army infiltrated South Vietnam; their forces would reach a total of 14 battalions by June 1965.⁸² Not only was the influx of North Vietnamese a threat, but the troops also carried with them the latest types of communist weapons. Because of the shortcomings in the South Vietnamese government and communist forces' capitalization on that instability, the U.S. military began transitioning to a more direct role in the Vietnam conflict. In July 1965, President Johnson made up his mind to catapult the United States into the Vietnam War.

The first major augmentation of U.S. combat forces in Vietnam arrived in July 1965. These forces included two Marine Corps battalions along with two Army brigades. The following month, four more Marine battalions arrived in Vietnam. Additional troops were deployed during October and included another Marine brigade. By November 1965, the total U.S. strength in the country was increased to more than 153,000, which included 34 maneuver battalions supported by combat and service support units as well as shore-based fighter and attack squadrons. The increase in troops brought about a massive in-theater construction program to provide personnel with operational and logistical facilities. Permanent ports, warehouses, roads, cantonments, airfields, maintenance facilities,

⁸⁰ *ibid.*, 3-4.

⁸¹ DoD, *Department of Defense Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1965*, 4.

⁸² *ibid.*

and communications networks were built from the ground up while in the interim period, temporary facilities met basic operational needs.⁸³

The initial mission of the Marine battalions and Army brigades was to secure tactical base areas to launch future operations and to clear roads to these areas. Tangentially, the first major U.S. offensive in August 1965 was Operation STARLIGHT, launched by the Marines. The operation was a successful amphibious-airmobile strike against enemy forces near Chu Lai, where the Marines defeated the Viet Cong by inflicting heavy casualties. The U.S. Marines also worked with the South Vietnamese. A combined operation in the I Corps area against the Viet Cong resulted in more than 400 recognized Viet Cong dead as well as large quantities of their supplies and equipment captured or destroyed.⁸⁴

Troop buildup of Army personnel continued throughout 1965 and subsequent years. By the end of 1965, the American military presence had increased to 175,000. This increase included the newly activated 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), the 1st Brigade, the 101st Airborne Division, and all three brigades of the 1st Infantry Division. Throughout 1966 and 1967, three light infantry brigades were activated along with the 9th Infantry Division and the 4th and 25th Infantry Divisions. Deployments in 1966 increased troop levels in Vietnam to 385,000, and by the end of 1967 levels approached 490,000. In all, Army personnel accounted for nearly two-thirds of the overall total of the U.S. military in Vietnam throughout the war.⁸⁵

By 1965, Navy operations were dominated by the military's involvement in Vietnam. As the situation in Vietnam was expanded from one of alert readiness to a wartime operation, both the Atlantic and Pacific Fleets provided additional men and ships to the Western Pacific area.⁸⁶ By the end of the year, approximately 80,000 Navy seamen supported military operations in Southeast Asia. The Navy supported the land-based efforts of U.S. forces by stationing at least three aircraft carriers off the coast of Vietnam. The Navy aircraft launched from those carriers accounted for roughly half of the air strikes against North Vietnam, while also furnishing

⁸³ DoD, *Department of Defense Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1966*, 6.

⁸⁴ *ibid.*

⁸⁵ *ibid.* 305-306.

⁸⁶ DoD, *Department of Defense Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1965*, 259.

air support south of the 17th parallel.⁸⁷ Additionally, the Navy's cruisers, destroyers, and patrol aircraft worked in tandem with U.S. Coast Guard vessels and Vietnamese naval forces to patrol the 1,100 miles of sea approaches to South Vietnam.⁸⁸ Navy personnel also acted as advisors to the Vietnam River Assault Groups and ran patrols in the interior waterways as well as just off the coast in conjunction with the inshore patrol; other Navy personnel assisted the 500-ship Junk Force of the South Vietnam Navy.⁸⁹

With the increased military involvement, the U.S. Navy was also providing support onshore. In 1965, the Navy Headquarters Support Activity in Saigon provided billeting, provided hospital and clinic services, operated the port terminal office, and performed many housekeeping functions. The 2,000-strong Seabees provided technical labor to build airfields and support facilities in the jungle environment. At the same time, over 1,400 Navy doctors and hospital corpsmen were attached to combat troops of the Marine Corps or were members of the Civic Action Medical Teams that cared for Vietnamese civilians.⁹⁰

Additionally, in 1965 the participation of the Fleet Marine Corps onshore in Vietnam had grown from a 500-man helicopter transport unit to a Marine Expeditionary Force of 19,530 Marine and Navy personnel. The air/ground team protected vital air and logistic installations and expanded areas of operation necessary for security. By year's end, Marine forces were in the Hue-Phu Bai, Da Nang, Chu Lai, and Qui Nhon areas to provide search-and-destroy patrols and regimental-sized operations to clear and hold significant areas.⁹¹

3.2.1 Combat requirements

The challenging environmental conditions of Southeast Asia, such as the hot dry summers that alternated with seasons of torrential rains in dense jungles and much of the Mekong Delta, demanded that aerial tactics be used in combat. As early as 1961, the Army had realized that helicopter transport was the fastest and most reliable way of to move troops and

⁸⁷ DoD, *Department of Defense Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1965*, 259.

⁸⁸ *ibid.*

⁸⁹ *ibid.*, 260.

⁹⁰ *ibid.*

⁹¹ *ibid.*

supplies, to reconnoiter, to evacuate wounded, and to provide command and control on the battlefield. Throughout the conflict, Army airmobile and air-assault tactics evolved first to include machine-gun door gunners, then rockets and miniguns were later used to suppress enemy fire around landing zones.⁹²

With these developments in Army aviation capabilities, the disagreement between the Air Force and Army was revived in regard to the roles and missions of each service. The close air support of the Air Force was neglected in favor of the Army's own "air force," which continued to develop because it was enabled by the Kennedy administration's interest in expanding the concept of air mobility to all types of land warfare. The Army also received encouragement from Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara to test an experimental air-assault division. Between 1963 and 1964, the Army demonstrated that helicopters could successfully compete with ground vehicles for mobility and fire support. As a result, in 1965 the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) was created. It was the first unit of its kind in the Army and was located at Fort Benning, Georgia. Soon after the division was activated and trained, it began deployment to Camp Radcliffe, An Khe, in the Central Highlands of Vietnam.⁹³

The Army's adoption and increased use of helicopters was contentious, but there were additional disagreements between services regarding the buildup of American forces in South Vietnam and how to engage the enemy. The result was that the Air Force was caught between different command structures that divided the control of all aerial operations in the country between the Air Force, Army, and Marines.

In July 1963, in opposition to requests from the headquarters of the Pacific Air Forces to bring Army aviation under Air Force control, Army General Paul D. Harkins created a separate air operations section to direct the predominantly helicopter-based Army and Marine Corps aviation. The two control systems for aerial operations complicated the USAF operations, rendering it difficult for the Air Force to act effectively.⁹⁴

⁹²Stewart, ed. *American Military History Volume II: The United States Army in a Global Era, 1917–2003*, 269.

⁹³ DoD, *Department of Defense Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1965*, 259.

⁹⁴ Schlight. *A War Too Long: The History of the USAF in Southeast Asia*, 11–12.

Due to the ongoing political concerns of the American public against becoming militarily involved in Vietnam and the Kennedy and Johnson administrations' wish to seem pro-peace, the USAF's role in South Vietnam officially remained advisory through 1964, but with a growing increase in combat-related activities. During this time, the USAF was also attempting to transition between the military strategies of the nuclear-based massive response tactics and Kennedy's recently formulated flexible response. As a result, the USAF was not fully equipped, suitably trained, or doctrinally prepared for the combat requirement of military action in Southeast Asia.⁹⁵

Although contentious, the division of interservice specialties allowed an increase in airstrikes and bombing campaigns by the Army, Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps. These air assaults continued even in the face of growing concern that defeat was possible in the near future. In February 1965, the North Vietnamese attacked a U.S. Army barracks in Pleiku, killing nine Americans. The president ordered an immediate retaliation strike called FLAMING DART, which consisted of reprisal strikes previously planned by the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Continued attacks by the North Vietnamese prompted the administration to initiate ROLLING THUNDER, a program of intensified air attacks by the U.S. Air Force, U.S. Navy, and the Republic of Vietnam Air Force.⁹⁶ Almost immediately, ROLLING THUNDER was under pressure to be expanded. With intelligence reports warning of a steadily deteriorating military situation in South Vietnam, President Johnson allowed a gradual expansion of the bombing programs and relaxed the restrictions under which they were carried out. Additionally, to ensure greater destruction, the use of napalm was authorized along with allowing pilots to strike alternative targets without prior authorization if original targets were inaccessible. These changes solidified the role of U.S. airpower in the Vietnamese conflict. Nevertheless, as the air war was expanded so were ground forces.⁹⁷

Ground forces were called to Vietnam under the assumption that the expanded air war would cause retaliatory attacks. In late February 1965, General William Westmoreland requested two Marine landing units to protect the Da Nang air base. In opposition to the request, there was a question of whether American combat forces were trained appropriately

⁹⁵ Schlight. *A War Too Long: The History of the USAF in Southeast Asia*, 23.

⁹⁶ Herring, *America's Longest War: The United States and Vietnam, 1950-1975*, 142-143.

⁹⁷ *ibid.*, 144.

for guerilla warfare in jungles. In early March, two battalions of Marines were welcomed ashore at Da Nang. Three months later, with the air campaigns not getting the job done, McNamara, General Maxwell D. Taylor, and the Joint Chiefs of Staff concluded that an additional 40,000 U.S. ground forces would be sent to Vietnam.⁹⁸

By the end of 1965, Marines were operating in the areas of Hue-Phu Bai, Da Nang, Chu Lai, and Qui Nhon. The Marines' missions progressed from initial defense, to a patrolling search-and-destroy phase, through regimental-size operations devoted to clearing and holding significant areas. The result of these operations was tallied as 515 Viet Cong killed or captured and 280 suspects taken into custody.⁹⁹

The Marine Corps' personnel strength for 1965 was programmed at 191,069, but after restructuring, it was 190,187. Personnel retention was an ongoing problem, but the Marine Corps met its personnel quota through volunteer recruiting.¹⁰⁰ A year later, another 55,000 men were provided to the Marine Corps to support a new division and its supporting units, bringing the year-end total of Marines in Vietnam to about 262,000.¹⁰¹ By the end of 1966, two of the new divisions' brigades were activated and combat ready. In addition to the new division, the Marine Corps also established communications, engineer, and military police units. Other strength increases brought units already deployed to Vietnam to full strength, expanded the training and support base, and provided a rotation pipeline.¹⁰²

In 1966, combat operations in Vietnam continued at a high level. U.S. ground forces engaged in more than 350 battalion-size or larger operations during the last half of 1966 compared with 200 during the first half of the year. U.S. ground forces also partnered with other friendly forces and participated in more than 160 joint operations in 1966. Additionally, U.S. aircraft flew a total of almost 300,000 sorties in 1966, up from 40,000 flown in 1965.¹⁰³

⁹⁸ Herring, *America's Longest War: The United States and Vietnam, 1950-1975*, 146.

⁹⁹ DoD, *Department of Defense Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1965*, 260.

¹⁰⁰ *ibid.*, 270.

¹⁰¹ DoD, *Department of Defense Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1966*, 10.

¹⁰² *ibid.*, 26.

¹⁰³ *ibid.*, 10.

The Air Force was divided between four related air wars in the Southeast Asian conflict. The longest standing was the air war in South Vietnam. In February 1965 after a Viet Cong attack on an American detachment at Pleiku, President Johnson removed all remaining restrictions on the use of jets in South Vietnam. Johnson also terminated the requirement that a South Vietnamese observer or trainee needed to be onboard an aircraft during aerial strikes. The other three air wars were an offensive in North Vietnam and operations in northern and southern Laos. All air conflicts were intertwined but presented the USAF with unique operational requirements. In Vietnam, the Johnson administration assumed South Vietnam could be defended through a gradual intensification of the air war against the North while introducing American soldiers and Marines into the South.¹⁰⁴

Throughout 1965, Viet Cong activities escalated and openly directed attacks on U.S. forces. With remaining restrictions on combat lifted, the American military was committed to defeating the enemy. At the end of 1965, American ground forces numbered 23,000; four years later, the number rose to 536,000. With full military engagement and troop growth in Vietnam, the mission of the USAF changed from training and advising the South Vietnamese to full-scale combat in support of American and South Vietnamese ground troops in the open, if not actually a declared war against the North Vietnamese and the Viet Cong. The military strategy of the U.S. Commander in Vietnam, General William Westmoreland, involved search-and-destroy missions that required the USAF to provide air support for ground troops.¹⁰⁵

The 7th Air Force served as the Air Component Command of the MACV after its reactivation on 28 March 1966. The 7th Air Force was located at Tan Son Nhut Air Base and assumed responsibility for the operations of the ten primary USAF bases in South Vietnam. The divisions, wings, and squadrons that comprised the Seventh Air Force deployed from several bases in the United States, including:

- England AFB, Louisiana
- Holloman AFB, New Mexico
- Clark AFB, Philippines

¹⁰⁴ Schlight, *A War Too Long: The History of Air Force in Southeast Asia*, 20–21.

¹⁰⁵ *ibid.*, 22.

- Paine Field, Washington (Air Defense Command)
- Myrtle Beach AFB, South Carolina
- Mountain Home AFB, Idaho ¹⁰⁶

The 13th Air Force also served in Southeast Asia, with troops deploying from the following bases in the United States:

- George AFB, California
- McConnell AFB, Kansas
- Otis AFB, Massachusetts

Although the Army flew the majority of helicopters in Vietnam, the USAF also used helicopters for search-and-rescue missions and for special operations. Other than heavy bombers, the USAF also used a variety of other types of aircraft in Vietnam—fighter-bombers supported the ground forces as well as aircraft designed for psychological warfare which included dropping leaflets or broadcasting from loudspeakers. Transports were also converted into gunships and were used to defend fortified villages and outposts, attack enemy soldiers, escort road convoys, drop flares for attacking fighters, fly armed reconnaissance, prohibit the movement of enemy forces and supplies, and direct some air strikes.¹⁰⁷ The USAF played a critical support role for the military mission, but that role was often overshadowed by inter-service politics and ill-defined mission requirements.

During 1966, ground forces operations conducted between January and June were particularly effective. An operation that combined units of the 1st Air Cavalry Division and Korean and Vietnamese forces cleared the II Corps coastal plain area.¹⁰⁸ This operation began in late January 1966, and it continued for 42 days. During that time, nearly 2,400 enemy combatants were killed and 700 were captured, while enemy fortifications in the area were destroyed. Another operation executed in early March combined U.S. Marines with South Vietnamese troops. In the operation, the troops trapped a North Vietnamese regiment in a valley northwest of Quang Ngai in the I Corps area. After a four-day battle, 532 of the enemy

¹⁰⁶ Compiled from John T. Correll, *The Air Force in the Vietnam War*. (Arlington, VA: Aerospace Education Foundation, December 2004).

¹⁰⁷ Schlicht, *A War Too Long: The History of Air Force in Southeast Asia*, 22.

¹⁰⁸ The U.S. military divided South Vietnam into four zones, Corps I – IV. These zones were located southward from the Demilitarized Zone through the Mekong Delta, with Corps Zone 1 the most northward.

were killed and 24 captured. Then in early May, a brigade of the U.S. 25th Infantry Division moved to thwart a major offensive by North Vietnamese units in the II Corps zone. Units of the 1st Cavalry Division joined the battle after the enemy was engaged, resulting in over 700 Communists killed and 100 captured.¹⁰⁹

Naval operations in Southeast Asia were executed by the 7th Fleet, which had three attack aircraft carriers almost continuously stationed in the China Sea. In October 1966, the role of naval gunfire was expanded to include waterborne logistic craft along the coast of North Vietnam. By 1967, there were over 28,000 Navy personnel in Vietnam with an additional 75,000 assigned to the 7th Fleet.¹¹⁰ Part of the Navy's Vietnam campaign included the Special Landing Forces of the 7th Fleet. This Navy-Marine team provided amphibious capabilities in Southeast Asia and provided commanders with a flexible option when addressing the enemy along the coastline. The Fleet Marine Force units were organized into a battalion landing team supported by a medium helicopter squadron. The Special Landing Forces were maintained aboard Amphibious Readiness Group ships.¹¹¹

As the war in Vietnam intensified in 1966, the Marine units were conducting 400–500 small unit actions during each 24-hour period, in addition to larger operations.¹¹² These types of operations greatly helped the Marines and were essential in separating the Viet Cong from the populace. The results were such that in 1966, the III Marine Amphibious Force controlled over 1,185 square miles, whereas a year before they controlled no real estate in South Vietnam.¹¹³

Marine Corps forces stationed near the demilitarized zone (DMZ) were involved in counteroffensive operations between July and October 1967. During this time the forces repulsed successive Communist attempts to infiltrate the eastern sector of the DMZ. In November, units of the III Marine Amphibious Force launched a series of operations in the Khe Sanh plateau area to protect the western sector of the DMZ. The Marine force of

¹⁰⁹ DoD, *Department of Defense Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1966*, 10–11.

¹¹⁰ DoD, *Department of Defense Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1967* (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1969), 303.

¹¹¹ *ibid.*, 306.

¹¹² *ibid.*, 292.

¹¹³ *ibid.*, 292–293.

three battalions was joined by one detachment of the Army Special Forces, one Vietnamese Army Ranger battalion, and one Vietnamese Civilian Irregular Defense Group. Working together, the forces were directed to hold their position during the monsoon season that lasted until early April. The troops were supplied by airlift and supported by long-range artillery and air strikes including over 2,600 B-52 sorties.¹¹⁴

The need for additional ground forces paved the way for more troops to be sent from the United States, and the American military advisors quickly learned that getting into war was far easier than getting out.¹¹⁵ Ground operations escalated quickly between 1965 and 1967. The main combat tactic of the conflict was an aggressive strategy for ground operations based on searching out and then destroying the enemy, which would continue throughout the war and require many thousands of personnel.

3.2.2 Increasing recruit levels

Beginning in 1966, the total requirements for new active-duty military personnel in the United States ranged between 890,000 and 990,000, compared with the annual averages of about 560,000 throughout the early 1960s when overall active duty strength was less than 2.7 million. Emphasis was placed on increasing voluntary recruitment, but in 1967 about 60,000 less enlisted than in 1966. Because of the high overall enlistment levels, only the Army had to resort to induction to meet quotas. The draft calls during July–December 1966 averaged 34,000 a month.¹¹⁶ At the time, projections called for a reduction in personnel drafted during the following year. However, the Army had entered into a replacement cycle for the relatively large number of draftees called up in 1966, which subsequently increased draftee personnel totals. Additionally, the Army had resorted to procuring medical personnel such as physicians, dentists, and other specialists through the Selective Service System from the mid-to-late 1960s.¹¹⁷

Although the Army resorted to draft calls to obtain sufficient enlisted soldiers, other programs were effective in recruiting and retaining officers.

¹¹⁴ DoD, *Department of Defense Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1968* (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1971), 6.

¹¹⁵ Herring, *America's Longest War: The United States and Vietnam, 1950–1975*, 146.

¹¹⁶ Robert S. McNamara, *The Fiscal Year 1969–1973 Defense Program and the 1969 Defense Budget* (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Defense, 22 January 1968), 187–188.

¹¹⁷ *ibid.*

Active duty officer candidate training programs provided a significant portion of the new officers required in 1968 and 1969. In 1968, 34,000 new officers graduated from the programs with the majority being Army officers. In 1969, 23,500 officers graduated—10,000 Army, 7,000 Navy, 3,500 Marine Corps, and 3,000 Air Force. In addition to the active-duty officer training programs, the Senior Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) was an important source of commissioned officers. In 1969, about 263,000 students were enrolled in ROTC courses.¹¹⁸

“Project 100,000” was a unique initiative that granted eligibility for all military branches to men previously deemed unfit for military service. Between October 1967 and September 1968, the military enlisted 100,000 recruits who previously would have been disqualified due to either educational deficiencies or correctable physical defects. The program operated under the auspices that once these individuals were exposed to “modern instructional techniques,” they would be productive members of the military. In the first year of the program, 49,000 men were accepted with a basic training completion rate of 96 percent.¹¹⁹

These programs fulfilled the increasing demand for troops in Southeast Asia. Initial estimates for personnel requirements in 1968 were about 470,000 troops, but this number was revised after General Westmoreland requested additional recruits. By December 1967, there were 485,000 troops in South Vietnam, but the total would eventually grow to 525,000.¹²⁰

3.2.3 In-theater infrastructure and construction efforts

Ever-increasing in-country construction to support the war rapidly outpaced the capabilities of local Vietnamese contractors and engineers, prompting the first U.S. Army engineer units to be deployed to South Vietnam in 1965.¹²¹ The first unit was the 35th Engineer Group from Fort Polk, Louisiana, which arrived at Cam Ranh Bay on 9 June. Command was centralized under a single brigade, the 18th Engineer Brigade from Fort Campbell, Kentucky.¹²² The 18th Engineer Brigade arrived in Vietnam in

¹¹⁸ McNamara, *The Fiscal Year 1969–1973 Defense Program and the 1969 Defense Budget*, 187–188.

¹¹⁹ *ibid.*, 188–189.

¹²⁰ *ibid.*, 188.

¹²¹ DoD, *Department of Defense Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1966*, 16.

¹²² Major General Robert R. Ploger, *Vietnam Studies: US Army Engineers 1965–1970*, (Washington DC: Department of the Army, 1974), 39.

early September 1965, and within a few weeks, engineer units already there were consolidated under operational command of the brigade.¹²³ Other units arriving in the next few months included the 159th Engineer Group (Construction), 937th Engineer Group (Combat), 70th Engineer Battalion (Combat), and the 20th and 39th Engineer Battalions.¹²⁴ Almost half the equipment that arrived at this time came from the Army Reserves.¹²⁵ On 11 February 1966, the Military Assistance Command Directorate of Construction (MACDC) was established by Secretary of Defense McNamara to supervise all DoD construction in Vietnam.¹²⁶

However, the South Vietnamese infrastructure was not sufficient for the buildup required; there were few ports, and Saigon (40 miles up the Saigon River) was the only one capable of handling larger supply ships. Likewise, there were few airports that could accommodate military aircraft.¹²⁷ From 1964 to 1965, funding growth for construction engineering grew from \$384,000 to over \$4 million; engineering activities for 5,000 personnel at six sites grew to 48,000 personnel at eleven sites.¹²⁸ By 1965, Saigon's port had been augmented by a deep draft port at Cam Rahn Bay, with shallow draft ports located at Nha Tang and Qui Nhon. To supplement these facilities, the Army also offloaded cargo from coastal ships to beaches.¹²⁹

By the 1965 buildup in Vietnam, the USAF still operated modified equipment that had been designed for nuclear war, further hampering its effectiveness. For example, the USAF dropped high-explosive bombs from aircraft such as the F-105 as well as transported stocks of conventional munitions to be used in the conflict. In addition to not being appropriately prepared for the conflict, the USAF in Southeast Asia needed to also set up a "workable organizational structure in the region, improve the area's inadequate air bases, create an efficient airlift system, and develop equipment and techniques to support the ground battle."¹³⁰ Poor operating conditions also clouded USAF operations; the air bases in South

¹²³ The 18th Engineer Brigade had been active at Fort Leonard Wood from 1954 to 1963.

¹²⁴ Dunn, *Vietnam Studies: Base Development in South Vietnam*, 20-21.

¹²⁵ Ploger, *Vietnam Studies: US Army Engineers 1965-1970*, 8.

¹²⁶ *ibid.*, 18.

¹²⁷ Ploger, *Vietnam Studies: US Army Engineers 1965-1970*, 7.

¹²⁸ *Ibid.*, 28-29.

¹²⁹ *Ibid.*, 107.

¹³⁰ Schlicht. *A War Too Long: The History of Air Force in Southeast Asia*, 23.

Vietnam were inadequately constructed to accommodate American aircraft.

Because of the existing conditions, the 1965 scheduled deployment of jet fighter squadrons was delayed. Only three airfields in South Vietnam had runways that accommodated jet aircraft: Tan Son Nhut, Bien Hoa, and Da Nang. Improvements began immediately to these three air bases as well as construction of three new bases along the coast at Cam Ranh Bay, Phan Rang, and Qui Nhon. These major building campaigns were undertaken to bring the infrastructure up to operational capacity and were directed by MACDC, which controlled all construction within Vietnam. Consequently, the USAF construction efforts competed with all other in-country construction projects, workers, and materials. Because of the continued focus on the ground war, many of the USAF facilities projects received low-priority status.¹³¹ Compounding problems in the construction of these bases led the USAF to secure approval to build a fourth base. For this base, the Air Force (not the Army Corps of Engineers) contracted and supervised the construction. This base was located near Tuy Hoa and was completed more than a month ahead of schedule. The field housed the first of three F-100 squadrons.¹³²

As larger bases were modified to accommodate jet aircraft, Nha Trang was designated as the home for USAF helicopters and aircraft for psychological warfare as well as gunships. Four squadrons of O-1 Bird Dog observation aircraft and four squadrons of C-123 transports were positioned throughout the country.¹³³ As the demand for aerial transports increased, the USAF had trouble integrating all transport activities in the country. Disagreements between the Chiefs of Staff of the Army and Air Force helped distinguish Air Force transport missions from the Army's. As a result, Air Force crews and mechanics began to move onto Army airfields, slowly establishing their own "maintenance, supply, reporting, and operating procedures."¹³⁴ The construction activity was reflected in the 1965 Air Force budget which originally contained \$69.7 million for operations in Southeast Asia. This number was increased through further reprogramming and additional funding requests, to eventually total \$598.8 million. Of that total, Air Force programmed \$61.6 million for

¹³¹ Schlight, *A War Too Long: The History of the USAF in Southeast Asia*, 24.

¹³² *ibid.*, 24–25.

¹³³ *ibid.*, 24.

¹³⁴ *ibid.*, 26.

construction projects in direct support of Southeast Asia operations. Additionally, the Air Force obligated \$2.2 million for various minor construction projects and \$3.6 million for ammunition storage facilities.¹³⁵

Over the next several years, construction activity raged across the country in an effort to keep pace with the constantly increasing levels of troop deployment. Numbers of engineer troops also increased, with the majority coming from Fort Belvoir, Virginia, and Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, the two main Army engineer training installations.¹³⁶ Engineer deployment reached its peak in 1968 with 30,000 Army engineering officers and enlisted men deployed to Vietnam.¹³⁷ Engineering units were praised for their efforts throughout the war.¹³⁸

3.2.4 Tet Offensive and year of transition

Militarily, the United States and South Vietnam seemed to be succeeding until a surprise attack by North Vietnamese troops hit more than 100 South Vietnamese cities and military targets at once during a national holiday on 30 January 1968. The impacts of the Tet Offensive, as the attacks were collectively called, were major and served as a turning point in the war. Although the inroads made by the communists in this attack were not sustained, it was a decisive public relations disaster for the United States. It became apparent to the American populace that the war might in fact be “unwinnable,” leading to heightened protests and dwindling political support for the war. However, from the viewpoint of military advisors, the offensive came as a shock that illustrated the enemy was still capable of attacking in force, and that an end to the war was a long way off.¹³⁹

At the time of the Tet Offensive in 1968, 493,000 U.S. personnel were deployed to South Vietnam. Nevertheless, President Johnson ordered an airlift of 11,000 more troops from the United States, which included elements of the 27th Marine Regimental Landing Team of the 5th Marine Division and the 3d Brigade of the 82d Airborne Division. By 1968, the major Marine Corps units in Vietnam were the 1st and 3d Marine

¹³⁵ DoD, *Department of Defense Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1965*, 336.

¹³⁶ Meyerson, *United States Army in Vietnam: Images of a Lengthy War*, 175.

¹³⁷ Ploger, *Vietnam Studies: US Army Engineers 1965-1970*, 8, 179.

¹³⁸ *ibid.*, 178.

¹³⁹ Jeffrey J. Clarke. *Advice and Support: The Final Years, 1964-1973*, (Washington, DC: Center of Military History, 1988), 291.

Divisions, the 26th and 27th Regiments of the 5th Marine Division, and the reinforced 1st Marine Air Wing.¹⁴⁰

The immediate American military response to the attacks was the deployment of the 3d Brigade, 82d Airborne Division, and a U.S. Marine Corps regiment to South Vietnam on 13 February. By the end of the month, U.S. Army General Earle Wheeler had arrived in the country to assess the situation; not liking what he saw, he requested 206,000 additional American troops. The troop request was controversial and heightened growing public and political opposition to the war. Amid the brewing turmoil, President Johnson announced that he would not run for another term. He authorized only a token increase in troops (13,500) and was reducing the air campaign against North Vietnam to hasten the start of negotiations. However, if the American forces were going to withdraw, the South Vietnamese military needed its own increase in troops as well as procurement of modern equipment.¹⁴¹

Throughout the rest of 1968, military planners worked toward creating a strategy that allowed for American withdrawal without destabilizing the government of South Vietnam. Although plans and strategies for withdrawal were formulated, a definitive way out of South Vietnam remained undefined.

3.3 Withdrawal (1969–1973)

With President Johnson not pursuing a second term, newly elected President Richard M. Nixon announced a new plan called “Vietnamization” in the spring of 1969. The plan was a process for increasing South Vietnamese troop capability with a planned drawdown of United States troops throughout that year.¹⁴² Personnel withdrawal was rapid; troop strength had been reduced to 250,000 by 1970, to a mere 24,000 by December 1972, with the last troops leaving on 29 March 1973.¹⁴³ By 1974 (for the first time in ten years), no U.S. Army combat units were engaged in military operations in Southeast Asia.

¹⁴⁰ DoD, *Department of Defense Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1968*, 6.

¹⁴¹ *ibid.*, 292–293.

¹⁴² Meyerson, *United States Army in Vietnam*, 179; McCarthy and McCullough, *Fort Hood Military Family Housing*, 28–31.

¹⁴³ Meyerson, *United States Army in Vietnam*, 183.

Vietnamization was also an effort to return the country's operations back to South Vietnam's leaders. Straightforward on paper, the plan's execution met with participation problems. Nevertheless, the steady withdrawal of American troops continued throughout 1970, 1971, and 1972. As early as 1971, MACV began planning for a total U.S. withdrawal as early as the first of November 1972. But as the American troops were reduced, the South Vietnamese military was engaged in heavy combat on several fronts. South Vietnamese operations into Cambodia and Laos during 1971 were fiercely opposed, and in early 1972 the North Vietnamese retaliated in the Easter Offensive. Fighting was intense, with high casualty and equipment losses. Nevertheless, the process of extraction continued; a final accord between the United States, South Vietnam, and North Vietnam provided a military truce, the return of American prisoners of War (POWs), and the final termination of all U.S. military activities in Vietnam by the end of March 1973. During this time, the United States once again assumed an advisory and training role.¹⁴⁴

The American policy of Vietnamization officially ended on 23 January 1973. The agreement stipulated the complete withdrawal of all American military forces from South Vietnam (including advisors) as well as ceasing all military activities. The North Vietnamese agreed to a ceasefire and the return of American POWs. The negotiations for the ceasefire agreement were led by National Security Advisor Dr. Henry A. Kissinger and were often long and arduous. Eventually, the threat of the new Congress cutting off all military and economic assistance to Saigon led North Vietnam to comply.¹⁴⁵

Although effective, Vietnamization and the drawdown was a complex undertaking. After the United States withdrew its military support, Cambodia, South Vietnam, and Laos fell to Communist-supported insurgent movements and invasions in the spring of 1975. In early May, the South Vietnamese government fell to the Viet Cong and its North Vietnamese allies just three weeks after U.S. diplomatic and military personnel left Phnom Penh, Cambodia, before its takeover by communist party followers known as the Khmer Rouge. In Saigon, American diplomats and military personnel were evacuated off the roof of the embassy in April 1975, creating a shocking image of defeat for the United

¹⁴⁴ Clarke, *Advice and Support: The Final Years, 1964-1973*, 449-460.

¹⁴⁵ *ibid.*, 491-492.

States. At the time, the coalition government in Laos continued its governance, but it eventually succumbed in August to a takeover by the Pathet Lao.¹⁴⁶

As defeat in Southeast Asia cascaded through the countries supported by the United States, many of those countries' citizens requested political asylum from neighboring, non-communist governments or from the Western world. In support of the asylum seekers, a \$405 million refugee resettlement program was signed by President Gerald R. Ford on 21 May 1975. The program was designed to provide federal assistance to the surging numbers of Vietnamese and Cambodians who were seeking political asylum as their governments fell. Included in the totals were 91 Vietnamese and 132 Cambodian military personnel who were attending Army schools during that time.¹⁴⁷

Part of the resettlement program included airlifting orphans to the United States. In April 1975, the first wave of orphans arrived at the Presidio of San Francisco. Subsequent transports were received at Fort Benning, Georgia, and Fort Lewis, Washington, where reception centers were established. Throughout the duration of the orphan resettlement program, the Army provided temporary housing and care for 1,853 of the 2,715 orphans evacuated to the United States before turning them over to voluntary adoption agencies.¹⁴⁸

A refugee camp was also established on Guam after the Joint Chiefs of Staff directed its construction on 22 April 1975. Two thousand Army troops were deployed to the island to build a tent city to house more than 50,000 refugees. At the same time, the Joint Chiefs directed the Army to reopen Fort Chaffee, Arkansas, and establish a refugee intake center there.¹⁴⁹ Within twenty-four hours of notification, 1,800 troops were deployed to Fort Chaffee and had readied it for operation. Within a week, the first group of refugees arrived. Later in May, a second refugee center was established at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania.¹⁵⁰ Throughout the remainder of the year, requests for asylum in the United States remained

¹⁴⁶ U.S. Army, *Department of Army Historical Summary Fiscal Year 1975*. Accessed online: <http://www.history.army.mil/books/DAHSUM/1975/ch02.htm#B2>.

¹⁴⁷ *ibid.*

¹⁴⁸ *ibid.*

¹⁴⁹ *ibid.*

¹⁵⁰ *ibid.*

strong, so the refugee centers continued operating through December 1975 with the joint office remaining active for some time afterward.¹⁵¹

¹⁵¹ U.S. Army, *Department of Army Historical Summary Fiscal Year 1975*.

4 Thematic Areas of Construction in the United States during the Vietnam War

Military construction initiatives in the United States during the Vietnam War were unlike the physical growth experienced across the country in response to previous wars. For previous wars, preparations included widespread building campaigns that expanded existing bases and created a network of new installations. The facilities for WWI and WWII were designed to accommodate the demands of the military at war. Most often the physical changes to bases were to meet the demands of increased troop levels that needed housing and training. Both permanent and temporary housing was built, and training facilities were modernized to address the technological advances of warfare. In part, the Vietnam War-era construction efforts in the United States followed a similar pattern; the difference was there were no cohesive design standards, architectural style, or other unique identifying characteristics. Construction in support of the Vietnam War was centered on economy, both financial and temporal. Buildings were built rapidly to accommodate the most urgent requirements of the battlefield. In that capacity, Vietnam War-era construction was executed quickly and often adapted existing facilities for use. The result was a building campaign that was often constrained by budgets and was not clearly executed as a cohesive effort, but rather as infill projects or as part of a larger modernization trend that occurred throughout the military during the 1950s and 1960s.

Although the Vietnam War was a proxy military engagement, the physical demand on installations was entirely different than those brought about by the overarching Cold War. In this regard, the facilities and infrastructure of Vietnam-related construction efforts comprised a historically distinct time period (1962–1975), while also falling under the umbrella of the Cold War period. Because the U.S. involvement in the Vietnamese conflict was limited to an advisory role for so long, many of the early effects of the war were concentrated in Vietnam and did not immediately affect military facilities in the United States. To train the South Vietnamese Army, many facilities were constructed in Vietnam and consisted of housing, ranges,

and other facilities.¹⁵² During the late 1950s and early 1960s, the United States was ramping up a large-scale infrastructure modernization campaign in South Vietnam; many of the changes in the United States consisted of updating housing and support facilities to encourage soldier retention.

The gradual manner in which the United States became involved in the conflict in Vietnam also had a significant effect on how the stateside military environment was changed to respond to war's demands. Although the buildup for the Vietnam War included the adaptive reuse of facilities and the construction of many mission-related buildings, structures, and infrastructure, the initiation of these programs was gradual and included many decisive factors such as incorporating technological advances and the challenges that were encountered in surmounting the terrain and environment of Vietnam. Other factors that would eventually influence the construction efforts in the United States was the early reliance on Special Forces and the guerilla tactics used by the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong. Due to these and other complex factors, the U.S. Army was the primary fighting force involved in the Vietnamese conflict, while the Navy, Marines, and Air Force played vital, yet supportive roles. Consequently, the Army's built environment was most changed by the response to the Vietnam War.

The conflict in Vietnam also brought about major changes in the way the U.S. military engaged in combat. Conducting a war in Southeast Asia demanded radically different tactics than previous wars in which the United States victoriously dominated. The geography of Vietnam presented the first tactical challenges where the muddy Mekong Delta, the densely forested mountain jungles, and extensive rice paddies created prime conditions for hiding the Viet Cong and supporting guerilla warfare. Guerilla fighters used snipers, ambushes, and raids against the organized South Vietnamese forces along with political tactics of terror, extortion, and assassination against citizens to reinforce their support. In response to guerilla combat, the United States emphasized companies, squads, and individual soldiers and simple weaponry to counter the insurgents. But because the Vietnamese terrain was so unlike what U.S. forces had trained for, the U.S. advisors harnessed the technological advances in aviation that

¹⁵² Brigadier General James Lawton Collins, Jr., *The Development and Training of the South Vietnamese Army, 1950-1972*, in the series "Vietnam Studies," (Washington, D.C.: Center of Military History, 1975), 34.

had been made throughout the 1950s and reduced ground-based operations. As a result, the Vietnam War was characterized by the increased use of helicopters in all aspects of military functions—from transporting troops and supplies to providing aerial artillery support. Addressing guerilla warfare in jungle terrain and the heavy reliance on aerial operations changed the face of U.S. planning, training, and construction programs during its involvement in Southeast Asia.¹⁵³

Throughout the 1950s and early 1960s, the United States conducted covert political and psychological military operations in Vietnam in support of a sympathetic South Vietnamese leader. Special military forces, such as the Army Rangers, were heavily used to execute these covert operations, which led to an overall increase across all services in Special Forces training.

With the Kennedy administration in office, the military faced major changes at the outset of 1961. As the new Secretary of Defense, McNamara was a force who brought lasting historic changes in military organization, changes in procurement, and the implementation of modern, sophisticated planning and accounting techniques based on statistical analysis. McNamara used his experience in data analysis from private industry to streamline military operations. By 1962, the Army had been reorganized based on McNamara's systems approach. Historically, the Army was organized into seven technical services that included the Quartermaster Corps, Ordnance Corps, and the Chemical Corps. Under the new reorganization, the Army was divided into a series of commands and subcommands. McNamara eliminated all of the Army's technical service chiefs, except for the Chief of Engineers and the Surgeon General. In their place, McNamara created three functional commands, which took important responsibilities away from the Chief of Engineers. Instead, the Army Combat Developments Command (ACDC) assumed responsibility for engineer training and military doctrine, while the Office of Personnel Operations took over the career management of engineer officers. The Army Materiel Command (AMC) assumed engineer supply and equipment development functions.¹⁵⁴ Four years later, the Navy was also restructured, replacing its historic bureaus with system commands.¹⁵⁵

¹⁵³ DoD, *Department of Defense Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1961*, 16.

¹⁵⁴ Thomas G. Mahnken, *Technology and the American Way of War since 1945* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2010), 116.

¹⁵⁵ Shiman, *Forging the Sword: Defense Production during the Cold War*, 69.

The overall trend throughout the early 1960s was to economize military operations. Although the intention to economize remained as the military mobilized to meet the demands of Vietnam, the reality was that the requirements of the war far exceeded what planners had projected. One of the major stumbling blocks was moving new recruits through basic and advanced training, and then readying them for the standard twelve-month deployment to Southeast Asia.

The reorganization of the military was part of a larger initiative by McNamara to cut wasteful spending and operations, including reduced appropriations for all types of military construction. The dedication of McNamara to his cause extended to eliminating government production facilities. At the end of the Korean War, the government had instigated a program of reducing the number of facilities in its inventory, especially ones that were older or no longer useful. Throughout the 1950s and 1960s, the number of government-held plants declined and reliance on contractors increased. McNamara was particularly bothered by the need for Navy shipyards and Army arsenals. Both types of facilities came under heavy pressure to justify their costs and existence. During McNamara's tenure and throughout the 1960s, the military's industrial facilities were greatly reduced.¹⁵⁶

Although many of the changes to the built environment in the United States included adapting existing facilities to accommodate the unique demands of Southeast Asian combat, the Army also continued to acquire land during this time. As the United States was increasing its military involvement in Vietnam during 1965, the Army acquired fee title to 123,397 acres of land. Of the total land acquired, Fort Carson, Colorado, and the Pueblo Army Depot, Colorado, were expanded by 28,242 acres and Fort Riley, Kansas, was expanded by 5,593 acres. In Hawaii, 87,420 acres that had been formerly used by the Army under temporary rights from the Territory of Hawaii were subsequently set aside pursuant to the provisions of Section 5d, Public Law 86-3, 86th Congress. The remaining lands acquired in 1965 were used for the expansion of Army Air Defense Command facilities and for the construction of reserve centers.¹⁵⁷

¹⁵⁶ Shiman. *Forging the Sword: Defense Production during the Cold War*, 69–71.

¹⁵⁷ DoD, *Department of Defense Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1965*, 193.

As the Army grew in response to the demands of the Vietnam War, cost savings through base closures and consolidations were also being enacted to streamline operations. As a result, by 1965 several major installations were slated for future inactivation or classified as excess. These installations included among others: Fort Jay, New York; Hampton Roads Army Terminal, Virginia; New Orleans Army Terminal, Louisiana; and Brooklyn Army Terminal, New York.¹⁵⁸

Nevertheless, the urgency of the force buildup for Vietnam did not allow sufficient time for preparing normal budgetary detail. Instead, additional budget requirements were financed on an interim basis, pending requests for fiscal year 1966 supplemental appropriation the following January. Accordingly, the President transmitted to the Congress on 4 August 1966 a budget amendment providing for a Southeast Asia Emergency Fund of \$1.7 billion to gear up the production machine and initiate construction of the most urgent facilities at home and abroad. Military personnel costs and operation and maintenance costs were to be financed under the emergency authorities already included in the pending Defense appropriation bill for fiscal year 1966.¹⁵⁹

No large construction programs were specifically linked to the Vietnam War. To describe the physical effects the Vietnam War had on the stateside built environment, this chapter is organized by service and then by thematic areas for each service as related to potential significance. Because each branch addressed the demands of the war somewhat differently, each section is further divided into categories that reflect areas of major change. For example, each branch's training was modified to account for the conditions faced in-theater. Likewise, the sudden influx of troops necessitated increases in housing, personnel support facilities, and training areas. Because of the urgency created by the Vietnam War, existing structures—often WWII facilities—were adapted across the military for reuse as housing, classrooms, or other high-priority functions (Figure 1). Many WWII barracks were used to house enlisted recruits (Figure 2). A mock European village constructed for WWII training at Fort Campbell was reused for helicopter crew training exercises (Figure 3).

¹⁵⁸ DoD, *Department of Defense Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1965*, 193.

¹⁵⁹ DoD, *Department of Defense Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1966*, 46.

Figure 1. A repurposed building served as the reception station at Fort Ord, California, May 1965 (NARA SC615944).



Figure 2. The 2nd Training Brigade's hand-to-hand combat field at Fort Polk, Louisiana, showing WWII temporary buildings in the background, February 1967 (NARA SC636721).



Figure 3. An Army UH1 “Iroquois” helicopter descends into a preexisting mock village during the 101st Airborne Division exercises at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, March 1963 (NARA SC601654).



Fort Campbell illustrates an Army installation that underwent both new construction (Vietnam-specific and broader modernization program) and adaptive reuse of existing facilities. The designation of the installation as a large recruit training base in 1966 had specific facility needs met with WWII temporary structures:¹⁶⁰

When the Army Advanced Training Center was to be opened in 1966, the post planning group decided that over 500 World War II buildings along the axis of Indiana Avenue from 11th Street to 50th Street would be used for training and as living quarters. Thus, rather than being demolished, these buildings were renovated and restored even as they were being used. The requirement to train new soldiers was so urgent that many of the buildings remained occupied while being renovated by civilian contractors. Because of this situation, cadres did much of the final preparation for the occupation of billets.

¹⁶⁰ Smiran Chanchani, Leah Konicki, and Lena Sweeten, *The Historic Context for the Cold War at Ft. Campbell, Kentucky* (Cincinnati, OH: BHE Environmental, Inc., 2006), 59.

Changes to the military's built environment that were directly related to the Vietnam War effort are difficult to distinguish among the Cold War and general base improvement efforts that were also underway during the early 1960s through the mid-1970s. Nevertheless, the events that happened in Vietnam provide a correlation to the building efforts in the United States.

4.1 Army thematic areas

The Vietnam War's effects spread throughout all aspects of Army operations. While some of the most visible transformations occurred in Vietnam, many changes were made on the home front in support of the developments brought about by the demands of the conflict. Not all of the physical growth that occurred during the Vietnam War years was in direct correlation with the Vietnamese conflict because the ongoing, larger Cold War also drove large amounts of construction and alteration. However, at Army facilities there were areas where the built environment was significantly altered to accommodate the demands of the Vietnam War. Army installations were changed in response to the dramatic increases in troop levels. Installations were modified to support the influx of new soldiers. As a result, areas most often affected by reuse or new construction were those involved with housing and personnel support, restructuring of training programs, and logistical support infrastructure.

4.1.1 Army ground training thematic area

Army training bases for both the active Army and the reserves were expanded as the Army prepared more troops for deployment in Southeast Asia. At installations that already had training programs, the training resources were expanded (e.g., at Fort Bragg, Fort Campbell, and Fort Lewis), and new construction was primarily for ranges, training courses, and classrooms in an effort to modernize training methods. The Army also expanded its recruit training infrastructure to 15 additional bases that included Forts Dix, Bliss, Polk, Knox, Jackson, Gordon, Benning, Leonard Wood, Ord, Sill, Sam Houston (medics), and McClellan (WACs).¹⁶¹

The existing building infrastructure was often not sufficient for the demands placed on an installation, particularly one tasked with recruit training. In many cases, the installation had to provide not only specific

¹⁶¹ DoD, *Department of Defense Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1966*, 217 – 18.

training facilities but also any number of support base operations (BASOPS) type facilities. The case of Fort Campbell is illustrative of the facilities required for this type of effort, as prior to its designation as a recruit training base in 1966, it hosted the 101st Airborne Division. The major shift in mission required a large construction and rehabilitation program, including physical training facilities (Figure 4):¹⁶²

Existing ranges also were expanded and renovated under this program. Ranges 4, 5, and 24 were expanded, and Ranges 8, 9, 25a, 26a, and 35 were renovated. Specifically constructed for training the cadres were the Ranges 11, 12, 19, 21, 23a, 36, 37, 38, and 39. Construction in the garrison area included physical training areas, test sites, a bayonet course, hand-to-hand pits, an obstacle course, drill fields, and confidence courses. All the construction and renovation, which cost an estimated \$ 7.5 million, was completed in November 1966, two months after the graduation of the first group of new soldiers.

Figure 4. Trainees undergo physical training with a rifle at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, September 1968 (NARA SC646960).



The challenges presented by the conditions in Vietnam heavily influenced how the Army trained, equipped, and deployed its forces. For example, the emergence and reliance on aviation technology through the use of

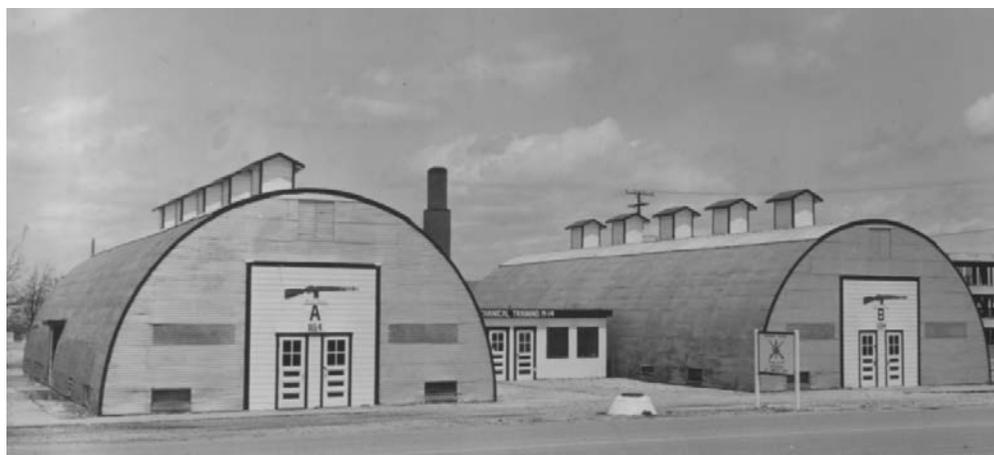
¹⁶² Chanchani et al., *Historic Context for the Cold War at Ft. Campbell, Kentucky*, 59.

helicopters changed how rapidly troops were moved into more favorable tactical situations as well as how quickly casualties were evacuated. Air cavalry divisions were developed to battle the Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese. As a result, the Army acquired thousands of helicopters and by the end of the 1960s, it operated about 10,500 aircraft.¹⁶³

Basic training and advanced individual training

In 1962, the Army designated Fort Polk as a primary Infantry Training Center at which the largest proportion of Army enlisted men engaged in the Vietnam War were trained. Basic training consisted mainly of physical exercises and weapons training while being oriented to the conditions in Vietnam through a Vietnam-orientation facility. Similar facilities (often referred to as mock-villages) were established at many installations around the United States. At Fort Ord, California, Vietnam-oriented subjects were addressed in basic infantry training where rifle marksmanship shifted from the “Trainfire” concept to the “Quick Kill” program. Quick Kill was the technique of quickly shooting at objects in close proximity. This move was a reaction to the guerilla warfare the Viet Cong conducted, where the enemy appeared suddenly and in close range (Figure 5).¹⁶⁴

Figure 5. Early 1960s Mechanical Training building, utilized for classroom weapons training, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, April 1966 (NARA SC632484).



The increasing demand for troops in Vietnam led to rapid expansion of the Army's basic combat training infrastructure. Although there was a rapid

¹⁶³ Winkler. *Training to Fight: Training and Education during the Cold War*, 61.

¹⁶⁴ *ibid.*

increase in infrastructure, the Army perpetually could not meet all the demands brought about by Vietnam. Additional basic combat training facilities opened at Fort Campbell and Fort Lewis. Additionally, the Infantry Training Center at Fort Dix, New Jersey, increased its average number of trainees from 11,000 in 1965 to 21,000 in 1967, while more Officer Candidate Schools were opened at locations such as Fort Eustis, Virginia.¹⁶⁵

All soldiers, whether enlisted or drafted went through eight weeks of Basic Training followed by Advanced Individual Training (AIT) where the soldier was assigned their Military Occupational Specialty (MOS). The following list of basic training locations is by no means exhaustive, but provides a look at where most soldiers attended basic training (Table 1).¹⁶⁶ More in-depth information on installation training numbers and uses will be contained in a subtheme report detailing ground-combat training throughout the military.

Table 1. Some of the Army's basic training locations during the Vietnam War era.

| State | Army Installation |
|----------------|-------------------|
| California | Fort Ord |
| Georgia | Fort Gordon |
| | Fort Benning |
| Kentucky | Fort Knox |
| | Fort Campbell |
| Louisiana | Fort Polk |
| Missouri | Fort Leonard Wood |
| New Jersey | Fort Dix |
| | Fort Monmouth |
| North Carolina | Fort Bragg |
| South Carolina | Fort Jackson |
| Texas | Fort Hood |
| Washington | Fort Lewis |

¹⁶⁵ Winkler, *Training to Fight: Training and Education during the Cold War*, 61.

¹⁶⁶ The list was compiled by reading first-person accounts of soldiers from the Vietnam War. These accounts were obtained through the Vietnam Veterans History Project (See Appendix B).

The lengths of AIT varied depending on the individual MOS. Different installations were associated with different specialties. Army training for Vietnam was diverse and there were a variety of training areas to accommodate the Army's different missions. The list below is not exhaustive, but it is representative of the era (Table 2). In 1968, the decision was made to convert all infantry AIT to Vietnam-oriented training. Doing so provided an additional week specifically dedicated to prepare trainees for the conditions of Vietnam. Fort Ord and Fort Lewis were converted in June 1968, and the Fort Dix conversion followed a year later in 1969.¹⁶⁷

Table 2. Sample of Army's AIT locations with MOS indicated for Vietnam-era training.

| State | Army Installation | Specialty Training |
|------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| Alabama | Fort Rucker | Secondary Helicopter School |
| California | Fort Ord | Infantry School |
| Georgia | Fort Benning | Jump School |
| | Fort Gordon | Radio School, Jump School |
| Louisiana | Fort Polk | Infantry School |
| Missouri | Fort Leonard Wood | Engineer School |
| New Jersey | Fort Dix | Army Training Center, Infantry |
| | Fort Monmouth | Radio School |
| Oklahoma | Fort Sill | Artillery School |
| Texas | Fort Sam Houston | Medical Training Center |
| | Fort Wolters | Primary Helicopter School |
| | Fort Bliss | Missile School |
| Virginia | Fort Belvoir | Mechanic School |
| | Fort Eustis | Helicopter School |

An important component to the Army's combat mission was the engineering efforts aimed at improving South Vietnam's infrastructure. Figure 6 shows engineering recruits constructing a wood bridge. Bridge construction was a critical component to making Vietnamese roads capable of handling Army vehicles.

¹⁶⁷ DoD, *Department of Defense Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1968*, 174.

Figure 6. Men of the 7th Engineering Battalion, 5th Infantry Division at Fort Carson, Colorado, construct a wood bridge across a stream bed as part of their training exercises, June 1962 (NARA SC593621).



As stated previously, rifle marksmanship was adapted to train troops to rapidly shoot at objects in close proximity, instead of the distance approach previously utilized. Rifle ranges were reconfigured for this technique. Reconfigurations were reflected with construction of more-refined range control tower structures (Figure 7), and some featured wide-angle views.

Figure 7. Range 34B was an example of one of the latest and most modern ranges on Fort Polk, Louisiana, January 1968 (NARA SC644399).



Training at outdoor ranges also included classroom work in reused buildings (Figure 8). However, classes were not always taught in classrooms; Figure 9 shows a machine gun class held outdoors. Outdoor range infrastructure also included bunkers and other shelters (Figure 10).

Figure 8. Soldiers trained in existing range classroom facilities at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, October 1966 (NARA SC634564).



Figure 9. A class on the machine gun (M-60) is held outdoors at the NCO Academy, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, October 1962 (NARA SC 599779).



Figure 10. The front view of a bunker used in training on Range 10 at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, July 1966 (NARA SC 632123).



Mock villages

There were six training centers for infantrymen: Fort Campbell, Fort Dix, Fort Gordon, Fort McClellan, Fort Ord, and Fort Polk.¹⁶⁸ As a method of increasing American troops' readiness for Vietnam, certain Infantry Training Centers challenged the soldier with a Vietnam-oriented facility. Most infantry AIT training centers were rated as Vietnam-oriented, which meant that the installation had a small Vietnamese village replica built on its premises (Figure 11). Sometimes, the mock village would also have a replica rice paddy. Across the Army, mock villages had similar elements. Figure 11 shows the use of heavy vegetation to screen and hide the enemy.

Figure 11. Training at the man-to-man training area at Fort Ord, California. The men used BB guns on the defense and on the attack, September 1969 (NARA RG 111-CCS).



Fort Devens, Massachusetts, had a mock Viet Cong village for training that was integral in the training conducted there. The training focused on enemy tactics, booby traps, and the locations of weapons in the training area. The mock village was set up by the Army Security Agency.

One of several Vietnam-oriented training centers existed at Fort Polk and was called Tigerland. A portion of Tigerland was a replica of a Vietnamese

¹⁶⁸ Gordon L. Rottman, *Tunnel Rat in Vietnam* (University Park, IL: Osprey Publishing, 2012), 14.

village's tunnel system. These tunnel systems were extensive networks that were carefully hidden and served as hiding places for Viet Cong soldiers as well as for their weapons, ammunitions, food, and supplies. The tunnels also provided areas for Viet Cong command centers, aid stations, hospitals, and many other facilities to support their war. These tunnels proved to be a difficult change for the U.S. and allied forces because: (1) entrances to the tunnels were hard to identify; (2) the tunnels were typically booby-trapped; and (3) the hidden Viet Cong could fight another day, rendering search-and-destroy missions completely ineffective. Dogs were initially used to find the entrances to the tunnels. However, the dogs would never enter the tunnels. Someone had to go in and ferret out the enemy. These soldiers were called "tunnel rats." Tunnel rats were typically infantrymen who volunteered to explore tunnels.¹⁶⁹ Of the mock villages, Tigerland at Fort Polk was the largest, but there were similar facilities built at other including Fort Gordon, Fort Bragg, Fort Jackson, and Fort Ord.

Ron Milam recounts the reputation the training at Tigerland had among recruits and illustrates the intensity and realism of the setting:¹⁷⁰

And so we graduated in the morning, and we got on an airplane, and they flew us to Ft. Polk, Louisiana. Now when you got your orders for Ft. Polk, if you were at Ft. Dix, with the exception of those of us going on to OCS, if you got your orders for Polk, you knew where you were going next. Ft. Polk was Tigerland, and that meant Vietnam. And so you have this... all these guys that their next stop is going to be Vietnam, on their way to Ft. Polk.

Morale was really low for them. Wasn't bad for me because again, I knew I was at least a year away from anything, and I knew, I was reasonably certain that I would get good training because all through basic training they'd say, 'If you get orders for Polk, you know you're going to Nam, and if you get orders for Polk, you'll get really good training. It's tough, man. Tigerland—next to Vietnam, Tigerland's the worst thing you'll ever go through.' And so you get this feeling that, wow, I'm really going someplace that's important, and it has this incredible reputation.

¹⁶⁹ Gordon L. Rottman, *US Army Infantryman in Vietnam 1965–73* (University Park, IL: Osprey Publishing), 2005.

¹⁷⁰ Account of Ron Milam, Ohio, obtained via Vietnam Veterans History Project (see Appendix B).

Mock villages were designed and constructed to be as realistic as possible for recruit training (Figure 12). The interiors of the mock village structures were as detailed as the exteriors. The mock village at Fort Riley also featured structures made of organic materials. Fort Lewis had a detailed mock village that featured a Vietnamese shrine along with structures clad in grass. The Fort Lewis mock village also featured hidden tunnels, wells made out of stone, and concrete and semi-permanent structures made of timbers and stone. Often, the village training area would include a mock POW camp for use by soldiers (Figure 13).

Figure 12. A purposely built mock village used in advanced infantry training at Fort Polk, Louisiana, January 1966 (NARA SC627760).



Figure 13. POW training at the Recondo School at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, June 1963 (NARA SC604577).



Army riverine warfare training thematic area

On 1 February 1966, the 9th Infantry Division under the command of Major General George S. Eckhardt was activated at Fort Riley as part of the Mobile Afloat Force plan. The 9th Infantry Division was the one division to be organized for operations in the Mekong Delta. The idea behind the riverine force was to combine an Army brigade with a comparable Navy organization that would operate from various anchorages within the Mekong Delta. Two anchors were land-based while the third was water-based. The mobile floating base would limit the interaction of the Vietnamese population with the U.S. troops.¹⁷¹

To accomplish this plan in the necessary timeframe, the division's training program was limited to 8 weeks for BCT, 8 weeks for AIT, and 8 weeks for both basic and advanced unit training, thus reducing the regular training program from 36 weeks to 24 weeks in order to coincide the end of the training program with the beginning of the dry season in Vietnam.¹⁷²

¹⁷¹ Major General William B. Fulton, *Vietnam Studies—Riverine Operations 1966–1969* (Washington, DC: Department of the Army, 1985), 42.

¹⁷² *ibid.* 43.

BCT and AIT followed typical Army training programs. While General Eckhardt expressed that the existing programs were limited in scope on conducting warfare in Vietnam, the training programs were not modified to better prepare the men for the physical conditions they would find and for the tactics used by the enemy in Vietnam. Brigade and battalion commanders and their staff, on the other hand, did receive additional classes that were designed to improve proficiency in command and staff actions for land operations in Vietnam. These classes were held in a map exercise room for approximately 5 hours every 10 days. At the end of Army training program, they were sent to Coronado, California, to attend a 10-day riverine course given by Marine Training Team from the Naval Amphibious School. The course provided useful information on operations of the Vietnamese river assault group, U.S. Navy SEAL team, Viet Cong intelligence operations in the delta, and the riverine environment. These 10 days were the first opportunity for the commanders and staff to focus purely on the specifics of riverine warfare in Vietnam. The course concluded with the first draft of Training Text 31-75, "Riverine Operations," a new source of riverine doctrine and concepts on which subsequent training in Vietnam was based.¹⁷³

4.1.2 Army air training thematic area

Airmobility

In January 1963, the Army activated the 11th Air Assault Division, the first Army Division of its kind. The formation of the division had been preceded by earlier tests of equipment and air mobility tactics. The 11th Air Assault Division was located at Fort Benning for extensive unit testing where field exercises were used to validate the air assault concept. Two years later in June 1965, soldiers from the 2d Infantry Division were transferred to the 11th Air Assault Division, and it was renamed the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile). The airmobility strategy was effective in training, and two months after being renamed, the division was sent to Vietnam in August 1965.¹⁷⁴

Recruitment of pilots during the Vietnam War was the same as recruitment for any other Army specialty. Recruits were either drafted or volunteered for service. After Basic Combat Training (BCT) and AIT, some

¹⁷³ Fulton, *Vietnam Studies–Riverine Operations 1966–1969*, 42–43.

¹⁷⁴ Bluhm Jr., *The Vietnam War: A Chronology of War*, 79.

were selected to undergo pilot training for seven months. At the time, pilot training was split into two portions – primary flight school and advanced flight school.¹⁷⁵

Primary Flight School

The Army's Primary Flight School was located at Fort Wolters, 4 miles east of Mineral Wells, Texas. Originally an infantry replacement training center during World War II (Camp Wolters), it was deactivated in 1946 and later transferred to the Air Force in 1951 to become Wolters AFB. In 1956, it was transferred back to the Army. The primary flight school was transferred to Fort Wolters in 1956. It was designated as a permanent post and renamed Fort Wolters in 1963. The surrounding terrain of Fort Wolters was relatively flat, but it had several hills and peaks to practice "pinnacle" landing. Another benefit of Fort Wolters was that, except for the base, the area was devoid of any other people and overflying air traffic. The base had the usual post facilities and amenities: "post headquarters, various administrative and support offices, troop barracks, mess halls, quartermaster issue facility, motor pools, aircraft maintenance facilities, movie theater, bowling alley, service clubs, officers' club, library, gymnasium, other recreational facilities, chapels, and hospital."¹⁷⁶ Included in the extensive aviation facilities were three heliports. For barracks there were two options, either the WWII two-story, wood-frame temporary buildings that had been compartmentalized into three-man rooms, or the cinderblock three-story barracks that were also divided into three-man rooms. A room had a double bunk and a single bed and three built-in lockers with drawers and shelves. There was a single, large latrine and shower room on one end of the first floor of the wooden barracks, and in the center on each floor of the three-story barracks. Mess halls were separate buildings adjacent to the barracks.

Warrant officer candidates (WOC) reporting for duty typically underwent the 20 week Warrant Officer Candidate Rotary Wing Aviator Course (WORWAC). Candidates were assigned to a company and then divided into two groups. One group flew in the morning while the second group attended classroom lectures. Flight stage fields at Fort Wolters were located 7.4–12 miles from the base. When Fort Wolters was first

¹⁷⁵ Rottman, *US Helicopter Pilot in Vietnam*, no page number.

¹⁷⁶ *ibid.*

reassigned in 1956 as the primary flight school, there were only four stage fields; that number later grew to 25 during the Vietnam War.¹⁷⁷

Emergence of helicopter schools

Of particular importance was the development of the helicopter schools that were part of the airmobility concept, a concept that fell under the Army's mission and not the Air Force's. The airmobility concept was the chief modification of the Army's force structure during Vietnam. Airmobility was developed as a solution to the guerilla warfare waged by the Viet Cong. Airmobility, in its broadest sense, envisaged the "use of aerial vehicles organic to the Army to assure the balance of mobility, firepower, intelligence, support—and command and control."¹⁷⁸ Figure 14 and Figure 15 show helicopters used in training and being prepared for shipment to Vietnam.

Figure 14. Apron at Campbell Army Air Field showing Model UH-1C helicopters prepared for training mission, August 1967 (NARA SC642134).



¹⁷⁷ Rottman, *US Helicopter Pilot in Vietnam*, no page number.

¹⁷⁸ Lt. General John J. Tolson, *Airmobility 1961–1971* (Washington, DC: Department of the Army, 1973), 110–111.

Figure 15. The First Cavalry (Airmobile) Division's helicopters sit on the ramp at Air Force Logistics Command's Mobile Air Material [sic] Area at Brookley AFB, Alabama. The helicopters have been sea-sprayed in the hangars in preparation for being loaded on ships headed for Vietnam, November 1965 (NARA RG 342-B).



Army aviators

In 1963, Army aviators were sent to either Fort Rucker, Alabama, for fixed-wing training or to Fort Wolters for rotary-wing training.¹⁷⁹ Although rotary-wing training had initially been located at Fort Rucker, the growing importance of helicopters in the Vietnam conflict soon saw the program outgrowing its Fort Rucker space at Hanchey Army Airfield, Alabama, as well as Shell Army Airfield, Alabama, until the program was transferred to Fort Wolters. Fort Wolters was expanded to meet training demands (Figure 16). To accommodate the fixed-wing training at Fort Rucker, a new hanger was built at the east end of Cairns Army Airfield.

¹⁷⁹ U.S. Army. "A Career as an Army Aviator," *Aviation Digest* 9(1): January 1963, 5.

Figure 16. A view from the unfinished control tower above West Heliport's main hanger showing the construction of the north wing bay maintenance area at Fort Wolters, Texas, August 1967 (NARA SC642634).



Advanced Flight School

After completion of Primary Flight School at Fort Wolters, the candidates were given one week to travel to Fort Rucker, Alabama or Fort Stewart, Georgia, for Advanced Flight School. Airfields used for training included:

- Hunter Army Airfield, Fort Stewart (until it was closed in 1972).
- Knox Army Heliport, Fort Rucker (Contact Training Division)
- Lowe Army Heliport, Fort Rucker (Tactical Phase Training)

Airfields were also modernized to meet the changing technology brought about by the Vietnam War (Figure 17). Through the military's modernization programs, flight training relied more on simulators which were cheaper to operate than real aircraft (Figure 18).

Figure 17. Aerial image showing the construction progress on Butts U.S. Army Airfield facilities, Fort Carson, Colorado, October 1963 (NARA SC 609436).



Figure 18. Flight simulator training at Fort Lewis, Washington, August 1969 (NARA SC649973).



4.1.3 Army special warfare training facilities thematic area

In response to President Kennedy's firm opposition to the spread of communism, the Army first began specifically training for Vietnam in 1962 through special warfare and counterinsurgency (COIN) training. Selected officers and noncommissioned officers were prepared for the duties of serving as military assistant training advisors in COIN operations. These selected officers were enrolled at the Military Assistance Training Advisors (MATA) course at the Army's Special Warfare School at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.¹⁸⁰

The Special Warfare Center at Fort Bragg was expanded in 1965 to accommodate the expanded mission of the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) that was activated in 1961. The headquarters and academic buildings that comprised the complex were COIN training facilities used to prepare troops to train the Republic of South Vietnam's government and military personnel to resist communist influences.¹⁸¹ Figure 19 shows the John F. Kennedy Hall at the Special Warfare Center in 1966. Fort Gordon also conducted COIN training (Figure 20).

Figure 19. The newly constructed John F. Kennedy Hall at the Special Warfare Center, Fort Bragg, North Carolina, 1966 (NARA CC-36702).



¹⁸⁰ Major Edward G. Gibbons, Jr. *Learning Under Fire: Training an Army While at War*, (School of Advanced Military Studies United States Army Command and General Staff College: Fort Leavenworth, KS, 1996), 29.

¹⁸¹ Kuranda, et al., *Army Unaccompanied Personnel Housing (UPH) during the Cold War (1946-1989)*, B-24.

Figure 20. Counterinsurgency training at the COIN headquarters at Area 18, Fort Gordon, Georgia, March 1966 (NARA SC627614).



The Civic Action Program was established as early as 1961 to encourage the utilization of indigenous forces to assist local populations with development projects that improved living conditions. Through such community building, the U.S. military developed support in localities, which helped prevent the development of insurgency. Military personnel involved with the Civic Action Program were trained at the U.S. Army Civil Affairs School at Fort Gordon.¹⁸²

Early in 1971, the U.S. Army Intelligence School and Center began a move from Fort Holabird, Maryland, to Fort Huachuca, Arizona, which was completed by October 1971. The use of Fort Huachuca permitted a necessary expansion of facilities and provided an area for field training. Justification for the move was cost savings through the consolidation of the management of activities at a single installation, the collocation of

¹⁸² DoD, *Department of Defense Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1961*, 95.

several mutually supporting activities, and the eventual closeout of Fort Holabird.¹⁸³

The Army's 25th Division established a combat training center in 1941 at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. By the early 1960s, it was the Army's premier counter-guerrilla training center where courses were taught on jungle survival, warfare, and military tactics including rappelling from helicopters and cliffs, and Asian languages.¹⁸⁴ The center had the appearance of many of the Army's other mock Vietnamese villages (Figure 21 and Figure 22).

Figure 21. The Headquarters building of the Jungle and Guerrilla Warfare Training Center, 25th Infantry Division at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, May 1962 (NARA SC598158).



¹⁸³ U.S. Army. "A Brief History of U.S. Army Intelligence Training." Accessed online: http://huachuca.army.mil/files/History_MITraining.pdf.

¹⁸⁴ Gregg K. Kakesako. "Death, Tears and Laughter" (Part 1 of 2), (Honolulu, HI: Star-Bulletin, 2000). Accessed online: <http://archives.starbulletin.com/2000/04/28/news/story2.html>.

Figure 22. Station 3, Field craft and shelters at the Jungle and Guerrilla Warfare Training Center, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, showing types of shelters, May 1962 (NARA SC598166).



4.1.4 Army schools thematic area

Specialized schools had to either start from scratch or expand previously existing facilities to support the buildup of troops in Southeast Asia and the various specialties necessary. For example, the Transportation School at Fort Eustis increased its student load from 7,459 in 1965 to 33,747 in 1967.¹⁸⁵ In addition, Fort Rucker provided thousands of soldiers with aviation maintenance training to keep the Army's vast fleet of helicopters operational in Southeast Asia.¹⁸⁶

In another area of training, special warfare extension courses allowed soldiers anywhere in the Armed Forces to receive instruction in Special Forces, Psychological Operations, and Counter Insurgency. The extension courses were organized through the Department of Nonresident Instruction that operated from a small building on Smoke Borne Hill at Fort Bragg (Figure 23). The program had an enrollment of over 3,600 in February 1962.¹⁸⁷ Traditional training schools were also expanded. The

¹⁸⁵ Winkler, *Training to Fight: Training and Education during the Cold War*, 61.

¹⁸⁶ *ibid.*

¹⁸⁷ U.S. Army photo caption, 20 February 1962. National Archives and Records Administration SC588386.

Defense Information School at Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana, was expanded in 1965 (Figure 24). New academic complexes were constructed during the 1960s. The Quartermaster School, for example, was under construction at Fort Lee, Virginia, during 1966 (Figure 25).

Figure 23. Sign for the Headquarters building, U.S. Army Special Warfare Center at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. WWII temporary buildings are shown in the background, February 1962 (NARA SC588366).



Figure 24. Gates-Lord Hall, TV-radio area while under construction, August 1965. The area was used by the Defense Information School, Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana (NARA SC616165).



Figure 25. New Quartermaster School buildings under construction at Fort Lee, Virginia, December 1966 (NARA SC635694).



Many schools and academic complexes were located in existing buildings even well into the 1970s. Figure 26 shows part of the complex of buildings that made up the campus of the 7th Battalion School at the U.S. Army Training Center (USATC), Armor, on Fort Knox. Figure 27 shows a repurposed Hammerhead barracks as headquarters for the First U.S. Army Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) Academy, also at Fort Knox.

Figure 26. The 7th Battalion School at the USATC, Armor, Fort Knox, Kentucky, utilized older buildings, June 1966 (NARA SC631200).



Figure 27. Hammerhead barracks reused as the headquarters for the First U.S. Army NCO Academy at Fort Knox, Kentucky, July 1967 (NARA SC641555).



Other classrooms were located in smaller buildings within former barracks complexes (Figure 28). The U.S. Army Intelligence Center and School was moved to Fort Huachuca and located in existing buildings on the installation. As a result, the school has a variety of building types (Figure 29 and Figure 30).

Figure 28. Exterior view of Building 6536, classroom in former barracks complex, First U.S. Army NCO Academy, Leader Preparation Course, Fort Knox, Kentucky, July 1967 (NARA SC641556).



Figure 29. Headquarters building of the U.S. Army Intelligence Center and School at Fort Huachuca, Arizona, in a repurposed WWII-era building, August 1972 (NARA SC665636).



Figure 30. View of the older prefabricated metal building that housed the photo section of the Department of Counterintelligence at the U.S. Army Intelligence Center and School at Fort Huachuca, Arizona, August 1972 (NARA SC665638).



4.1.5 Army housing thematic area

During the Vietnam War, the housing stock at Army installations was overtaxed with the increase in soldiers. The majority of new recruits were housed in reconditioned WWII temporary barracks. The housing shortages not only illustrated the necessity of increased spaces, but also improvement in the overall housing stock as a retention incentive for officers and service personnel who had families. The improvements to the Army's housing stock began in the 1950s and continued into the 1970s. Nevertheless, the Vietnam War had a significant impact on housing construction budgets, units built, and the necessity of creating quality, on-base housing (Figure 31).

Figure 31. Trainees at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, are shown moving from a WWII barracks into a new permanent barracks, January 1961 (NARA SC591538).



Barracks complexes

The condition of the barracks received considerable attention. For example, the 293 World War II buildings at Fort Ord had been constructed in the early 1940s with an estimated life span of 7 years. Having been in constant use and not always adequately maintained for lack of funds, by 1970 the buildings had reached a point where standard maintenance procedures could no longer cope with their increasing disrepair. The barracks were of clapboard construction, usually without interior finish. Most were of two stories, with the standard interior arrangement of large open dormitory bays on both floors, and communal shower and latrine

facilities on the ground floor. In line with Modern Volunteer Army goals, it was decided to undertake a major renovation program to repair and refurbish many of these so-called temporary barracks. In response to comments by trainees and permanent party soldiers (men assigned to the post), it was further decided to spend a portion of the allocated funds to increase privacy and comfort in the barracks both by installing partitions, fluorescent light fixtures, and electrical outlets, and by giving each man a small room of his own. The program started in 1970 and by early 1973, some \$3,159,600 had been spent on, or obligated to, nine major projects. As a result, there were 124 temporary barracks, including associated mess halls and dayrooms, renovated by the end of 1972.¹⁸⁸

The reuse of WWII barracks was common throughout the Army, even as barracks modernization campaigns were underway (Figure 32). These new barracks complexes usually included a brigade headquarters building, a battalion headquarters building, company administration buildings, barracks, classrooms, mess halls, a chapel, a branch PX, a branch medical clinic, and a gymnasium (Figure 33).

Figure 32. Training activities at Fort Gordon, Georgia, showing reused WWII temporary buildings in the background, June 1966 (NARA 111-CCS).



¹⁸⁸ Lt. Gen. Harold G. Moore and Lt. Col. Jeff M. Tuten. *Building a Volunteer Army: The Fort Ord Contribution* (Washington, DC: Department of the Army, 1975), 92.

Figure 33. A portion of a typical Vietnam-era barracks complex at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, but also found on many Army posts throughout the country. This photo shows half of the complex with barracks, mess halls, battalion headquarters/classrooms, and company administration buildings on the left with gymnasium, branch post exchange, branch medical clinic, chapel, and brigade headquarters on the right. The other half of the complex is to the right off the photo (Fort Leonard Wood History Office).



In addition to WWII barracks, prefabricated buildings were quickly assembled to accommodate the increased troop levels (Figure 34 and Figure 35).

Figure 34. Prefabricated metal troop housing at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, November 1966 (NARA SC635541).



Figure 35. Exterior of prefabricated metal troop housing at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, November 1966 (NARA SC635542).



Chapels

By 1965, the attendance at religious services had significantly increased from previous years. As a result, within the Army there were four permanent-type chapels completed, and Congressional appropriations for the construction of eight more. Between 1954 and 1965, 37 chapels were constructed at Army installations.¹⁸⁹

Headquarters

During the 1950s, headquarters buildings were typically constructed as part of barracks complexes. For example, rolling pin barracks complexes were built so that troop housing was separated from mess, supply, and administrative support functions. Barracks were typically clustered in groups of five with two mess halls to support each group of five barracks. A regimental/brigade area was then formed by two groups of barracks and

¹⁸⁹ DoD, *Department of Defense Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1965*, 152.

associated support buildings, along with one brigade headquarters, one chapel, one exchange branch, one dispensary, and one gymnasium.¹⁹⁰

A then newly constructed battalion headquarters at Fort Dix is shown in Figure 36. Other headquarters were retrofitted into existing buildings, as at Fort Polk, LA (Figure 37) while others were new construction (Figure 38).

Figure 36. The new battalion headquarters building at Fort Dix, New Jersey [this standardized plan can be found at most Army installations], July 1968 (NARA SC646736).



¹⁹⁰ Smith, et al. *FLW Rolling Pin Barracks and Associated Buildings Context and Inventory*, 46.

Figure 37. Headquarters at Tiger Ridge, Fort Polk, Louisiana, where 3rd Brigade trainees learned many specific techniques to use to combat the enemy in Southeast Asia, July 1967 (NARA SC641609).



Figure 38. 3rd BCT BDE Headquarters building, Fort Dix, New Jersey, [this standardized plan can be found at most Army installations] March 1966 (NARA SC628961).



Bachelor officers' quarters

Because the Vietnam War demanded an ever-increasing amount of new troops, developing adequate and sufficient barracks became a critical issue at Army installations. By 1965, the housing deficit exceeded 150,000 enlisted spaces. Construction efforts that year initiated 24,636 new barracks spaces and completed 4,125 barracks spaces, while 1,740 bachelor officers' quarters (BOQ) spaces were begun and 644 were completed.¹⁹¹ Additionally, a construction and modernization plan was initiated at West Point, New York, to meet the expansion of the U.S. Military Academy Cadet Corps. The budget for the plan totaled \$120 million over the next 7 years and was designed to accommodate the growth of the Cadet Corps from 2,529 to 4,417.¹⁹²

The expansion and modernization plan for West Point reflected the growing trend in the Army to improve facilities as a method for recruiting talented personnel. In 1968, the Modern Volunteer Army Program was established to increase recruitment and retention levels of military personnel in an effort to reach the national goal of a zero draft quota. The program conducted studies that identified dissatisfaction with living conditions as one of the major objections to military life. At the time, housing trends outside of the military were focused on creating more privacy and living spaces for occupants. The military recognized that bachelor housing had not been updated according to the current trends, and issued directives to update bachelor housing accordingly. In conjunction, Congress raised the statutory spatial limitations on barracks and BOQs due to the associated increase in construction costs. Combined, those actions resulted in new building designs with an emphasis on privacy. The designs included a three-man room with a bath for enlisted grades E-2 to E-4, a two-man room with a bath for grades E-5 and E-6, and a private room with a bath for enlisted grades E-7 to E-9. To execute the new design standards, new barracks were planned for construction, replacing the WWII barracks. Existing permanent barracks would be updated to meet the criteria. At the time, the program cost was estimated at \$1.35 billion.¹⁹³

¹⁹¹ DoD, *Department of Defense Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1965*, 151.

¹⁹² *ibid.*

¹⁹³ William Gardner Bell and Karle E. Cocke, ed., *Department of the Army Historical Summary Fiscal Year 1973* (Washington, DC: Center of Military History United States Army, 1977), 81.

The housing problem persisted into 1969, with Army personnel at many locations still housed in obsolete WWII buildings.¹⁹⁴ Budget projections in 1969 estimated that \$100 million would be needed for barracks construction and another \$25 million was needed for BOQs.¹⁹⁵ In response, a comprehensive Army Housing Program was approved to modernize troop living quarters, with allotments for permanent barracks and the replacement of temporary buildings over a 5-year period.¹⁹⁶ During 1969, barracks improvements were almost complete at Fort Benning and Fort Carson, while other improvement programs were under way at more than 30 other installations around the world.¹⁹⁷ In support of the modernization efforts, almost 370,000 items of new barracks furniture were delivered.

By 1970, the move toward more privacy also included efforts to make living quarters more like a soldier's contemporaries in college or civilian jobs. Furniture such as scatter rugs, lamps, and refinished desks and chairs were included, and soldiers were granted permission on an individual basis to procure small items to decorate living areas to an individual's taste.¹⁹⁸ The move toward improving the quality of military life through barracks renovation was underway to provide more privacy and higher living standards for the soldier in troop housing.¹⁹⁹

Family housing

As with the condition of barracks and BOQs, the Army's family housing also suffered from not enough units and from conditions that did not reflect modern housing trends. Adequate and reasonably priced housing was deemed critical for operational unit readiness and individual efficiency and morale as early as 1961, when action was taken to develop new programs to supplant the Capehart authority for financing housing construction.²⁰⁰ Housing was a major consideration of military life and

¹⁹⁴ William Gardner Bell, ed. *Department of the Army Historical Summary Fiscal Year 1969*, (Washington, DC: Center of Military History United States Army, 1973), 47.

¹⁹⁵ *ibid.*, 27.

¹⁹⁶ *ibid.*, 58.

¹⁹⁷ *ibid.*

¹⁹⁸ Brig. Gen. Willard Latham, *The Modern Volunteer Army Program: The Benning Experiment, 1970–1972* (Washington, DC: Department of the Army, 2010), 47

¹⁹⁹ William Gardner Bell, ed. *Department of the Army Historical Summary Fiscal Year 1971* (Washington, DC: Center of Military History United States Army, 1973), 58.

²⁰⁰ DoD, *Department of Defense Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1961*, 102.

figured importantly as a career incentive. Ultimately, the Army hoped to provide adequate permanent housing for all military personnel at permanent installations (Figure 39). The housing deficit in 1965 still exceeded 13,000 officer spaces.²⁰¹ By 1971, family housing quarters were being leased from the private sector at Fort Carson on an experimental basis, and additional resources were being sought to overcome a backlog in deferred family housing maintenance.²⁰² New administrative facilities for managing installation family housing were also constructed.

Figure 39. New Officers' Quarters at Fort Gordon, 1966 (Office of the Signal Corps Historian).



Other personnel support facilities

During the 1960s, commissary privileges were rated as one of the most valuable fringe benefits by married military career personnel. The ranking was second only to medical care and highlighted the importance of Post Exchanges on Army installations.

²⁰¹ DoD, *Department of Defense Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1965*, 151.

²⁰² Bell, *Department of the Army Historical Summary Fiscal Year 1971*, 34.

4.1.6 Army medical facilities thematic area

Medical research

The U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command (USAMRMC) responded to the demands of operating in Vietnam by adopting new technologies and methods. The operating conditions presented by the climate and geography of Vietnam were new challenges that the U.S. military needed to overcome. Extreme heat and humidity negatively impacted soldier performance, and endemic tropical diseases accounted for a significant portion of days lost while in theater. The environmental conditions combined with the endemic (as well as epidemic) tropical diseases also made preserving and maintaining medical supplies and equipment difficult. Logistical problems were compounded by the overtaxed medical supply system and by the terrain of waterways and jungles that restricted supply distribution and patient evacuation. From 1962 through 1973, Army medical evacuation helicopters transported almost one million patients, both military and civilian, in a total of 496,573 missions.²⁰³ Although helicopter transport aided in evacuating the wounded to in-theater medical facilities including offshore Navy hospital ships, the nearest land-based U.S. hospital was at Clark AB in the Philippines, the nearest logistical support base was in Okinawa, and the nearest complete hospital center was in Japan. Patients evacuated to the United States were either transported to Tripler General Hospital in Hawaii, Travis AFB in California, or to Andrews AFB near Washington, DC.²⁰⁴ Over the course of the war, the wounded evacuated to the United States were approximately 60 percent Army, 35 percent Navy and Marine Corps, and 5 percent Air Force personnel.²⁰⁵

The Army Nurse Corps was part of the deployed forces in Vietnam even before the war escalated. In 1962, Army Nurse Corps officers were involved in establishing the 8th Field Hospital in Nha Trang, South Vietnam. By 1968, Army nurses were assigned to surgical, evacuation,

²⁰³ MAJ William G. Howard, "History of Aeromedical Evacuation in the Korean War and Vietnam War" (M.A. Thesis, Fort Leavenworth, KS: U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, 2003), 40, 57.

²⁰⁴ U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command Headquarters (USAMRMC), *USAMRMC: 50 Years of Dedication to the Warfighter 1958-2008*. (Fort Detrick, MD: U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command Headquarters, undated), 28-29.

²⁰⁵ Howard, "History of Aeromedical Evacuation in the Korean War and Vietnam War," 48.

field, and convalescent hospitals that provided regional medical support within South Vietnam.²⁰⁶

Medical research facilities

As the Vietnam War progressed, the activities of the Army's medical research hospitals and laboratories were consumed with meeting the demands brought about by combat in Southeast Asia. The U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command (USAMRDC) was the main agency in charge of Army medical research during the Vietnam era. Consequently, its budget more than quadrupled between 1958 and 1968, from \$12 million to \$53 million. The main focus of research was solving medical problems encountered in Southeast Asia. As a result, soldier performance in the field was enhanced through the reduction of losses from wounds, infectious diseases, and environmental stress.²⁰⁷

Medical research not only solved problems of soldier performance in the field, but it also made advancements in prosthetics, dental materials, parasitic infections, burn research, blood preservation, environmental health, and psychological health. During the 1960s, the Army had many medical research laboratories arrayed throughout the United States. Some were existing facilities whose mission was changed to meet the specific demands of Southeast Asia, while other complexes were established from the ground up.²⁰⁸

The U.S. Army Biomedical Research and Development Laboratory (USABRDL) at Forest Glen, Maryland, was established in the early 1920s, but its research in the 1960s provided soldiers injured in Vietnam with more realistic and dexterous artificial hands. In 1973, a reorganization of the U.S. Army Medical Department (AMEDD) relocated USABRDL to Fort Detrick, Maryland.²⁰⁹

The U.S. Army Institute of Dental Research (USAIDR) was located at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in 1962. The USAIDR mission was to conduct research that was designed to reduce dental sick call in

²⁰⁶ United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration. "Military Nurses in the Vietnam War: Part 1 of 3," Accessed online: http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/assets/1/7/Military_Nurses1.PDF.

²⁰⁷ U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command Headquarters, *USAMRMC: 50 Years of Dedication to the Warfighter 1958-2008*, 30.

²⁰⁸ *ibid.*, 16-60.

²⁰⁹ *ibid.*, 31-33.

deployed troops as well as to provide dental education.²¹⁰ Improving dental care was also an initiative designed to increase soldier retention during the 1960s.

The U.S. Armored Medical Research Laboratory was located at Fort Knox, Kentucky, and included research on heat acclimation, physical fitness, nutrition, burns, foot disabilities, and prolonging the shelf life of whole blood.²¹¹ In 1961, the laboratory became part of the U.S. Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine (USARIEM), in Natick, MA.²¹² A new 76,000 square foot laboratory building was dedicated in October 1968 for USARIEM. The building featured two altitude chambers, five biophysical evaluation chambers, a biomechanics laboratory, 13 environmental chambers, and a water immersion laboratory. A subordinate unit of the USARIEM was located at Fort Wainwright, Alaska.²¹³

Letterman Army Institute of Research in San Francisco, California, was incorporated into the USAMRDC in August 1968. Before that incorporation, the Army Surgeon General had established the Western Medical Research Laboratory in five buildings at Letterman General Hospital in 1966. Because of the 1968 reorganization, construction began in July 1971 on a new state-of-the-art laboratory building. The building was constructed in three phases and resulted in a 361,000 square foot research facility. Construction took five years with the final phases ending in 1976.²¹⁴ This new Letterman Army Institute of Research carried out research in medicine, optics, nutrition, and toxicology.²¹⁵

The U.S. Army Aeromedical Research Laboratory was established in October 1962 at Fort Rucker, Alabama. Because of the increasing reliance on aircraft in combat, the Aeromedical Research Laboratory was tasked

²¹⁰ U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command Headquarters, *USAMRMC: 50 Years of Dedication to the Warfighter 1958–2008*, 34.

²¹¹ *ibid.*, 36.

²¹² U.S. Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine, "Our History," 2013, accessed online: <http://www.usariem.army.mil/index.cfm/about/history>.

²¹³ U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command Headquarters, *USAMRMC: 50 Years of Dedication to the Warfighter 1958–2008*, 37–38.

²¹⁴ *ibid.*, 51.

²¹⁵ Randolph Delehanty, Ph.D., "Historic California Posts Camps and Stations: Letterman Army Medical Center," (for the California State Military Department of the California State Military Museum) <http://www.militarymuseum.org/LettermanAMC.html>.

with providing direct aviation medical research support to all Army aviation and airborne activities.²¹⁶

Hospitals

During the Vietnam War, the majority of hospital admissions in Vietnam were due to disease (although on average, hospital stays for combat injuries were longer). Battle injuries accounted for approximately one in six in-country hospital admissions between 1965 and 1969.²¹⁷

Burn cases in Vietnam (mostly from napalm and phosphorous grenades) were stabilized in-country, and then evacuated to the 106th General Hospital in Japan where a special burn unit had been established. Of the cases unable to return to combat after treatment at the 106th, those were evacuated to Brooke Army Medical Center at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.²¹⁸ The twice-monthly evacuation flights from the 106th carried 30–40 patients each, and stopped at Travis AFB for refueling on the way to Fort Sam Houston. The two busiest years for the Brooke Army Medical Center Burn Unit (related to Vietnam) were 1968 and 1969, with 389 and 309 admitted burn patients, respectively.²¹⁹

Some of the wounded that were evacuated to Travis AFB were then sent to Letterman Army Hospital at The Presidio, San Francisco (Figure 40). The use of helicopters for moving wounded was not limited to the combat area. Starting in 1965, Letterman received soldiers transported from Travis on an H-34 helicopter, and the hospital had to install a nearby helicopter landing area. In 1969, a new 10-story, 550-bed facility was constructed as part of the hospital complex. In addition to caring for patients, the hospital trained one-quarter of the Army's medical specialists.²²⁰

The DoD designated 31 service hospitals as homecoming centers for returning soldiers. Eisenhower General Hospital at Fort Gordon was one of the designated centers and received the first patient from a group of

²¹⁶ U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command Headquarters, *USAMRMC: 50 Years of Dedication to the Warfighter 1958–2008*, 53–54.

²¹⁷ *ibid.*, 31.

²¹⁸ *ibid.*, 36.

²¹⁹ Gerald A. Gronert, "Chapter Ten: US Army Burn Unit, Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas." In *Memoir: Anesthesia – Its Mysteries*, 2011. Accessed online: <http://www.gagronert.com/chapter10.htm>.

²²⁰ Delehanty, "Historic California Posts Camps and Stations: Letterman Army Medical Center."

returning former POWs in February 1973 (Figure 41).²²¹ Letterman Army Medical Center was another of the centers, and it welcomed home nine former POWs in 1973.²²²

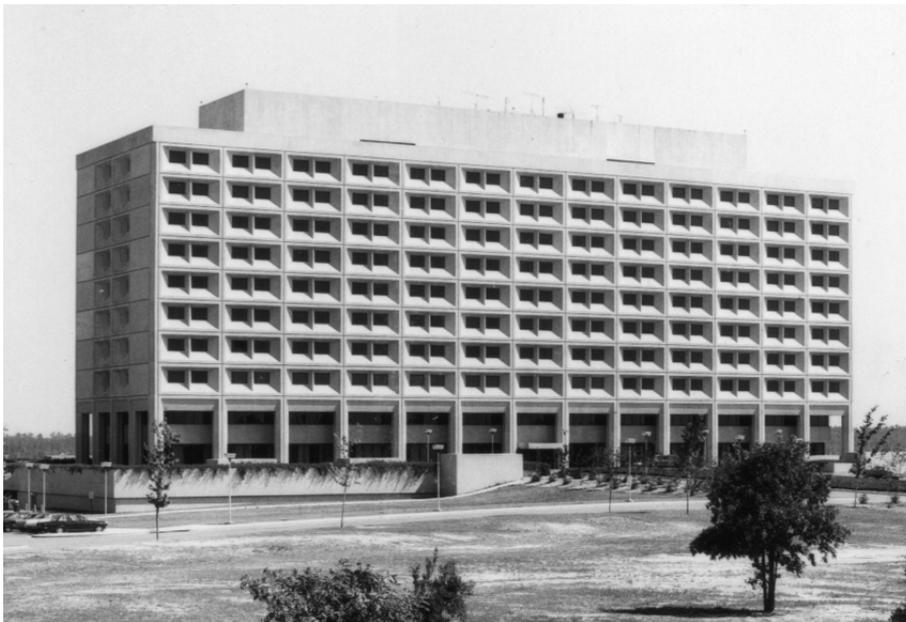
Figure 40. Aerial view of Letterman General Hospital while under construction, Presidio of San Francisco, California, March 1967 (NARA SC638361).



²²¹ Carol E. Stokes, *A History of Fort Gordon, Georgia* (Fort Gordon, GA: Command Historian Office, United States Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon, 1992), 145.

²²² Delehanty, "Historic California Posts Camps and Stations: Letterman Army Medical Center."

Figure 41. Front of Eisenhower Army Hospital, Fort Gordon, Georgia, April 1978 (NARA SC675497).



Dental clinics

As mentioned previously, improved dental care was another initiative by the military to recruit and retain personnel during the Vietnam War period. Advanced dental research and new dental clinics were part of the modernization of the Army's dental care. As part of this effort, a new dental clinic was completed at Fort Leonard Wood in 1965, and another was completed at Fort Polk in 1972, constructed in an area of WWII temporary buildings still in use (Figure 42 and Figure 43).

Figure 42. The newly constructed Boak Dental Clinic at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, 1965 (NARA SC619439).



Figure 43. The new dental clinic at Fort Polk, Louisiana, 1972 (center of photo) (NARA SC 665633).



4.1.7 Army logistics facilities thematic area

Logistics facilities such as depots, ports and piers, ammunition storage, and airfields were important in the Vietnam War effort. Efficiently moving thousands of troops and the necessary materiel from the United States to Southeast Asia was a complex undertaking. Property types integral to war logistics were production facilities and arsenals, ammunition storage, and depots.

Army Materiel Command

In 1961, a study was initiated by Secretary of Defense McNamara to examine the operational effectiveness of the Army's organizational structure. Among other findings, it was determined that the materiel duties of the Technical Services and the testing functions of the Continental Army Command should be combined in a new organization. The reorganization took effect on 16 February 1962, and the U.S. Army Materiel Command (AMC) was activated on 8 May 1962, with an informal mission to "equip the Army to take the field—whenever, wherever, and however it is called upon."²²³ AMC was tasked with the Army's wholesale

²²³ U.S. Army Materiel Command Historical Office, "A Brief History of the United States Army Materiel Command 1962–2012" (Huntsville, AL: Army Materiel Command, 2013), 8–9.

logistics systems, and it assumed most of the responsibilities formerly held by the Chief of Ordnance, as well as the Chemical, Engineer, Quartermaster, Signal, Transportation, and Surgeon General services, as well as several Army headquarters organizations. Facilities transferred to AMC control included installations, arsenals, depots, plants, proving grounds, and laboratories.²²⁴ As U.S. military involvement in South Vietnam escalated, AMC's supply and maintenance functions assumed more prominence than the materiel development duties.

The logistics system started with Army arsenals that produced ammunition and weapons such as howitzers and small arms. Items would flow from arsenals to depots for storage and distribution, as well as repair and refurbishment. Many items in the supply chain would remain in the United States and used for equipping and training soldiers, both those permanently stationed in the United States and those training for deployment to Southeast Asia. By 1974, AMC managed 67 percent (79 million square feet) of the Army's storage space.²²⁵

Logistics and supply chain

The biggest logistical difficulty for the Army as the buildup got underway was that troops were being deployed and engaged in combat much more quickly than the supply chain could move. Essentially, there was no logistical base initially, and it had to be developed concurrently with equipping and supplying an army at war. As explained by Lt. Gen. Joseph M. Heiser, Jr., this difficulty was compounded by:²²⁶

The Republic of Vietnam had a low level of industrialization. Modern logistic facilities were limited or nonexistent... The in-country logistic system supporting the South Vietnamese Armed Forces was incapable of supporting major U.S. forces. The small, highly fragmented system supporting the U.S. advisory effort could do no more than provide the skeleton for a later logistical system. The enemy controlled the major part of South Vietnam, either by direct occupation or through terror tactics. The principal terrain features as well as land and water arteries

²²⁴ U.S. Army Materiel Command Historical Office, "A Brief History of the United States Army Materiel Command 1962-2012," 9.

²²⁵ Kuranda, et.al., *Army Ammunition and Explosives Storage During the Cold War (1946-1989)*, 8-10-8-11.

²²⁶ Lt. Gen. Joseph M. Heiser, Jr., *Vietnam Studies: Logistic Support*, (Washington, D.C.: Department of the Army, 1991), 8.

were either under enemy control, or subject to the constant threat of interdiction.

Originally, U.S. forces in South Vietnam were being supplied by U.S. Navy sealifts because they had been designated as the agency responsible for supporting the military advisory activities. However, by September 1965 the 1st Logistical Command had begun to assume responsibility for all logistical support to U.S. forces in South Vietnam. The 1st Logistical Command developed a logistics concept that, when implemented, provided for two major base depots at port facilities (Saigon and Cam Rahn Bay) and four support commands at Nha Trang, Qui Nhon, Vung Tau, and Da Nang.²²⁷ Field depots were established in each support command. A major logistics and command base was built at Long Binh near Saigon, which became home to the Headquarters, U.S. Army Vietnam.²²⁸ Aviation logistical support was provided by the 34th General Support Group from mid-1965, and responsibility for medical supply was turned over to the 44th Medical Brigade in 1966. Most supplies arriving in South Vietnam were meant for a fairly short-term retention period, as storage facilities had to be constructed. The U.S. Army had a large supply complex in Okinawa with warehouses and depot activities that kept a larger reserve of materiel to be sent when needed.²²⁹

As the war progressed, to avoid delays in critical materiel some types of items were airlifted to South Vietnam rather than the much-more-widely used surface transportation by sea. Included in these items were repair parts to get equipment back on line, and 66,985 short tons of repair parts had been airlifted by 1970.²³⁰ Other types of equipment that received special attention for a speedy return to use included “army aircraft, engines and subsystems; armored personnel carriers; tactical communication and electronics equipment; power generators; and a variety of other commodities.”²³¹

²²⁷ The Da Nang Support Command was not operational between 1965 and 1968 as the Marines had landed there and the Navy had responsibility for both tactical and logistical operations in the I Corps area; Heiser Jr., *Vietnam Studies: Logistic Support*, 11.

²²⁸ Heiser Jr., *Vietnam Studies: Logistic Support*, 17.

²²⁹ *ibid.*, 10.

²³⁰ U.S. Army Materiel Command Historical Office, “A Brief History of the United States Army Materiel Command 1962–2012,” 13.

²³¹ *ibid.*

Most cargo traveled to Vietnam by sea through the military sea transport service, which also transported personnel, although most traveled by air (Figure 44). Materiel was shipped from vendors or depots directly to U.S. West Coast military ports or airfields, or directly to commercial ports. From these locations cargo either traveled directly to South Vietnam or to Okinawa. The first stop in South Vietnam was either the port at Saigon or the Tan Son Nhut airport.²³² Delivery farther in-country was by water or air.

Figure 44. Troops of the 4th Infantry Division, Fort Lewis, Washington, are shown onboard the military sea transport service troop ship—General George Pope, at Pier #1 at the Port of Tacoma, WA, September 1966 (NARA SC 633237).



Logistics training

Training for logistics duties was not instituted top-down, but rather was decentralized to post, camp, and station level. Among the programs was on-the-job training for deploying personnel at the Atlanta Army Depot, which trained 4,619 enlisted troops between 1967 and 1970.²³³ Logistics officer personnel were trained at the Defense Supply Agency Depot at Richmond, Virginia, and at the U.S. Army Electronics Command, Fort

²³² Heiser Jr., *Vietnam Studies: Logistic Support*, 22–23.

²³³ Heiser Jr., *Vietnam Studies: Logistic Support*, 32.

Monmouth, New Jersey.²³⁴ The foremost Army school for training in logistics is the Army Logistics University at Fort Lee, Virginia, also home of the Quartermaster School. A logistics course was first offered there in 1954, and by 1956 the U.S. Army Logistics Management Center (ALMC) was established on site. The ALMC offered courses in management of requirements, procurement, distribution, and maintenance among others. Research and doctrine were added as missions in 1958. The ALMC became part of the newly established AMC in 1962, and the emphasis shifted to “management of research and development, acquisition management, and integration of all phases of the life cycle of materiel.”²³⁵ Courses previously taught at the Army Management School were transferred to the ALMC in 1971. Two years later, the Department of the Army increased the professional development opportunities for officers by establishing cooperative degree programs with the Florida Institute of Technology that credited military instruction toward a master’s degree.²³⁶

Production facilities

The initial demands of the war were supplied from existing stockpiles until production levels could keep pace with the requirements. To further complicate production, military planners projected that the war would be over by the summer of 1967. Those estimates constricted accurate formulations of requirements and dissuaded commercial suppliers from engaging in the production process. To meet the growing demands of the Vietnam War, the Army set up its arsenals and reactivated the standby ammunition plants. For example, in 1965, at the start of the buildup, only 11 of 25 ammunition plants were operation. However, three years later, all but one were online and producing munitions. The peak of production was 1969, when GOCO plants had 147 lines in operation and employed 121,062 workers.²³⁷ While production increased exponentially, the military largely relied on reopening existing facilities or contracting out the work, with the contracting companies responsible for facility construction.

As the U.S. commitment to the conflict in Vietnam increased, so did ammunition appropriations, with a peak in ammunition related

²³⁴ *ibid.*

²³⁵ U.S. Army, “History of the Army Logistics University,” (Fort Lee, VA: Army Logistics University, 2014), http://www.alu.army.mil/ALU_ABOUT/ALUHISTORY.htm.

²³⁶ *ibid.*

²³⁷ Shiman. *Forging the Sword: Defense Production during the Cold War*, 73–74.

construction spending in the late 1960s. Some construction funding was authorized by Congress for FY 1965, with Picatinny Arsenal, New Jersey, receiving funds for new ammunition-related production facilities. Seven installations received funds for new construction in FY 1967, and the following year that total increased to seventeen. These funds were used to construct research and development facilities and production facilities, as well as more general maintenance, housing, administration, and supply buildings. For FY 1969, four ammunition plants received new utility facilities (Burlington Army Ammunition Plant, New Jersey; Joliet Army Ammunition Plant, Illinois; Lake City Army Ammunition Plant, Missouri; and Sunflower Army Ammunition Plant, Kansas). Production facilities were constructed at Rock Island Arsenal, and four other installations received research, development, and test facilities. Additional ammunition plants received funds for utility construction in FY 1970, along with other installations receiving research facilities. FY 1971 funding provided construction at fifteen facilities, including six ammunition plants. In the years that followed, funding declined and the recipients were mostly depots, arsenals, and proving grounds, including Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland; Letterkenny Army Depot, Pennsylvania; Redstone Arsenal, Alabama; and Yuma Proving Ground, Arizona.²³⁸ Construction funding did find its way to installations in the closing years of the Vietnam engagement and included facilities such as the new ammunition maintenance facility at Fort McClellan, Alabama constructed that was constructed in 1975 (Figure 45).

²³⁸ Kuranda et.al., *Army Ammunition and Explosives Storage During the Cold War (1946-1989)*, C-5-C-6.

Figure 45. View of construction of Ammunition Maintenance Facility at Fort McClellan, Alabama, June 1975 (NARA SC671011).



Ammunition storage facilities

The Fort McClellan example (Figure 45) is typical of the ammunition storage facilities constructed in the United States based on requirements for supporting the war. Primarily, the stored ammunition was used for training purposes, and large training installations received many new storage facilities. Recipients of new construction included Forts A.P. Hill, Belvoir, Sill, Campbell, and Bragg, along with Dugway Proving Ground, Utah, and Aberdeen Proving Ground.

Depots

The existing Army depot system was sufficient to handle the ammunition buildup requirements, so little new construction took place in that arena.²³⁹ Many depots tasked with other duties were upgraded or expanded to handle the war's requirements, such as Letterkenny Army Depot at Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, which saw both facility upgrades and new construction as new duties were assigned to it (Figure 46).²⁴⁰

²³⁹ Kuranda et.al., *Army Ammunition and Explosives Storage During the Cold War (1946-1989)*, C-5–C-6.

²⁴⁰ U.S. Army, "History of Letterkenny," undated, accessed online:
<http://www.letterkenny.army.mil/PDF/1960%20foyer.pdf>.

Figure 46. Tracked and wheeled vehicle refurbishment, Letterkenny Army Depot in Pennsylvania, 1960s (U.S. Army photo).



4.2 Navy thematic areas

During the early 1960s, the Navy maintained high states of readiness for either nuclear or nonnuclear wars. In this regard, the Navy and Marine Corps resources were built up to encompass every facet of their capabilities which ranged from aircraft and ammunitions to ships and weapons as well as personnel. Although by the end of 1961 the U.S. military was already engaged in advisory efforts in Southeast Asia, the Navy and Marine Corps were primarily focused on meeting the demands related to potential nuclear strikes.²⁴¹ Then during the Vietnam War, the focus of Navy and Marine Corps operations was dominated by the requirements of that conflict including providing air strikes, gunfire support, ground combat forces, and effectively containing enemy land and sea logistics.²⁴²

Naval operations responded to the changing threats of the 1960s by increasing the size and scope of training programs and infrastructure. The Navy's role under the Cold War idea of flexible response was supportive

²⁴¹ DoD, *Department of Defense Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1961* (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1962), 196.

²⁴² DoD, *Department of Defense Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1967*, 301.

through transporting Army troops and performing antisubmarine warfare. Nevertheless, the Navy was also critical to the successful resolution of the Cuban Missile Crisis and in supporting the ground forces in Vietnam.²⁴³ In 1961, steps were taken to integrate all aspects of the Navy's real property management. During this time, the Navy initiated a full reorganization of facility management procedures. The result was that the Navy shifted the emphasis on partially independent Master Shore Station Development plans and annual Shore Station Development programs to a more uniform Shore Facilities Planning System. The new system assured that efforts and funds for shore facilities would be in balance with the support requirements of the Operating Forces by balancing the requirements of planned peacetime and mobilization development, annual construction programs, inventory of real property, and general development maps.²⁴⁴

In 1961, the Shore Establishment increased in value and was estimated at \$20 billion. An example of some of the major projects completed during that year included:

- the Navy's most powerful radio transmitting facility at Cutler, Maine;
- the 800-bed Naval Hospital at Great Lakes, Illinois; and
- enough of the Pacific Missile Range to become operable.²⁴⁵

Several other important facilities usable by the end of 1961 included:

- Naval Air Station at Lemoore, California;
- Naval Auxiliary Air Station at Meridian, Mississippi;
- a two-wing, 1,100-man addition to Bancroft Hall at the Naval Academy of Annapolis, Maryland;
- Camps Hansen, Surkiran, and Futema provided troop housing, warehouses, and shops for Marines on Okinawa; and
- facilities at Charleston, South Carolina; New London, Connecticut; and Portsmouth, New Hampshire, were improved to accommodate POLARIS submarines.²⁴⁶

In addition to its own construction projects, the Navy coordinated with other government agencies in the construction field. Among other

²⁴³ Winkler, *Training to Fight: Training and Education during the Cold War*, 65.

²⁴⁴ DoD, *Department of Defense Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1961*, 256.

²⁴⁵ *ibid.*

²⁴⁶ *ibid.*

international construction initiatives, the Navy provided assistance to a large program of emergent construction in Southeast Asia for the Military Assistance Program.²⁴⁷ The Navy also began work on items for the International Cooperation Administration, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Army Corps of Engineers, and Air Force. Most of this work was in Southeast Asia.²⁴⁸ Overall, the military construction budget for the Navy in fiscal year 1961 was \$267 million.²⁴⁹

The 1963 facilities program focused on only adding facilities that were deemed vitally necessary at selected installations and emphasized stringent economy in operations and maintenance.²⁵⁰ In 1963, \$275 million were spent on new projects, while the facilities that were completed included those primarily for research, training, communications, and the POLARIS missile system.²⁵¹ The major construction projects sponsored by the Navy in 1963 were:

- modernization of drydocks for POLARIS submarines
- Naval Hospital, Long Beach, California
- typhoon-proof construction for Marines on Okinawa
- typhoon-proof construction on Guam
- rehabilitation of Bancroft Hall, U.S. Naval Academy
- Naval Communication Facility, Pacific
- improvement to Power System, Guam
- School of Aviation Medicine, Pensacola, Florida
- Rocket Research Laboratory, Rocket City, West Virginia; and
- General Purpose Laboratory, Naval Research Laboratory, Washington, DC.²⁵²

Although a large portion of construction funding was appropriated for projects in Vietnam, a range of projects were constructed during 1966 in the United States:

- Norfolk, VA, Naval Shipyard—deepening of dry dock (\$5.3 million)

²⁴⁷ DoD, *Department of Defense Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1962* (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1963), 258.

²⁴⁸ DoD, *Department of Defense Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1961*, 257.

²⁴⁹ *ibid.*, 274.

²⁵⁰ DoD, *Department of Defense Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1963*, 211.

²⁵¹ *ibid.*, 212.

²⁵² *ibid.*

- Puget Sound, WA, Naval Shipyard—erection of a 50-ton portal crane (\$1 million)
- San Diego, CA—pier extension at submarine support facility (\$1.2 million) and completion of a tactical combat training facility at the Fleet Anti-Air Warfare Training Center (\$1.1 million)
- Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, IL—barracks and heating plant construction (\$12.9 million)
- David Taylor Model Basin, Carderock, Maryland—Structural Mechanics Laboratory (\$3.8 million)
- Flight training facilities at Pensacola, Florida; Corpus Christi, Texas; and Meridian, Mississippi (\$15.9 million)
- Charleston, SC—additional POLARIS support facilities including \$2.3 million improvement program at the Charleston Naval Ammunition Depot²⁵³

Work was also initiated on a \$15.9 million program for facilities in the Pensacola, Florida; Corpus Christi, Texas; and Meridian, Mississippi, areas to support the increased pilot training program.²⁵⁴

4.2.1 Navy ground training thematic area

During the early 1960s, the Navy was organizationally restructured according to McNamara's systems-based revolution. The changes were dramatic and stemmed from an event in 1961 when the Navy had arranged for President Kennedy to witness a surface-to-air missile demonstration. The demonstration was a failure, which caused a cascade of finger-pointing. Lack of training was eventually identified as the cause of the failure after several studies were conducted and boards reviewed the problems. In an effort to streamline training and reduce related problems, the Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral George Anderson, favored training consolidation. But as the Navy's involvement in Southeast Asia increased in the early 1960s, the organization of the Navy's training remained fragmented.²⁵⁵

The Navy's involvement in both Cold War activities and the Vietnam War meant that the Naval Recruit Training Centers at Great Lakes, Illinois; San Diego, California; and Bainbridge, Washington, remained active during

²⁵³ DoD, *Department of Defense Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1966*, 319.

²⁵⁴ *ibid.*

²⁵⁵ Winkler, *Training to Fight: Training and Education during the Cold War*, 64.

the 1960s. However, to accommodate the increases in trainees, a more modern facility was constructed. Opened in 1968, the new Naval Training Center (NTC) was located in Orlando, Florida, and although it was built on the site of a former Air Force base, the installation itself was built from the ground up.²⁵⁶

Basic training

In naval training, candidates began with a basics course and moved on to advance individual training (Figure 47). Basic Training occurred at the following three locations:

- Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola, Florida
- NTC San Diego, California
- Great Lakes NTC, Illinois

Figure 47. Naval trainees on the rifle range at the U.S. Naval Construction Battalion Center, Gulfport, Mississippi, 1970 (Loose Print file, Navy Photo Library, Washington Navy Yard).



In 1965, training in aviation and submarine programs remained a top priority for the Navy as the intensified demands of Vietnam were felt throughout the military. In support of these training programs, facilities for the second increment of construction at the Fleet Ballistic Missile (FBM) Submarine Training at Charleston, South Carolina, were almost

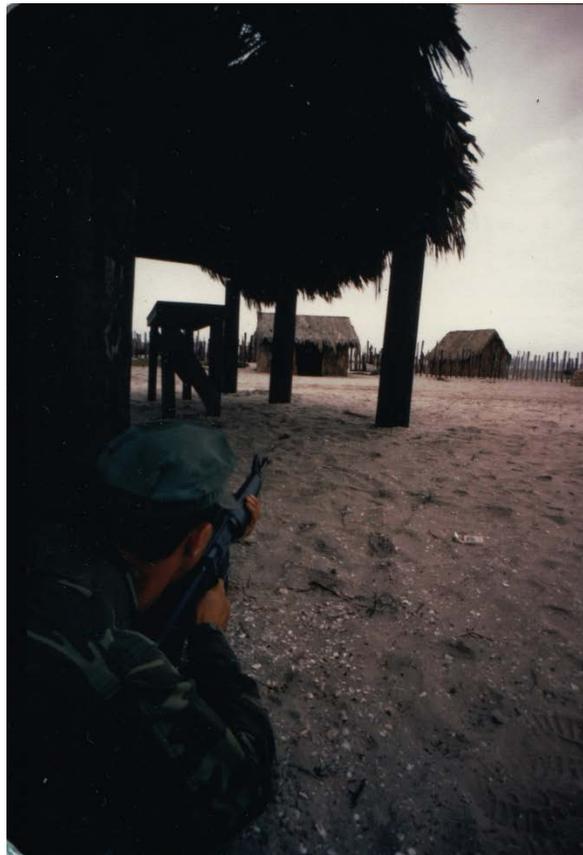
²⁵⁶ Winkler, *Training to Fight: Training and Education during the Cold War*, 65.

completed, and the Fleet Submarine Training Facility at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, became operational during 1965. Military construction for nuclear training buildings, and installation of submarine fire control laboratories at New London, Connecticut, and Pearl Harbor were started in 1965.²⁵⁷

Mock villages

Like other military services, the Navy constructed a mock Vietnamese village for troop training. In the Navy, the mock village was used for advanced SEAL training rather than as a complement to infantry training as in the Army. Figure 48 and Figure 49 illustrate the Navy's mock village. Located on Naval Air Base Coronado, the mock village lacked the vegetated setting that the mock villages at Fort Polk featured. Nevertheless, the Navy's mock village featured permanent and semi-permanent structures made of concrete blocks or thatched grass.

Figure 48. Thatched structures were part of Dragon Village, a Navy mock-up Vietnamese settlement used in SEAL team training exercises at Coronado, California, February 1968 (NARA RG 428-GX Box 668-45262).



²⁵⁷ DoD, *Department of Defense Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1965*, 271.

Figure 49. Concrete block structures were also part of Dragon Village. A Navy mock-up Vietnamese settlement used in SEAL team training exercises at Coronado, California, February 1968 (NARA RG 428-GX Box 668-45263).



4.2.2 Navy specialized training thematic area

SEAL training

Although the Navy's Sea, Air, Land (SEAL) teams had origins going back to WWII, the complex environment of Vietnam solidified the need for unconventional warfare and troops specially trained to counter guerrilla tactics. Through President Kennedy's commitment to developing Special Forces, the Navy defined its role in special operations. The Navy's ability to operate both on water and on land led to its amphibious force, called the Navy SEALs. The first two SEAL teams were formally established in 1962 and located on both coasts of the United States, one at Naval Amphibious Base Coronado, California and the other at Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek, Virginia. SEAL training was rigorous and included training in counter guerilla warfare and clandestine operations in maritime and riverine environments. Figure 50 shows some of the structures on Naval Air Base Coronado, California.²⁵⁸

²⁵⁸ Winkler, *Training to Fight: Training and Education during the Cold War*, 110.

Figure 50. An instructor explains the method of firing the M-16 rifle to students of the basic underwater demolition SEAL training class at Naval Air Base Coronado, California [note prefabricated metal buildings in the background], March 1975 (NARA RG 428-GX Box 414 K108118).



Riverine warfare

One of the distinct elements of the Vietnam War was the incorporation of riverine warfare into naval operations. To train for the riverine operations in the Mekong Delta, Navy troops underwent training at the Naval Amphibious Base, Coronado, and survival training at Whidbey Island, Washington.²⁵⁹ Figure 51 shows how riverine warfare training had developed by the end of the Vietnam War.

²⁵⁹ Mobile Riverine Force Association, "River Assault Squadron NINE Operations Summary," accessed online: <http://www.mrfa.org/ras09c.htm>.

Figure 51. On Chesapeake Bay, a large personnel landing craft of Coastal River Squadron 2 tows an inflatable boat on the way to picking up a SEAL team member during riverine training, December 1973 (NARA RG 428-GX Box 668-K101422).



4.2.3 Navy air training thematic area

Navy aviators were trained at locations around the United States. At NAS Pensacola, Florida, pilot training was increased during the Vietnam War to keep pace with the demands of the conflict. The air station hosted three training squadrons and numerous training units. NAS Pensacola became the headquarters for the Chief of Naval Education and Training in 1971.²⁶⁰

NAS Whiting, Florida, was designated an NAS during the 1960s. There, the Navy hosted two training squadrons that trained Navy, Marine, and South Vietnamese pilots.²⁶¹

In 1961, Naval Auxiliary Air Station (NAAS) Meridian, Mississippi, was commissioned to support naval training activities. During its first year of operation, the base graduated 293 Navy aviators. A few years later, jet training increased at Meridian because of the demands of Vietnam, and in 1968, NAS Meridian hosted two jet training squadrons.²⁶² Consequently, the station became a full naval air station in 1968, instigating an increase

²⁶⁰ Winkler, *Training to Fight: Training and Education during the Cold War*, 133.

²⁶¹ *ibid.*, 134.

²⁶² *ibid.*, 154-55.

in building development and the construction of additional housing units.²⁶³

4.2.4 Navy schools thematic area

In 1966, the Navy's basic training Class A schools were expanded to maximum capacity and experienced a fivefold increase in Construction Battalion (Seabee) training. New schools were established for damage-control men and commissary men.²⁶⁴ During the year, the increased tempo of operations at many naval stations as a result of Southeast Asia operations placed extremely heavy demands on available resources. For example, four mobile construction battalions were reactivated at the Seabee Center in Gulfport, Mississippi. The Seabee Center provided a home port for the battalions as well as training facilities for two battalions. The rehabilitation program reactivated close to 40 buildings and structures and cost approximately \$500,000.²⁶⁵ The west-coast training center for Seabees was at the Naval Construction Battalion Center, Port Hueneme, California. Class A, B, and C schools train Seabees to repair vehicles, draft blueprints, build structures, and operate construction equipment. Activity at the center was most concentrated during the Korean and Vietnam eras.²⁶⁶

Mine Warfare Training Center

Also in 1966, a Mine Warfare Training Center for the Pacific Fleet was established at Long Beach, California.²⁶⁷ Additionally, a selective electronics training program was implemented to reduce the shortage of experienced technicians in the Naval Fleet. In 1966, Basic Electricity/Electronics Schools were established at Great Lakes and San Diego to be adjacent to recruit training centers. The arrangement was designed to reduce personnel attrition, reduce travel costs, and effect economies in the use of training materials, devices, and space.²⁶⁸

²⁶³ U.S. Navy, Commander Navy Installations Command (CNIC). "Naval Air Station Meridian: History," n.d. Accessed 2014:

http://www.cnic.navy.mil/regions/cnrse/installations/nas_meridian/about/history.html.

²⁶⁴ DoD, *Department of Defense Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1966*, 313.

²⁶⁵ *ibid.*, 320.

²⁶⁶ Winkler, *Training to Fight: Training and Education during the Cold War*, 116.

²⁶⁷ DoD, *Department of Defense Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1966*, 307.

²⁶⁸ *ibid.*, 314.

An expanded anti-air warfare training capability became operational at San Diego, in the Navy's first large-scale application of digital computer simulation to fixed-based tactical training.²⁶⁹

Technical and skill training

The increased numbers of Navy recruits naturally had an effect on the number of sailors enrolled in technical training. The Naval Air Technical Training Center (NATTC) at Memphis, Tennessee, experienced a growth of 7,000 personnel throughout the early 1960s to eventually support 17,000 sailors. To accommodate the increase adjacent lands were purchased to enlarge the facility.²⁷⁰

More sailors were needed to support the fleet as well as more Navy pilots were required to fly missions over Southeast Asia. More naval aviators underwent training through the Naval Aviation Training system, dramatically increasing enrollments at NAS locations. For example, at Naval Air Auxiliary Station, Meridian, Mississippi, the number of aviators completing jet training rose from 293 in 1962 to 950 in 1969.²⁷¹ However, the poor performance of naval aviators in Southeast Asia raised concern over potential deficiencies in air combat training. As a result, the Navy established the Naval Fighter Weapons School in 1969 at NAS Miramar, California. The school trained air crews in close air-combat tactics which improved the kill ratios for Navy pilots between 1969 and 1972.²⁷²

Other Navy training facilities

Although not directly related to the Navy's involvement in Vietnam, in 1961, a FBM training facility was built at New London, Connecticut, to train entire crews of attack center personnel in handling their equipment and to teach officers how to maneuver during attack.²⁷³

In 1962, Navy construction programs began work on a number of training facilities. These facilities included the FBM Submarine Training Center, Fleet Anti-Air Warfare Training Center, Naval Training Center, Fleet Anti-

²⁶⁹ DoD, *Department of Defense Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1966*, 314.

²⁷⁰ Winkler, *Training to Fight: Training and Education during the Cold War*, 66.

²⁷¹ *ibid.*

²⁷² *ibid.*

²⁷³ DoD, *Department of Defense Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1961*, 264.

Submarine Warfare Tactical School, Postgraduate School, and the Armed Forces Staff College.²⁷⁴

4.2.5 Navy housing thematic area

During the Vietnam War, Navy personnel housing was being improved because of the military's ongoing modernization programs. Additionally, the centralization of planning within the DoD eliminated installation-specific designs.

Barracks complexes

Unlike barracks construction in the preceding decades, housing areas constructed in the 1960s included barracks and all the buildings that supported troop housing. These other buildings—chapels, dispensaries, mess halls, and clubs—were included in the overall plan, making the new housing areas independent of the main post. Many barracks constructed in the 1960s still featured open squad rooms and shared bathrooms.²⁷⁵

At Naval Training Station Great Lakes, two residential housing complexes were completed in 1966. Both complexes consisted of four buildings. The second complex had barracks that were designed with a dumbbell footprint, with the outer wings surrounding an open court. The central section of the building housed communal bathrooms, shower rooms, storage, clothes drying rooms, and offices.²⁷⁶

Bachelor officers quarters

Navy BOQs built in the 1960s were also improved to attract and retain personnel. One type of BOQ commonly built was styled after motels. These BOQs featured either interior or exterior access along with large windows. Larger units could have a living room, bedroom, bathroom, and a kitchen, while smaller units had a combined living room and bedroom as well as a bathroom.²⁷⁷

²⁷⁴ DoD, *Department of Defense Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1962*, 258.

²⁷⁵ Kuranda et al. *Air Force and Navy Unaccompanied Personnel Housing during the Cold War Era (1946-1989)*, (Frederick, MD: R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc., 2011), 4-7.

²⁷⁶ Kuranda et al. *Air Force and Navy Unaccompanied Personnel Housing during the Cold War Era (1946-1989)*, 4-23.

²⁷⁷ *ibid.*, 4-7.

Family housing

By the end of 1961, the Navy's family housing assets totaled 85,797 units of all types. The total included 17,246 Capehart housing units that were either completed and occupied, or were still under construction. Another 950 Capehart units were approved for development in the following year as well as 1,000 units under Military Construction funds.²⁷⁸ In addition to Capehart housing, the acquisition and conversion of Wherry housing continued. Originally, 24,503 Wherry units were to be converted and by 1961, 15,884 were acquired for conversion. All but 350 were approved and funded for conversion and rehabilitation, which meant that once the conversions were completed, there would be a net of 14,012 public quarters units available.²⁷⁹ Additionally under the Inadequate Public Quarters Program, 6,417 units were declared inadequate. Of those, 1,510 units were corrected or eliminated, while 938 were in the process of disposition. Although deemed inadequate, 3,969 were approved for use through 30 June 1962.²⁸⁰

Throughout the course of the Capehart housing program, 20,980 units had been authorized for the Navy, of which 18,596 were approved for construction. Because the Capehart legislation was about to expire, appropriated funds were authorized for 1,000 additional housing units in 1962, of which 600 were under construction.²⁸¹ Additionally, 17,096 Wherry Act units were acquired by the Navy and approximately 15,077 were converted into adequate quarters. As the Navy was building these new and remodeled housing units, it also established a pilot program for comprehensive maintenance of family housing by private contractors. The program had been expanded to include housing in San Diego, China Lake, and Lenmoore, California; Beaufort and Charleston, South Carolina; Meridian, Mississippi; and New London, Connecticut.²⁸²

In 1965, 2,020 family housing units were completed, and new design criteria were developed to improve barracks and BOQs under construction or rehabilitation. The occupancy rate of the Navy's 55,000 "adequate" quarters units met the prescribed occupancy standard of 98 percent.

²⁷⁸ DoD, *Department of Defense Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1961*, 257.

²⁷⁹ *ibid.*

²⁸⁰ *ibid.*, 257–258.

²⁸¹ DoD, *Department of Defense Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1962*, 259.

²⁸² *ibid.*, 260.

Approximately 9,000 “substandard” units were terminated.²⁸³ By 1966, it became virtually impossible to meet the existing habitability standards in new construction due to cost limitations.²⁸⁴ Not meeting the family housing construction standards was due in part to a construction freeze between December 1965 and January 1967 on all construction not directly related to Southeast Asia operations.²⁸⁵

4.2.6 Navy medical facilities thematic area

Medical support

During the Vietnam War, U. S. Navy medical services were provided by the Navy Medical Department. Within the Navy Medical Department were the Hospital Corps and six specialist Corps: Supply and Administrations, Medical Allied Sciences, Optometry, Pharmacy, Podiatry, and the Medical Specialist Section. These specialist corps became combined as the Navy Medical Service Corps and became part of the larger Medical Department.²⁸⁶

The U.S. Navy provided critical facilities for treating those wounded in combat. As there was a great deal of cross-service medical support in Vietnam, a number of servicemen from all branches were cared for by Navy personnel. The wounded were primarily transported by helicopter from the battlefield to a hospital, often within minutes of the injury. Once at a hospital, the patient had a 97.4 percent chance of survival.²⁸⁷

The Navy operated two hospitals in Vietnam, one at Da Nang and the other in Saigon, which treated U.S. and allied military personnel (Australia, New Zealand, Philippines, and South Korea), as well as South Vietnamese civilians.²⁸⁸ Navy Nurse Corps officer personnel began arriving in South Vietnam in 1963, and assisted in setting up the U.S. Naval Station Hospital in Saigon. This was the first full-scale hospital established in Vietnam by the U.S. military, and it had a 100-bed inpatient

²⁸³ DoD, *Department of Defense Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1965*, 277.

²⁸⁴ DoD, *Department of Defense Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1966*, 319.

²⁸⁵ DoD, *Department of Defense Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1968*, 69–70.

²⁸⁶ Douglas H. Stutz, “Naval Hospital Bremerton Recognized 66th Birthday of Medical Service Corps,” 2 August 2013, http://www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story_id=75737

²⁸⁷ United States of America Vietnam Commemorative Project, “Military Nurses in the Vietnam War,” Part 2 of 3, Accessed online: http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/assets/1/7/Military_Nurses1.PDF

²⁸⁸ Mark T. Hacala (USNR), “History of the Hospital Corps,” 2014, <http://www.corpsman.com/history/history-of-the-hospital-corps/>.

capacity. It was needed to handle combat casualties from fighting in the Mekong Delta.²⁸⁹ The Nurse Corps later assisted with the establishment of the Navy Support Activity (Naval Station Hospital) in Da Nang, which became a very busy combat casualty treatment facility.²⁹⁰ As with the other services, Marine and Navy wounded who could not be returned to duty were medevaced by the Air Force from Vietnam to the United States.

The Navy also operated two hospital ships, U.S.S. *Repose* and U.S.S. *Sanctuary*, staffed by Navy doctors, corpsmen, and female members of the Nurse Corps (Figure 52).²⁹¹ The ships arrived and were stationed off the central coast of South Vietnam in 1966 and 1967, respectively, and provided medical support for American and Allied Forces.²⁹² After recording more than 10,000 helicopter landings, performing more than 4,600 major surgical operations, admitting 13,500 patients, and treating about 35,000 servicemen, the USS *Sanctuary* departed Vietnam from Da Nang harbor in April 1971.²⁹³ The U.S.S. *Repose* had departed one year earlier.

²⁸⁹ Jan K. Herman, *Navy Medicine in Vietnam: Passage to Freedom to the Fall of Saigon*, in the series *The U.S. Navy and the Vietnam War*, Edward J. Morolda and Sandra J. Doyle, Series Ed., (Washington, D.C.: Naval History and Heritage Command, 2010), 5.

²⁹⁰ United States of America Vietnam Commemorative Project, "Military Nurses in the Vietnam War," Part 1 of 3."

²⁹¹ United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration, "U.S. Navy in Vietnam," accessed online: http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/education/us_navy_in_vietnam/.

²⁹² United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration, "Military Nurses in the Vietnam War," Part 1 of 3.

²⁹³ United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration, "Military Nurses in the Vietnam War," Part 2 of 3.

Figure 52. U.S. Navy Hospital Ship U.S.S. Sanctuary, undated (U.S. Navy).



The riverine warfare activities in Vietnam provided an example of the cross-service cooperation regarding medical service. The 9th Medical Battalion of the 2nd Brigade was part of the Army's 9th Infantry, which in combination with two 50-boat Navy river assault squadrons formed the Mobile Riverine Force. A completely water-based unit, the Mobile Riverine Force was supported medically by the 9th Medical Battalion, and they established the only Army medical facility in Vietnam based on a Navy ship.²⁹⁴

The sailors deployed into combat areas were enlisted Hospital Corpsmen, who accompanied Marine combat forces as well as provided assistance at U.S. medical facilities in Vietnam. Corpsmen provided offshore medical support while stationed aboard various kinds of ships including the hospital ships, amphibious ships, and the riverine force ships. Many Hospital Corps Training Schools were created to meet the needs of World War II. Corpsman and basic training was primarily conducted at Great

²⁹⁴ Major General Spurgeon Neel, *Medical Support of the U.S. Army in Vietnam 1965-1970*, (Washington, D.C.: Department of the Army, 1973), 90.

Lakes Training Center, Illinois, or at the Hospital Corps School San Diego.²⁹⁵

Medical needs of Marines have always been the province of the U.S. Navy and remain so to this day. In the United States, Marine Corps bases may have a hospital or a clinic, but they are staffed by Navy medical personnel and are a tenant command of the U.S. Marine Corps (USMC) base. Smaller USMC bases may only have a clinic, and patients needing more intensive care are sent to Navy hospitals on nearby U.S. Navy installations. Even the Hospital Corpsmen deployed with the Marines are Navy personnel, although they may wear USMC uniforms.

Naval Hospital Corpsmen were heavily utilized by USMC units, treating over 70,000 Navy and USMC combat casualties. Initially, 50 corpsmen arrived with the first combat Marines in 1965. Eventually, 2,700 corpsmen served with the 1st and 3^d Marine Division, 1st Marine Air Wing, and other combat support units. Corpsmen were even attached to Navy SEAL teams and Marine reconnaissance units.²⁹⁶

Navy medical facilities that were potentially affected by the engagement in Vietnam were training schools, hospitals, and medical research centers.

Medical training schools

Hospital Corpsmen who were assigned to USMC combat units received special training to familiarize themselves with the Marine Corps. This Field Medical Service School (FMSS) training took place at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, or Camp Pendleton, California. FMSS training took place after a corpsman had attended Navy recruit basic training and hospital corps school; then, to attend the FMSS, they were organizationally attached to the Navy's Fleet Marine Force. The course lasted 27 days, training the corpsmen in general combat skills such as small-unit tactical operations, weapons training, and medically related combat skills.²⁹⁷ The primary goal was to make the students strong battlefield medics acclimated to the needs of combat medicine and indoctrinated in USMC

²⁹⁵ Mark T. Hacala (USNR), "Where It All Began: Hospital Corps Training Schools," Accessed online: http://www.med.navy.mil/sites/sample/bumed/Documents/BUMED_Website/Where_It_All_Began_Hospital_Corps_Training_Schools.html.

²⁹⁶ Hacala, "History of the Hospital Corps."

²⁹⁷ Herman, *Navy Medicine in Vietnam: Passage to Freedom to the Fall of Saigon*, 36.

methods.²⁹⁸ Graduation from the school enabled the corpsmen to serve in a USMC unit, to treat casualties while under fire, and to serve as general medical providers.²⁹⁹

Doctors, nurses, dentists, and other specialties were often already practicing in civilian life or were recent graduates of medical/nursing schools when they were drafted or volunteered. Navy nurses were required to have completed two years of active duty before deploying to Vietnam.³⁰⁰ More advanced training for Naval medical personnel often came on the job in one of the Naval Hospitals. The Naval Medical School and the Naval Dental School were part of the medical complex at Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland.³⁰¹

Hospitals

Navy hospitals underwent the same modernization and expansion in the late 1950s and early 1960s as did many of the facilities of the other services. These hospitals cared for returning sailors and marines, including convalescing POWs at the end of the war.

Naval Hospital Portsmouth began construction on a new high-rise facility in 1957, with construction complete in 1960 (Figure 53).³⁰² In 1961, a new facility designed for 800–1500 beds was commissioned at Great Lakes NAS (Figure 54). At the same time, the replacement of temporary structures at the U.S. Naval Hospital in Bethesda was underway.³⁰³ This project consisted of two five-story wings attached to the main building, providing 258 more beds (Figure 55). Vietnam-related peak capacity at the hospital was reached in 1968 at 1,222 patients.³⁰⁴ In 1965, three major

²⁹⁸ John K. Murphy, "Becoming a Corpsman," undated, <http://www.326marinesinvietnam.com/Corpsmen.aspx#Becoming a Corpsman>.

²⁹⁹ *ibid.*

³⁰⁰ Paula Bailey, "The Best and Worst of Times: American Nurses in Vietnam," http://www.hsu.edu/uploadedFiles/Faculty/Academic_Forum/2002-3/2002-3AFThe%20Best%20and%20Worst%20of%20Times.pdf.

³⁰¹ Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, "History of National Naval Medical Center," undated, <http://www.wrnmmc.capmed.mil/About%20Us/SitePages/HistoricAccount.aspx>.

³⁰² Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, "Our History: Abbreviated History," accessed online: <http://www.med.navy.mil/sites/NMCP2/OurHistory/Pages/AbbreviatedHistory.aspx>.

³⁰³ DoD, *Department of Defense Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1961*, 248.

³⁰⁴ Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, "History of National Naval Medical Center."

Navy hospitals were started at Long Beach and Oakland, California, and at Jacksonville, Florida.³⁰⁵

Figure 53. Portsmouth Naval Hospital, Virginia, 1960
(Library of Congress, HABS VA 65-PORTM, 2-12).



Medical research centers

The Naval Medical Research Center, located in Silver Springs, Maryland, was previously known as the Naval Medical Research Institute. It provided facilities for biomedical research on diseases and operational problems that affected sailors and marines.³⁰⁶ Research facilities were also in place at the Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, and the U.S. Naval Hospital, San Diego.

³⁰⁵ DoD, *Department of Defense Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1965*, 277.

³⁰⁶ U. S. Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery Public Affairs, "60 Years of Navy Medical Research Helps Save Lives Today," 2002, accessed online: http://www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story_id=4139.

Figure 54. Naval Hospital Great Lakes Training Station, Illinois, 1960
(Great Lakes Naval Training Center.)



Figure 55. The pre-WW II U.S. Naval Hospital, Bethesda, Maryland, shown here in 1975, was heavily utilized during the Vietnam era (US Navy).



4.2.7 Navy logistics facilities thematic area

Navy logistics were critical in supporting the forces in Vietnam. Sealifts were responsible for delivering an estimated 98 percent of U.S. equipment and supplies in what was described as a line of ships stretching across the Pacific Ocean.³⁰⁷ The Navy's logistical system supported members of the U.S. military and civilians, but also shipped supplies and equipment used by the South Vietnamese. Through that logistical support effort, the Navy was delivering 1.73 million tons of materiel each month by 1967, which included one measurement ton of supplies and equipment for each fighting soldier per month. The sheer volume of supplies needed in-country demanded that they be sent by ship through either the Military Sea Transportation Service (MSTS) or the U.S. Merchant Marine (USMM). During this time, the Navy, through the MSTS and the USMM, averaged about 100 ships per month leaving the United States headed for Vietnam.³⁰⁸ The MSTS provided the majority of sealift operations for the DoD in addition to the Military Airlift Command, the Military Traffic Management and Terminal Service from other military services.³⁰⁹ Overall, the Navy operated ships that delivered 95 percent of all the military equipment and supplies consumed by allied forces in Vietnam.

The MSTS was formed in early July 1949, when the U.S. Navy assumed responsibility for all of the DoD's ocean transport requirements. Prior to 1949, four different government organizations had operated military sealifts to support WWII. The MSTS was integral in delivering supplies for the Korean War. The Vietnam War was the last war in which the military used troop ships for personnel movement. Nevertheless, the logistics of Vietnam were demanding, and the Navy was pressed to deliver supplies more efficiently.³¹⁰ For example, at the beginning of the War, cargo arrivals in Vietnam exceeded the basic planning requirements for off-loading, which were further complicated by MSTS ship delays. Poor packaging also initially caused problems. Cartons dissolved in the heavy rains, improperly packed cans of asphalt burst in the hot weather, and many other items that were loose or unwieldy causing difficulties in off-

³⁰⁷ Schreadley, *From the Rivers to the Sea*, 52.

³⁰⁸ DoD, *Department of Defense Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1967*, 308.

³⁰⁹ *ibid.*, 79.

³¹⁰ Vice Admiral Edwin Bickford Hooper (USN Retired), *Mobility, Support, Endurance: A Story of Naval Operational Logistics in the Vietnam War 1965-1968*. (Washington, DC: Naval History Division, Department of the Navy, 1972), 255-257.

loading.³¹¹ Shipping efficiency was improved with increased oversight of packaging at the Military Transportation Management Terminal Service in San Francisco, California, which allowed full ship loads to sail directly to Vietnam by standardizing the loading and unloading of supplies.³¹² By 1967, the MSTS controlled a fleet of 527 ships, of which 117 were in the nucleus fleet, 244 were under charter, and 166 operated under the General Agency Agreement. The General Agency Agreement reactivated ships owned by the government but that were operated subsequently by a general agency appointed by the Maritime Administration.³¹³

The Navy's role in logistics was further defined by McNamara's implementation of "floating forward depots." The idea consisted of stationing old Victory ships operated by the MSTS near conflict areas, from which supplies were delivered. The first test of the concept was in 1963 at Subic Bay in the Philippines; it was declared a success as a cost-effective substitute for continual sealifts. To support the Vietnam conflict, an estimated 98 percent of U.S. equipment and supplies were transported by sea, in what was described as a line of ships stretching across the Pacific Ocean.³¹⁴ Although sea transport played a large role in Vietnam, most of the supply ships were foreign charters or old ships from America's reserve due to the sharp decline in size of the U.S. Merchant Marine following WWII. As Butler building warehouse complexes were constructed in Vietnam, the Navy resorted to shipping supplies only in response to requisitions on the Naval Supply Center in Oakland, California to meet actual usage. The warehouse complexes were completed in phases, and some included refrigerated stowage. As the complexes were completed, stocks were moved in.³¹⁵

The geography of Vietnam contributed to the Navy's logistics problems. In the early 1960s Vietnam lacked any deep water ports, making off-loading supplies nearly impossible. To address these problems, Navy Seabee construction units built enormous support bases at Da Nang and Saigon to supply all Navy and Marine Corps forces in the field as well as some Air

³¹¹ Hooper, *Mobility, Support, Endurance: A Story of Naval Operational Logistics in the Vietnam War 1965-1968*, 83.

³¹² *ibid.*, 84.

³¹³ *ibid.*, 258.

³¹⁴ Schreadley, R.L. *From the Rivers to the Sea*, 52.

³¹⁵ Hooper, *Mobility, Support, Endurance: A Story of Naval Operational Logistics in the Vietnam War 1965-1968*, 94-95.

Force and Army units. NSA sailors administered these logistical hubs and operated a fleet of supply craft and barges that plied the waters of the Mekong Delta and beyond. For a time, NSA supplied all allied forces in the lower I Corps area.³¹⁶ In addition, NSA provided “loading and unloading services, and transient and terminal storage at these ports; operated base supply depots for supply of materiel common to all U.S. forces in I Corps; supplied port and harbor security; ... supervised industrial relations; provided all petroleum requirements ... maintained airfields in coordination with III Marine Amphibious Force (MAF); and operated in-country R&R facilities.”³¹⁷

The majority of shipments of ammunition, fuel, food, and general supplies from the United States left facilities based along the West coast. In the case of ammunition, high priority shipments were sent by air, but those accounted for around one percent of all ammunition tonnage. The remaining ammunition was sent by sealift from a depot in Concord, California.³¹⁸ Likewise, all of the bulk fuel delivered to Vietnam and other Western Pacific bases for the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines was sent by ocean tanker. The war requirements demanded fuel and in Vietnam alone, requirements grew from three million barrels in 1964 to 38 million in 1967.³¹⁹ The method for restocking consisted of loading replenishment ships in U.S. ports and after crossing the Pacific, these logistic support ships would deliver supplies to Navy carrier ships or dock for unloading at one of the Vietnamese ports. With ammunition, the stocks were transferred to carriers several times a day for a month until the support ship was empty, at which point the ship would return to the United States for another load. This resupply chain was the basic restocking system for all supplies including the general stores ships, which provided fresh vegetables to crews directly from west-coast farms.³²⁰

³¹⁶ Maj. Gary L. Telfer, Lt. Col. Lane Rogers, and V. Keith Fleming, Jr., *U.S. Marines in Vietnam: Fighting the North Vietnamese, 1967*, (Washington, D.C.: History and Museums Division, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, 1984), 233.

³¹⁷ *ibid.*

³¹⁸ GlobalSecurity.org. “Combat Logistics History.” Accessed online: <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/systems/ship/logistics-history.htm>.

³¹⁹ Hooper, *Mobility, Support, Endurance: A Story of Naval Operational Logistics in the Vietnam War 1965-1968*, 255.

³²⁰ GlobalSecurity.org. “Combat Logistics History.”

The route across the Pacific was approximately 7,000 nautical miles from San Francisco or 12,400 from New York through the Panama Canal.³²¹ For example, during a nine-month deployment the *Neches* travelled over 63,000 miles, during which it “took 370 ships alongside and transferred to them 31 million gallons of NSFO, 9 million gallons of JP-5, and 121 tons of bottled gas and lubricants.” Additionally, 798 passengers, over 120 tons of fleet freight, and 12 tons of mail to Seventh Fleet ships were delivered.³²² The long distance and slow turnaround time before development of adequate port capabilities resulted in additional complications for sealift operations further emphasizing the difficult logistics mission.³²³

Logistics training

The complexity of sealift logistics required specialized training. Naval supply training occurred at several locations including the Navy War College at Naval Station Newport, Rhode Island and the Navy Supply Corps School in Athens, Georgia. At the Navy War College, the Naval Education and Training Center was established in 1974 with the dual mission of training and providing logistic support.³²⁴ The Navy Supply Corps School provided initial and advanced training to tens of thousands of Supply Corps officers who provided logistical support for fleet operations.³²⁵

Logistics support facilities

The Navy operated many bases along the west coast of the United States during the Vietnam War. Among those with a supply or logistics mission were:

- Naval Supply Center in Oakland, California
- Military Transportation Management Terminal Service in San Francisco, California

³²¹ Hooper, *Mobility, Support, Endurance: A Story of Naval Operational Logistics in the Vietnam War 1965-1968*, 254.

³²² Naval History and Heritage Command. “United States Naval Operations Vietnam, *Highlights*, February 1966.” Accessed online: <http://www.history.navy.mil/research/library/online-reading-room/title-list-alphabetically/v/vietnam-war/highlights/united-states-naval-operations-vietnam-highlights-february-1966.html>.

³²³ Hooper, *Mobility, Support, Endurance: A Story of Naval Operational Logistics in the Vietnam War 1965-1968*, 258.

³²⁴ Shiman. *Forging the Sword*. 173.

³²⁵ *ibid.*, 136.

- Mare Island Naval Shipyard in Vallejo, California, was the Navy's homeport for repair facilities, mothballing operations, submarine operations, and riverine training operations during the Vietnam War.
- During this time, the MSTs also transported personnel to Vietnam on troop ships.³²⁶ Ships operating for MSTs were homeported at Naval Base Long Beach, California.³²⁷

4.3 Marine Corp thematic areas

The U.S. Marine Corps played a major role in the Vietnam War and experienced correlating increases in troops and training demands. The Marines were the first officially deployed battalions to Vietnam. The Marine Corps campaign in Vietnam was designed to maintain a balance between three interconnected efforts. The first was the program of large unit operations aimed at the enemy's main force and regular units. The second was a counter-guerrilla campaign directed toward finding and destroying the guerrilla network. The third effort by the Marines was to establish a system of comprehensive development programs to support the South Vietnamese government in consolidating its control while assisting in community security and development.³²⁸ The impact these operations had on the built environment back in the United States was similar to the other service branches with demands on housing, training spaces, and support facilities.

Because of the increasing financial costs of the Vietnam War, in the fall of 1967, President Johnson and Secretary of Defense McNamara ordered a major military construction freeze. The effects of the freeze were widespread, and it halted approximately \$4 million worth of construction projects in the San Diego area that included Camp Pendleton's proposed base theater, senior NCO barracks, and a mess hall at Camp Del Mar. After 10 days, the Navy decided to go ahead with the San Diego area construction projects, deeming them critical for supporting the Vietnam War.³²⁹

³²⁶ DoD, *Department of Defense Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1968*, 365–366.

³²⁷ Winkler, *Training to Fight: Training and Education during the Cold War*, 68.

³²⁸ DoD, *Department of Defense Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1967*, 304–305.

³²⁹ JRP Historical Consulting, *Results Inventory and Evaluation of National Register Eligibility for Buildings and Structures at U.S. Marine Corps Base Joseph H. Pendleton (Davis, CA: JRP Historical Consulting, report submitted to Assistant Chief of Staff, Environmental Security, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, April 2000)*, 83.

After the construction freeze was reversed, building efforts on Marine Corps bases on the west coast increased. For example, Camp Pendleton underwent a major construction boom in the early 1970s, with more than \$32 million spent on new buildings and an additional \$27 million budgeted for maintaining existing structures. In 1970, a \$2.1 million housing project for Area 17 was approved by the DoD. The project allocated funds to build a total of 102 houses for the families of colonels, majors, and lieutenants, which made it the largest housing project undertaken at Camp Pendleton since WWII.³³⁰

4.3.1 Marine Corps ground training thematic area

Like the Army, the Marine Corps was significantly affected by operations in Vietnam. The 1st Marine Division and elements of the 3rd Marine Division fought in Southeast Asia and, as a result, significantly increased officer strength from 17,000 to 25,000 during the war.³³¹

By 1962, the Marine Corps was increasing its emphasis on individual and unit training in counter-guerrilla warfare and COIN operations. The Marine Corps schools system provided instruction in the theory and practices of both tactics, while a newly devised course was introduced to train senior officers in planning and conducting COIN operations.³³²

The growth in air-to-air warfare in Vietnam led to the increased the number of F-4 Phantom squadrons in Navy and Marine Corps aviation—from 19 to 26. Because of the aircraft's effectiveness, the Marine Corps reduced the number of planes per squadron from 18 to 15. The Marine Corps' anti-air warfare programs were modified to meet the demands of Southeast Asia and included deploying more Marine anti-air warfare elements such as fighter aircraft, surface-to-air missiles units, and air control units to the area. Additionally, plans for buying anti-air warfare aircraft and missiles were executed while increased emphasis was placed on developing tactics and weapons for Southeast Asia.³³³

To supply enough Marines for combat in Southeast Asia and to meet other requirements, the Corps increased the number of inductees. The resulting

³³⁰ *ibid.*, 83.

³³¹ Winkler, *Training to Fight: Training and Education during the Cold War*, 67.

³³² DoD, *Department of Defense Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1962*, 219.

³³³ DoD, *Department of Defense Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1965*, 269.

overflow was handled in a few ways. Two examples are (1) the San Diego Recruit Depot, where a 100-tent cantonment was built and (2) to speed up recruit availability, training was reduced from 12 weeks to 8 weeks in 1966 (Figure 56).³³⁴ Thus, extra time could be allotted for specialty training and training specifically oriented toward operations in Vietnam.³³⁵

Figure 56. Recruits at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, South Carolina, begin instruction on the rifle range, 1967 (NARA 127-GG-921-A601744).



Realignments in training took place for officers, as well. In 1966, the Marine Corps Basic School for newly commissioned officers was temporarily reduced from 26 to 21 weeks. The Amphibious Warfare School for majors and captains was also temporarily reduced from 42 to 21 weeks. The reductions were made by eliminating the subjects that were nontactical in nature. The reductions allowed an approximate doubling of professionally trained officers per year who were available for duties in the Fleet Marine Forces.³³⁶

Training facilities

Because of its location, Camp Pendleton was the main training installation for the Marine Corps during the Vietnam conflict. Marines from around the country would arrive at Camp Pendleton where they would be assigned

³³⁴ Winkler, *Training to Fight: Training and Education during the Cold War*, 68.

³³⁵ DoD, *Department of Defense Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1966*, 313.

³³⁶ DoD, *Department of Defense Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1966*, 314.

to the Staging Battalion. Once a Marine was assigned to the Staging Battalion and unit, training commenced in countering guerilla warfare for 15 intense days. In addition to weapons training and physical conditioning, the emphasis on guerilla warfare introduced trainees to mines, booby traps, and ambushes. The majority of guerilla warfare training occurred at Camp Las Pulgas and in wooded terrain behind the Naval Hospital in Area 26. Under this system, between 6,000 and 8,000 Marines were trained each month for Vietnam.³³⁷ After two weeks of training, Marines were transferred to Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro or Norton AFB (both in California) to fly to Vietnam.³³⁸

Another significant training facility that prepared Marines for Vietnam was the 2nd MarDiv Guerilla Warfare Center at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina (Figure 57). The Center was built at the southwestern edge of the camp complex. The courses held at the center lasted from 1 day to 2 weeks, and taught Marines the fundamentals of guerilla warfare and effective counter operations that were practically applied. Along with warfare techniques, Marines were instructed on Vietnamese society and customs with the goal of avoiding crimes committed against civilians.³³⁹

³³⁷ JRP Historical Consulting, *Results Inventory and Evaluation of National Register Eligibility for Buildings and Structures at U.S. Marine Corps Base Joseph H. Pendleton*, 75-76.

³³⁸ *ibid*, 76.

³³⁹ Louis Berger Group, "Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune in the Vietnam Era," in *Semper Fidelis: A Brief History of Onslow County, North Carolina, and Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune* (Louis Berger Group, Inc.: Washington, DC, 2006), 71.

Figure 57. Marine Riflemen move in for the final phase of an assault demonstration at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, 1969 (NARA 127-GG-601-A704412).



The majority of Marine training for Vietnam was conducted at Camp Pendleton, Camp Lejeune, or Quantico Marine Corps Base (MCB), however more specialized training was conducted at other Marine bases (Figure 58). For example, the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, California, gained five new recruit barracks and a dining hall to more efficiently serve the trainees in 1967. In addition to recruit training, the Marine Corps Recruit Depot also offered formal courses in instructor and NCO leadership.³⁴⁰

³⁴⁰ Winkler, *Training to Fight: Training and Education during the Cold War*, 117.

Figure 58. A reconnaissance element from “I” Company, Third Battalion, Sixth Marines crosses a stream on a raft constructed for recon type training, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, undated (NARA 127-GG-616-A450580).



Training ranges

Because of the rapid troop buildup in the mid-1960s, a new recruit rifle training range was built at Camp Pendleton.³⁴¹ The Marine Corps built a mock Vietnamese village at Quantico, Virginia for training purposes. The village was named “Xa Viet Thang,” and it oriented Marines to the challenges of military operations in Southeast Asia’s jungle environment (

Figure 59).³⁴² The Twentynine Palms Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC) in California trained troops in artillery as well as trained Marines that were headed to Southeast Asia in operating anti-aircraft missile batteries. As the war progressed during the late 1960s, construction at Twentynine Palms included electronics and communications schools.³⁴³ In 1970, the Infantry Training School at Camp Pendleton began construction on a new training village—Combat Town—that replaced an older one built in 1952. The new combat town was located in Area 52 and was constructed out of prefabricated modular structures.

³⁴¹ JRP Historical Consulting, *Results Inventory and Evaluation of National Register Eligibility for Buildings and Structures at U.S. Marine Corps Base Joseph H. Pendleton*, 81.

³⁴² Winkler, *Training to Fight: Training and Education during the Cold War*, 68.

³⁴³ *ibid.*, 120–121.

The town included two gun pits, hidden demolitions, and a concrete-block tunnel with concealed entrances. The new layout provided students in the Infantry Training School an environment where they learned urban assault and combat in built-up areas.³⁴⁴

Figure 59. Overall view of the Southeast Asian Village constructed at the Basic School, Quantico, Virginia, June 1966 (NARA 127-GG-957-A556414).



4.3.2 Marine Corps air training thematic area

Air stations

The Marine Corps first began using helicopters in Vietnam during 1962, where they played a major role in the conflict. Because of the increasing importance of helicopters in combat, the Camp Lejeune air facility was redesignated as Marine Corps Air Station (Helicopter) New River in 1968, the first MCAS(H). That development transformed what was a small training base during the 1950s into a major Marine airfield, the only one devoted to helicopters. By June 1969, Marine Helicopter Training Group (MHTG)-40 was activated at New River, where new air station facilities had been constructed. The facilities included a three-story, air-conditioned barracks, a 13,000 square foot training building, an operations building, an airfield lighting system, and a new hangar. The air station also included amenities for the many personnel training there such as a movie theater, miniature golf course, an outdoor swimming pool, hobby shops, picnic

³⁴⁴ JRP Historical Consulting, *Results Inventory and Evaluation of National Register Eligibility for Buildings and Structures at U.S. Marine Corps Base Joseph H. Pendleton*, 86.

areas, tennis and basketball courts, a 10-lane bowling alley, increased medical and dental facilities, and a 50-man BOQ with mess hall.³⁴⁵

During the time Camp Lejeune's airfield was being modernized, Camp Pendleton's airfield was also developing. In 1964, the Marines built a new air control tower and helicopter hangar for the airfield, doubling the capacity of the Camp Pendleton airport.³⁴⁶

Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Arizona, was operationalized by the Marines in 1962. The airfield featured aerial gunnery ranges spread over 3 million acres. It also had three bomb and rocket targets, three remote strafing targets, and eight banner strafing targets that were used for training by aviators from all services for missions in Vietnam.³⁴⁷ Other air stations provided training as well, such as Air Station El Toro (Figure 60).

Figure 60. Station training building at Marine Corps Air Station El Toro, Santa Ana, California, 1972 (NARA MC 127-GG Box 1 A149698).



³⁴⁵Louis Berger Group, "Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune in the Vietnam Era," 71.

³⁴⁶JRP Historical Consulting, *Results Inventory and Evaluation of National Register Eligibility for Buildings and Structures at U.S. Marine Corps Base Joseph H. Pendleton*, 81.

³⁴⁷Winkler, *Training to Fight: Training and Education during the Cold War*, 107.

4.3.3 Marine Corps special warfare thematic area

Marines underwent training to gain expertise in COIN techniques at Camp Pendleton.³⁴⁸ At the same installation, new training villages were constructed to assist Marines in improving jungle combat techniques as well as to provide enough training areas to accommodate the increases in trainees. The training camps were located in the “Horno area (Area 53), beside DeLuz Creek, behind the Naval Hospital (Area 27), and near Las Pulgas in the Piedra de Lumbre Canyon (Area 43).”³⁴⁹ The villages were constructed like many other mock Vietnamese villages used for training throughout the DoD and included bamboo structures, underground tunnels, concrete bunkers, and barbed wire.

4.3.4 Marine Corps schools thematic area

Quantico Marine Corps Base, Virginia, was the major educational and technical training center for the Marine Corps. At Quantico, the Basic School was developed as the core training course for junior Marine officers.³⁵⁰ The Basic School at Quantico also increased the number of officers being trained. To supply more 2nd Lieutenants to the field, the Basic School duration was cut from 26 to 21 weeks, but included training on Saturdays.³⁵¹ In 1963 and 1964, organizational changes unified training and schools. For example, the junior and senior amphibious warfare courses were combined at the Amphibious Warfare School and the Command and Staff College. By 1971, the first Marine Corps NCO Academy was established at Quantico.³⁵²

The increase in aerial operations in Southeast Asia also affected the Marine Corps’ aviation programs. More Marine aviators were required and as the Navy pilot pipeline filled, the Marine Corps relied on the Air Force and Army for pilot training. In June 1968, the first class of Marine fixed-wing aviators graduated from the undergraduate pilot training courses at

³⁴⁸ Winkler, *Training to Fight: Training and Education during the Cold War*, 68.

³⁴⁹ JRP Historical Consulting, *Results Inventory and Evaluation of National Register Eligibility for Buildings and Structures at U.S. Marine Corps Base Joseph H. Pendleton*, 76.

³⁵⁰ Winkler, *Training to Fight: Training and Education during the Cold War*, 193.

³⁵¹ *ibid.*, 68.

³⁵² *ibid.*, 194.

Vance and Laredo AFBs and at Fort Rucker, where the Army trained Marine helicopter pilots.³⁵³

4.3.5 Marine Corps housing thematic area

As with the Navy, shortages in adequate housing was a continuing problem on Marine Corps bases. Although during the 1960s and early 1970s construction efforts continued across Marine Corps bases, housing improvements were generally the result of the larger military-wide modernization initiative. For example, at Camp Lejeune the quarters at Berkeley Manor were completed in 1962, and a \$1 million renovation of the Tarawa Terrace I and II complexes was also completed that year. Other housing improvements during the late 1960s included the first phase of a master plan that would eventually provide modern quarters for all of the camp's enlisted personnel by its 50th anniversary in 1991.³⁵⁴ Because of the new construction, many of the WWII-era barracks were destroyed.

At Camp Pendleton, lack of housing reached such a degree that when the 5th Division was reactivated in 1966, nearly two-thirds of the new arrivals were housed in tents in the Horno (Area 53) and San Onofre (Area 52) areas while new barracks were constructed. At the time, only 2,500 personnel could be accommodated at Camp Pendleton's existing permanent facilities.³⁵⁵ In 1966, a \$2 million Base Exchange complex opened in Area 11 of Camp Pendleton.³⁵⁶ By 1970, construction of a mess hall and barracks in the San Onofre (Area 52) area was approved, along with a bowling facility that was completed in Area 13.³⁵⁷

Barracks complexes

In 1968, the French Creek complex at Camp Lejeune was well underway, and the subordinate 2nd Force Service Regiment (FSR) of the Force Troops began to move in although construction was ongoing and that the headquarters still remained at Hadnot Point.³⁵⁸ The 8th Motor Transportation Battalion, 8th Communications Battalion, and the 8th

³⁵³ Winkler, *Training to Fight: Training and Education during the Cold War*, 69.

³⁵⁴ Louis Berger Group, "Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune in the Vietnam Era," 70.

³⁵⁵ JRP Historical Consulting, *Results Inventory and Evaluation of National Register Eligibility for Buildings and Structures at U.S. Marine Corps Base Joseph H. Pendleton*, 81.

³⁵⁶ *ibid.*

³⁵⁷ *ibid.*, 83.

³⁵⁸ Louis Berger Group, "Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune in the Vietnam Era," 70.

Engineer Support Battalion were relocated into modern, motel-like barracks that had two- to four-man rooms and many civilian amenities. These modern barracks were part of the Modular Unit Design Project.³⁵⁹

The population growth at Camp Pendleton in the mid-1960s resulted in an accelerated building program. By the spring of 1967, the 5th Division had relocated four battalions into modern barracks at Las Flores (Area 41). The barracks cost \$3.8 million and to further accommodate the troops, a \$1.9 million regimental headquarters complex was constructed for the San Mateo (Area 62) and Horno (Area 53) areas. The complex consisted of 13 pre-cast concrete buildings. In the San Mateo area of Camp Pendleton, the new structures included administration and recreation buildings, a supply center, and a combat vehicle maintenance building. In the Horno area maintenance shops and classroom buildings for motor transport outfits were built.³⁶⁰

In late 1972, a bachelor enlisted quarters (BEQ) modernization program was initiated at Camp Pendleton to renovate outdated open bay barracks. The renovations would convert the open bays into BEQs with separate rooms. Each room was designed to house two to three Marines and included a bathroom and lounge area. BEQs approved for remodeling were in Chappo Flats (Area 22), Camp Las Pulgas (Area 43), Camp Horno (Area 53), and Camp San Mateo (Area 62). Other BEQ modernization plans included constructing new barracks in the Mainside Area.³⁶¹

Bachelor officers quarters

At Camp Pendleton, construction on a \$1.7 million BOQ in the Del Mar area was completed in 1968. The facility was available to both unmarried men and women and was designed to house 168 people. The BOQ featured 12 two-room suites for senior officers, 132 suites with a combination bedroom-living room, and 24 single rooms; all had private baths.³⁶²

³⁵⁹ Louis Berger Group, "Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune in the Vietnam Era," 70.

³⁶⁰ JRP Historical Consulting, *Results Inventory and Evaluation of National Register Eligibility for Buildings and Structures at U.S. Marine Corps Base Joseph H. Pendleton*, 82.

³⁶¹ *ibid.*, 86.

³⁶² *ibid.*, 83.

Headquarters

In the late 1960s, plans were approved at Camp Pendleton for a 64,000 square-foot, pre-cast concrete base headquarters building (Building 1160). Eventually costing \$1.2 million, the building was located on Vandegrift Boulevard.³⁶³ Other headquarters constructed at Camp Pendleton were the Regimental Headquarters (Figure 61).

Figure 61. Regimental Headquarters-1st Marines at Camp Pendleton, California, constructed in 1968 (Camp Pendleton Cultural Resources).



Chapels

Other construction at Camp Pendleton during the Vietnam War period included a chapel (Figure 62).

³⁶³ JRP Historical Consulting, *Results Inventory and Evaluation of National Register Eligibility for Buildings and Structures at U.S. Marine Corps Base Joseph H. Pendleton*, 82.

Figure 62. Chapel at Camp Pendleton, California, built in 1967 (Camp Pendleton Cultural Resources).



4.3.6 Marine Corps logistics facilities thematic area

Logistics in South Vietnam

The first combat USMC units arrived in March 1965 at Da Nang, with only a small logistics force for motor transport, supply, and maintenance services. As the number of Marines increased, they expanded their combat operations in the I Corps area while their logistics system grew alongside. The Force Logistic Command (FLC) was created in Da Nang, and was initially staffed by the 1st Service Regiment, Camp Pendleton in February 1967.³⁶⁴ During that year, the organization filled out to include the FLC headquarters at Da Nang and support units at Dong Ha, Phu Bai, and Chu Lai. At the end of 1967, the 9,551-strong FLC served to provide logistical support to III Marine Amphibious Forces (MAF), both at the organizational units and individual units up to brigade size when on independent missions.³⁶⁵

³⁶⁴ Telfer, et.al., *U.S. Marines in Vietnam: Fighting the North Vietnamese 1967*, 225.

³⁶⁵ *ibid.*

Logistics and supply chain

The mission was made possible by the existence of a global USMC logistics network including facilities at Albany, Georgia, and the Marine Corps Supply Center at Barstow, California. Materiel was shipped to Hawaii, then to Okinawa, and then to the I Corps area. Some of the supplies stayed in Okinawa, where, like the U.S. Army, the USMC had a supply complex. The rest of the supplies flowed into South Vietnam. The Okinawa facility was under the command of the 3d Force Service Regiment, and it served as the “nerve center” for USMC logistics in the western Pacific.³⁶⁶ When supplies were requisitioned by III MAF, they were filled by the Okinawa facility, if possible. If not, the request fed back to the Barstow Supply Center or sometimes to the Naval Supply Centers at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, or Oakland, California. From January 1966 through September 1967, the Okinawa activity processed 1, 333,140 III MAF requisitions.³⁶⁷ As materiel came into South Vietnam, other equipment was moving eastward for repair, salvage, or disposal. Some work was done in Okinawa, where there was a rebuilding center; some equipment was sent to the Public Works Center in Yokosuka, Japan; and some equipment went back to the United States for repairs.

Materiel availability was an important concern for military planners. The Marine Corps developed a concept of pre-positioning protected war reserve supplies and equipment to support combat forces. The system was tested and validated throughout the mid-1960s by the Marine’s commitment in Southeast Asia. Units that deployed to Vietnam were able to use the protected stocks to enhance their ability to conduct offensive operations. Although some temporary shortages did occur, with the system in place, combat operations were not restricted due to an inability of the support system to respond.³⁶⁸ Requests for particularly critical materials were flagged and expedited through a system known as “Red Ball.” These requests were given extra attention at every supply agency in the Fleet Marine Force, Pacific.³⁶⁹

³⁶⁶ Telfer, et.al., *U.S. Marines in Vietnam: Fighting the North Vietnamese 1967*, 225–226.

³⁶⁷ *ibid.*, 226

³⁶⁸ DoD, *Department of Defense Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1966*, 317.

³⁶⁹ Telfer, et.al., *U.S. Marines in Vietnam: Fighting the North Vietnamese, 1967*, 226.

Logistics support from U.S. Navy

When it came to moving USMC materiel around South Vietnam, the U.S. Navy logistics operations were vital. The Naval Support Activity (NSA), Da Nang, was the largest Naval logistics facility in terms of supporting Marines in the I Corps area. The NSA as a whole had been created in 1965 to relieve USMC personnel of running an advanced naval base. The NSA was the Navy's largest overseas shore command by the end of 1967, with a complement of over 10,000 enlisted and officers.³⁷⁰ NSA provided the III MAF with an average of 40,000 tons of materiel every month in 1967. Supplying the Marines stationed farther from the main supply activities was an NSA mission, including making deliveries from small crafts in waterways near the DMZ and transshipping from Da Nang to smaller ports.

Construction work for the Marine Corps was accomplished by Navy mobile construction battalions organized under the 3d Naval Construction Brigade. The brigade was at a strength of 7,000 officers and men by mid-summer 1967. The construction units were responsible for facilities ranging from airfields to housing to road maintenance and bridge construction, worked with USMC engineer personnel. The brigade had backup personnel at the Pacific Fleet's Alert Construction Battalion on Okinawa, if needed for high-priority work.³⁷¹

Marine Corps logistic bases

The primary logistics support installations in the United States were the two Marine Corps Logistics Bases (MCLBs)—one at Barstow, California, and one at Albany, Georgia. These MCLBs were responsible for supplying Marine forces both inside and outside the United States. The Barstow base originally began in 1942 as a Marine Corps supply depot to support the Fleet Marine Forces in the Pacific. In addition to that supply role, the base became the home of the Depot Maintenance Activity in 1961, with the base then becoming responsible for rebuilding and repairing ground-combat and combat-support equipment as well as supporting installations west of the Mississippi River and in the Pacific.³⁷² MCLB Albany performed the

³⁷⁰ Telfer, et.al., *U.S. Marines in Vietnam: Fighting the North Vietnamese 1967*, 232.

³⁷¹ *ibid.*, 233–234.

³⁷² California State Military Museum, "Historic California Posts: Marine Corps Logistics Base, Barstow," (Sacramento, CA: California State Military Department, undated), accessed online: <http://www.militarymuseum.org/MCLBB.html>.

same functions for the forces east of the Mississippi River and for the Fleet Marine Forces in the Atlantic (Figure 63). The Albany installation was commissioned in March 1952 as the Marine Corps Depot of Supplies. By 1954, construction was almost complete with the requisite warehouses and administration buildings, and supply duties began. In 1967, new activities were added—a Storage Activity and a Depot Maintenance Activity. The base played a role in professional education, training Marines in maintenance and supply tasks through formal courses.³⁷³

Figure 63. Aerial view of MCLB Albany warehouse area, ca. 1970
(Public Works Office, MCLB Albany).



4.4 Air Force thematic areas

The effect the Vietnam War had on the Air Force operations was complicated. In Vietnam, the Air Force was tactically engaged in a variety of missions, but often only in a supportive role. Additionally, the Air Force continued its Strategic Air Command and nuclear mission throughout the Vietnam War era, which meant that construction efforts in the United States were predominantly focused on developing nuclear-based infrastructure. While some installations underwent few changes in response to Vietnam, others, like Travis AFB, became a critical node for deploying troops and logistical operations for the Vietnam War.

³⁷³ Global Security.org, "Marine Corps Logistics Base (MCLB), Albany," undated, <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/facility/mclb-albany.htm>.

The buildup for Vietnam also came at a time when the Air Force was modernizing its facilities to meet changing technological requirements as well as to attract and retain personnel to the military. Although construction occurred across most continental Air Force facilities, not all was in direct support of Vietnam. However, there are areas where Vietnam-related construction did occur in training areas, living quarters, and logistical facilities that needed expanding or modifying to accommodate the increases in personnel or changes in operations.

Outside of training facilities, USAF construction during the Vietnam War period consisted of quickly building better housing for troops along with the associated personnel and mission support facilities, medical facilities, and logistical support facilities. Although the modernization campaigns and demands of Vietnam did increase the physical plant requirements for the Air Force, the USAF nevertheless closed out seven major bases during 1966 which included: James Connally AFB, Larson AFB, Lincoln AFB, and Stead AFB. Another base (Biggs AFB, Texas) was scheduled for transfer to the Army.³⁷⁴

4.4.1 Air Force air training thematic area

Basic flight training

The gradual involvement of the USAF in Vietnam had a corollary effect on USAF training in the United States. Initially, the Air Force was able to accommodate the demands of the military's advisory campaigns with existing resources. Thus, USAF training initially was largely unaffected by the mission in Southeast Asia; nevertheless, President Kennedy's interest in COIN tactics was being incorporated into USAF training. As the war intensified in Vietnam, COIN training became a major emphasis of USAF training. Although COIN was a new program within military training, basic USAF training already had changed throughout the late 1950s and the 1960s in response to technological advancements in aviation technology.

Before the unique demands of the Vietnam War, non-commando-based USAF pilot training was typically conducted at Lackland AFB, Texas. However, as the Vietnam War escalated throughout the 1960s, the demand for pilots increased, resulting in overcrowding at Lackland.

³⁷⁴ DoD, *Department of Defense Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1966*, 427.

Although pilot training overcrowding never reached the critical levels experienced during the Korean War, by September 1966 the trainee population had jumped to over 20,000 at Lackland—a base that was designed to support 17,700 personnel.³⁷⁵ As the war in Vietnam escalated, the number of trainees the USAF needed to produce also increased. To address the demand, in 1965 Air Force indoctrination training adopted a split-phase basic military training program that consisted of 22 days at Lackland AFB followed by 8 days at a technical school. A year later in 1966, the training schedule was switched to a single phase that lasted for 24 days, but was switched back to a 6-week period by the end of the year.³⁷⁶ To accommodate the personnel growth at Lackland AFB, the infrastructure heavily relied on WWII temporary buildings. The WWII facilities were initially erected in 1941, and during two mobilizations (1942–1943 and 1951) they had dominated the Lackland landscape.

The overcrowding at Lackland AFB in part was a result of the restructuring of the USAF undergraduate flight training programs. Beginning in 1961, pilot training was at a low point, and the USAF had closed the last of its contracted primary flight training facilities. The undergraduate pilot training was then distributed between eight Air Training Command (ATC) bases. Lackland AFB and Vance AFB, Oklahoma, were two of these and typified an installation that merged pre-flight training, primary training, and basic flight training. Amarillo AFB, Texas, also served as a site for basic training after an outbreak of spinal meningitis killed an airman at Lackland AFB.³⁷⁷ Although Amarillo AFB had been slated for closure, it was rushed back into service to accommodate airmen from Lackland in February 1966. The base then provided basic training until November 1968, in an effort at reducing the impacts of increased training at Lackland AFB. During that time, Lackland AFB experienced a building boom that increased its capacity to process and train new recruits.³⁷⁸

Flight training for tactical and airlift forces

USAF flight training for tactical and airlift forces was another area that saw dramatic growth during the early 1960s. In 1962, about 1,300 pilots were trained and by 1967, the number more than doubled to 2,700 pilots

³⁷⁵ Winkler, *Training to Fight: Training and Education during the Cold War*, 62.

³⁷⁶ *ibid.*

³⁷⁷ *ibid.*, 63.

³⁷⁸ *ibid.*, 62.

trained. Such an increase strained the undergraduate pilot training facilities, which led to their eventual expansion.³⁷⁹ But first, the USAF attempted to increase the flight-training rate without increasing the number of training bases. To do this, it adopted a shorter and more concentrated course that was initialized in July 1965. Other plans were made to consolidate training centers; for example, all navigator training was transferred to Mather AFB, California, in August 1965 to allow the close-out by 1966 of James Connally AFB, Texas, which was then the home of undergraduate training. Additionally, the complete navigator course was cut from 7 months to 6 months.³⁸⁰

By 1967, the demand for replacement aircrews in Southeast Asia made it necessary for Tactical Air Command (TAC) units in the United States to concentrate on training combat crews. The training TAC provided occurred at several bases:

- F-100 training at Luke AFB, Arizona
- F-100 training at Cannon AFB, New Mexico
- F-105 training at Nellis AFB, Nevada
- F-105 training at McConnell AFB, Kansas
- F-4 training at Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona
- F-4 training at George AFB, California
- F-4 training at MacDill AFB, Florida

Combat crew training was also opened at Shaw AFB, South Carolina; Bergstrom AFB, Texas; and Mountain Home AFB, Idaho.³⁸¹

4.4.2 Air Force Special warfare thematic area

The start of the USAF COIN efforts began in 1961, when a small number of Air Force Special Operations Command Air Commandos were in South Vietnam advising on COIN tactics. The primary mission of these Air Commandos was to give instruction to native COIN forces in the use of the T-28, B-26, and C-47 aircraft.³⁸² COIN instruction emphasized the importance of reconnaissance and assault airlift rather than the delivery of

³⁷⁹ DoD, *Department of Defense Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1965*, 347.

³⁸⁰ *ibid.*

³⁸¹ DoD, *Department of Defense Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1967*, 368.

³⁸² Claude Witze, "USAF Polishes Its New COIN," *Air Force Magazine* (June 1962), 50.

munitions. So that personnel could advise on these matters, COIN tactics were already being incorporated into USAF training.

In response to the need for COIN tactics, in 1962 the Air Command and Staff College at Maxwell AFB, Alabama, developed a two-week COIN course that had an annual quota of 1,000 students.³⁸³ The Air Command and Staff College's course supported the increase of men in commando groups, and Air Commando training was also conducted at Stead AFB, Nevada. USAF personnel also trained at the Army's Special Warfare Center at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Increased training demands on Air Commandos led to the establishment in April 1962 of the Special Air Warfare Center at Eglin AFB, Florida.³⁸⁴ The Special Air Warfare Center was assigned to the TAC and responded to President Kennedy's requirement for improved COIN tactical air capability.³⁸⁵

The initial purpose of the training centers was to teach Air Commandos how to instruct the South Vietnamese in COIN tactics such as low-level drop techniques for personnel and cargo, close air support for day and night operations, fast deployment of ground forces, and reconnaissance including the use of flares and other devices to expose guerrilla movements at night.³⁸⁶ Other techniques that were taught were the use of special weapons to cut off retreats, interdiction raids, raids on supply dumps, and psychological warfare as well as survival techniques.³⁸⁷ The mission of the training centers was to help other people fight their own war, not to fight it for them. The emphasis on these types of training was reflected in enrollment numbers, when in 1962 there were 900 USAF men in Air Commando groups, and then over the next year, the number dramatically rose to 5,000 men.³⁸⁸

To meet the COIN training demand, other training facilities were established. For example, in 1962, the Air Command and Staff College at Maxwell AFB established a 2-week COIN course that had an annual quota of 1,000 students.³⁸⁹ By 1965, more than 500 USAF officers went through

³⁸³ Winkler, *Training to Fight: Training and Education during the Cold War*, 64.

³⁸⁴ DoD, *Department of Defense Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1965*, 315.

³⁸⁵ Witze, "USAF Polishes Its New COIN," 47, 49.

³⁸⁶ *ibid.*, 49.

³⁸⁷ *ibid.*

³⁸⁸ *ibid.*, 50.

³⁸⁹ Winkler, *Training to Fight: Training and Education during the Cold War*, 64.

COIN training at Air University's Warfare Systems School at Maxwell AFB.³⁹⁰

Another method to streamline training was that USAF advisers going to Vietnam received their final qualification in the A-1H after they arrived in the country rather than receiving the A-1H training from the Navy in the United States. At the time, the Air Force did not have any A-1Hs in the United States.³⁹¹

During the 1960s, devices that would simplify training and save time and money were being implemented into USAF training curriculum. More expensive and technologically complicated weapons and support systems meant that the Air Force developed specialized training devices to simplify training as well as save time and money. For example, flight simulators were used to train pilots and navigators while other devices were used to teach maintenance and the operation of missiles along with electronic countermeasures, radiological survey, and simulation of space travel.³⁹²

4.4.3 Air Force schools thematic area

Although each service had specialized training to meet unique operational demands, there were also common training facilities used by all services for some specialists. For example, the Air Force sent about 4,465 students to Army and Navy schools and 2,347 Army and Navy personnel entered Air Force schools during 1965.³⁹³

Air Force training also included simulated conditions. In 1966, the Air Force established a training range at the Army's White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico, to replicate hunt-and-kill missions directed at surface-to-air missiles as well as radar-directed anti-aircraft guns.³⁹⁴ Both skills were critical to the Air Force's air combat missions in Southeast Asia.

The TAC was located in the United States and consisted of three specialized centers—Tactical Air Warfare, Tactical Air Reconnaissance, and Special Air Warfare. These centers maintained close ties with all of

³⁹⁰ DoD, *Department of Defense Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1965*, 347.

³⁹¹ *ibid.*

³⁹² *ibid.*, 348–349.

³⁹³ *ibid.*, 348.

³⁹⁴ DoD, *Department of Defense Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1966*, 399.

USAF operational organizations, but especially with the 7th Air Force that commanded Southeast Asia. The centers focused on meeting the tactical demands of changing warfare by devising new tactics and techniques from lessons learned from combat.³⁹⁵

Air operations for Southeast Asia were directed from the Pacific Air Forces (PACAF) at Hickam AFB, Hawaii. As a result, PACAF became one of the largest USAF commands, second only to SAC in size. In 1966, the base grew from three wings to accommodate 14 wings and a personnel increase from 67,000 to 130,000.³⁹⁶

Nevertheless, because of the growing costs of weapons and support systems, additional specialized training devices were implemented to simplify training and to save time and money. Flight simulators were used to train pilots and navigators, and other devices were applied to teach maintenance and operation of missiles, electronic countermeasures (ECM), radiological survey, and simulation of space travel.³⁹⁷

USAF Survival School

Survival training was an important training component for airmen bound for Vietnam. The USAF Survival and Special Training School at Stead AFB, Nevada, trained approximately 4,429 Air Force and Air National Guard (ANG) combat crew personnel during 1965. The training concentrated on survival, evasion, and escape techniques as well as the protocol for being captured. To more effectively train crews headed for Southeast Asia, in April 1965, the Air Force set up a Pacific Air Command (PACAF) jungle survival school at Clark Air Base (AB) in the Philippines. This augmented the aircrew training offered at the tropic survival school at Albrook AFB, Panama Canal Zone.³⁹⁸

In May 1966, the USAF Survival School moved from Stead AFB, Nevada, to Fairchild AFB, Washington, when Stead AFB was closed. The choice of Fairchild AFB, which had more room for training, reflected the growing number of airmen assignments to Southeast Asia where evading the enemy, escaping capture, and survival after capture were critical skills.

³⁹⁵ DoD, *Department of Defense Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1966*, 352.

³⁹⁶ *ibid.*, 353.

³⁹⁷ DoD, *Department of Defense Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1965*, 348-349.

³⁹⁸ *ibid.*, 347.

The Survival School was run by the 3636th Combat Crew Training Group (Survival) (CCTG) under the Air Training Command (ATC). The training unit was established on 1 March 1966 at Fairchild AFB (Figure 64).³⁹⁹ At that time, training in survival techniques was spread over nearly 100 training schools in the Air Force. For example, in addition to the schools at Clark AFB and Albrook AFB, there was a TAC Sea Survival School at Homestead AFB, Florida. On 1 April 1971, all training was consolidated under the newly organized 3636th Combat Crew Training Wing (Survival), ATC at Fairchild AFB, which was now responsible for the entire Air Force.⁴⁰⁰ Curricula at the Fairchild AFB USAF Survival School included basic combat survival and survival instructor courses. A helicopter detachment was added in 1971, as the Air Force had determined that “85 percent of downed aircrews were rescued within six hours after bailout.”⁴⁰¹ The wing also played a role in debriefing the POWs returning from Vietnam. Once the U.S. military had left Vietnam, the ATC closed both the tropic and jungle survival schools in 1975.⁴⁰² Survival training is still conducted at Fairchild AFB.

Figure 64. The USAF Survival School complex at Fairchild AFB, Washington, in 1966 (USAF photo).



³⁹⁹ U.S. Air Force 336th Training Group Office of History, “A Brief History of the 336th Training Group,” (Fairchild AFB, WA, 2012), 1, Accessed online: <http://www.fairchild.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-130103-052.pdf>.

⁴⁰⁰ *ibid.*

⁴⁰¹ *ibid.*, 14.

⁴⁰² *ibid.*, 1.

Technical training programs

Technical training programs also increased their enrollments in response to the Vietnam War's demands. For example, at Keesler Technical Training Center at Keesler AFB, Mississippi, the enrollment jumped from 10,089 in December 1964 to 16,495 a year later. Keesler Technical Training Center was the USAF location for electronics technical training, but similar enrollment increases were experienced at other technical training centers. Technical training centers at Lowery AFB, Colorado; Sheppard AFB, Texas; and Chanute AFB, Illinois, provided guided missile courses. Lowery AFB also provided courses related to atomic weapons, training devices, and photography, and Chanute AFB also provided courses on industrial materials used in aircraft. Due to increased students at all the technical training centers, personnel resources of the ATC were taxed because its best instructors were ordered to active service in support of the war effort, leading to a diminished quality of student training.⁴⁰³

Professional military education

As previously stated, the USAF mission was divided during the Vietnam War era between meeting the demands of that war while still providing Cold War military readiness. This dual mission brought about staffing problems because flying missions in Vietnam was often perceived as more glamorous than monitoring the nation's nuclear arsenal.

Air Force Institute of Technology

To attract personnel to the perceived less-glamorous types of duty, SAC offered professional military education through the Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT) at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. However, AFIT also provided support for the Southeast Asia efforts by training logisticians and developing engineering solutions for problems caused by the tropical Southeast Asian climate. As a result of these two initiatives, the AFIT campus experienced a building boom throughout the 1960s, which gave the school a more academic, rather than military, appearance.⁴⁰⁴ By 1968, AFIT supported the war in Southeast Asia by training logisticians and

⁴⁰³ Winkler, *Training to Fight: Training and Education during the Cold War*, 63.

⁴⁰⁴ *ibid.*, 64.

finding solutions to engineering problems posed by the tropical climate in Southeast Asia.⁴⁰⁵

Air War College and Air Command and Staff College

Although the Air Force had an increased demand for pilots to serve in Southeast Asia, the number of students attending the Air War College and the Air Command and Staff College (both at Maxwell AFB) was purposefully reduced to 30 percent of normal levels, beginning in 1968. The Air University's Squadron Officer School also received quota reductions. These reductions remained in effect until 1971.⁴⁰⁶

Special Air Warfare Center

The Special Air Warfare Center was opened in April 1962 at Eglin AFB, Florida. As the center completed five years of operation, the Special Air Warfare School was activated as the fifth of the center's specialized units for Air Commando training.⁴⁰⁷

4.4.4 Air Force housing thematic area

As was true with other military services, WWII buildings on USAF bases often had been adapted and reused to meet the housing, training, or administrative requirements of the Vietnam War. However, much of the modernization of USAF facilities was concentrated on making living quarters more attractive to recruits and officers, both through renovating older barracks designs and building new housing facilities. Beginning in the 1950s, construction was underway for contemporary barracks complexes, BOQs, and family housing, which was sometimes followed by later changes as described below.

Barracks complexes

Barracks complexes consisted of several dormitory buildings grouped around shared facilities like mess halls, classrooms, and squadron headquarters. Composite recruit training and housing facilities of the early 1960s updated the barracks complexes of the 1950s. The new facilities housed recruits in open-bay squad rooms and included classrooms,

⁴⁰⁵ Winkler, *Training to Fight: Training and Education during the Cold War*, 63.

⁴⁰⁶ *ibid.*, 64.

⁴⁰⁷ DoD, *Department of Defense Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1967*, 371–372.

offices, and a dining hall functioning as a self-contained, permanent building. Examples of this type of building were built in 1966 at Chanute AFB, Illinois, and in 1968 at Lackland AFB, Texas. By 1970, Air Force officials had found these buildings to be extremely effective, so funding was requested to build one of the 1,000-student buildings at each of the four technical training centers: Chanute AFB (its second such building), Keesler AFB, Lowery AFB, and Sheppard AFB.⁴⁰⁸

Although not a technical training center, Lackland AFB saw nine similar recruit training and housing facilities constructed on base during the 1960s. Each building housed 1,000 personnel and included spaces for dining halls and classrooms. The buildings had 10 wings that each housed one squad of 100 recruits in open rooms with communal toilets (Figure 65). The buildings were constructed so that outdoor training could be conducted under the wings that were cantilevered over a concrete pad.⁴⁰⁹ Even throughout the late-1960s, the Air Force continued to rely on common-room barracks because of the increase in troop levels (Figure 66).

Figure 65. Recruit training and housing facility, Lackland AFB, early 1970s (37th Training Wing).



⁴⁰⁸ Kuranda, et al., *Air Force and Navy Unaccompanied Personnel Housing during the Cold War Era (1946–1989)*, 5-38.

⁴⁰⁹ *ibid.*

Figure 66. Interior of a common-room barracks at Lackland AFB, Texas, October 1968 (NARA RG 342-B).



Additional construction on the east side of Lackland AFB was accomplished in 1971 when the main Base Exchange complex was built on an area where 109 WWII barracks had stood before being torn down between 1966 and 1971. On the west side of Lackland AFB, contractors built more facilities for recruit housing and training during that same time period. Gaining permanence had become a priority by 1976, as seen from the rapid removal of temporary buildings.⁴¹⁰

Bachelor officers quarters

During the 1960s, the Air Force experienced an increase in unaccompanied airmen. As a result, it sought waivers in the 1960s for the 32-space BOQ limit per installation. The resulting increase affected the design and organization of BOQ buildings; for example, 128- and 56-person BOQs were built. As part of the housing modernization campaign, BOQs built during the 1960s featured more privacy by using residential-type designs with one bathroom per officer. Other types of BOQs designed

⁴¹⁰ Joint Base San Antonio, "A Brief History of the 502D Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio," n.d. Accessed online: <http://www.jbsa.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-120515-030.pdf>.

during the 1960s were motel-type and high-rise designs. These residential types of BOQs were estimated to be the most cost-effective and were built at many bases around the United States including:

- Grand Forks AFB, North Dakota
- Beale AFB, California
- Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona
- Cannon AFB, New Mexico
- Vandenberg AFB, California
- England AFB, Louisiana⁴¹¹

Mobilization barracks

Mobilization barracks used by the Air Force were often WWII temporary barracks in various conditions. Consequently, a priority for the Air Force was modernizing or replacing those buildings. Many were renovated to the extent that some of the buildings were reclassified as permanent.⁴¹²

Family housing

Housing inadequacies during the Vietnam War period were a widespread problem throughout the military, and Air Force housing was no different. By 1964, the Air Force still had about 78,300 officers and airmen that were improperly housed according to Air Force standards. Added to this total were the approximately 100,000 lower-grade married airmen that needed better family housing at rental payments they could afford.⁴¹³ Building campaigns to remedy the housing shortage were underway by 1965 and included 2,173 new housing units built in the United States, while 2,260 were still under construction from appropriated funds and 408 units were under construction and being paid for by the sale of surplus commodities overseas.⁴¹⁴

The Air Force housing that was built during 1965 consisted of townhouses and garden-type apartments wherever they were thought to be the most economical and suitable option. During this time, a new two-story Air Force design was developed that was based on the highly successful one-

⁴¹¹ Kuranda et al. *Air Force and Navy Unaccompanied Personnel Housing During the Cold War Era (1946–1989)*. 5-38, 5-39.

⁴¹² *ibid.* 5-41, 5-42.

⁴¹³ DoD *Department of Defense Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1965*, 340.

⁴¹⁴ *ibid.*

story relocatable house. The two-story design was erected in versions that accommodated two, four, or six families.⁴¹⁵ The two-story design was called the USAHOME III relocatable house, which the DoD approved for use during the 1965 building program. Construction bids for the two-story housing units were let and at the close of the bidding period, contracts were being prepared on 292 of these units.⁴¹⁶ Overall within the United States, there were 985 relocatable units erected at 13 installations.⁴¹⁷

During 1965, other building campaigns to improve family housing included contracts for 150 duplex units at Vandenberg AFB; a 100-unit high-rise apartment building at Langley AFB, Virginia; a 200-unit terrace apartment building at Laurence G. Hanscom Field, Massachusetts; 1,649 townhouse units spread over nine U.S. bases; and 100 units of conventional housing at Hickam AFB, Hawaii. In addition to the new construction, the Air Force also let \$2 million in contracts to improve, alter, and repair older quarters and bring them up to modern standards.⁴¹⁸

Other personnel support facilities

As Air Force bases grew to accommodate the increase in personnel levels, construction of additional religious facilities was also authorized. In 1965, there were already 445 chapels and chapel annexes at Air Force installations in the United States. During the 1965 session, Congress authorized the construction of nine more chapels with annexes, four chapel annexes, and one modification to a chapel for an estimated total cost of \$3.5 million.⁴¹⁹

4.4.5 Air Force medical facilities thematic area

Medical evacuation

The USAF played a major role in the evacuation of wounded personnel from Vietnam by using the Military Airlift Command's (MAC) fixed-wing aircraft capability to carry the seriously wounded from in-theater medical facilities to hospitals in Japan and the United States. Aeromedical evacuation was improved in 1966 when MAC began using C-141s to make

⁴¹⁵ DoD *Department of Defense Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1965*, 340.

⁴¹⁶ *ibid.*

⁴¹⁷ *ibid.*

⁴¹⁸ *ibid.*

⁴¹⁹ *ibid.*, 345.

the two flights from Vietnam. One flight flew from Vietnam via Yokota Air Base, Japan, to Travis AFB in 15.5 hours. A second flight route was scheduled from Vietnam to Andrews AFB that took 20.5 hours.⁴²⁰ There was also an occasional use of Air Force helicopters to assist in transporting casualties from the front lines.⁴²¹ The numbers of soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen transported by these methods were high. At the upper limit, over 10,000 patients were evacuated by the Air Force during the Tet Offensive.⁴²² Overall, MAC evacuated over 400,000 medical patients between 1965 and 1973 (Figure 67).⁴²³

Figure 67. MAC returns a former POW of the Viet Cong to Fort Campbell, Kentucky, November 1969 (NARA SC655123).



Air Force Nurse Corps personnel arrived in South Vietnam in early 1966 and were assigned to the 12th U.S. Air Force Hospital in Cam Ranh Bay. Later arrivals saw duty serving within South Vietnam in aeromedical evacuation squadrons and in dispensaries throughout the area. Additionally, Air Force nurses served on the evacuation flights from South

⁴²⁰ DoD, *Department of Defense Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1967*, 380.

⁴²¹ Howard, *History of Aeromedical Evacuation in the Korean War and Vietnam War*, 38, 49.

⁴²² United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration, "Military Nurses in the Vietnam War," Part 1 of 3.

⁴²³ United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration, "The United States Air Force in the Vietnam War." Accessed online: http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/education/us_air_force_in_vietnam/.

Vietnam to hospital facilities in Japan, the Philippines, and the United States (Figure 68).⁴²⁴

Figure 68. An Air Force nurse and a Red Cross nurse attend to patients aboard an Air Force C-141 for an evacuation flight from Vietnam to the U.S., 1967 (USAF photo).



Throughout the war, many of these patients were either treated or transited through Travis AFB. During the Vietnam War, Travis assumed responsibility as the West Coast terminus for MAC aeromedical transports. In fact, throughout the Vietnam War, wounded troops were most often transported to Travis AFB. The spring of 1968 recorded increasing arrivals of wounded (sometimes over 5,000 per month), at Travis, with the David Grant USAF Hospital receiving an average of 4,070 patients a month throughout 1968.⁴²⁵ At the height of this effort, over 9,000 patients (all injured during the February 1969 TET Offensive) were

⁴²⁴ United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration, "Military Nurses in the Vietnam War, Part 1 of 3."

⁴²⁵ Gary Leiser, *A History of Travis Air Force Base 1943-1996*, (Sacramento, CA: Travis Air Force Base Historical Society, 1996), 60.

airlifted aboard MAC evacuation flights.⁴²⁶ The hospital at Travis AFB was full from 1966 to 1969, even though most patients only stayed a few days before being sent on to Army hospitals or Veterans Administration hospitals across the country, preferably nearer an individual patient's hometown.⁴²⁷

A grimmer duty also was conducted at Travis AFB during the war, as the base became the principal receiving station for war fatalities flown back for U.S. burial (Figure 69). According to records kept by the Travis Mortuary Affairs Office, 10,523 fallen servicemen passed through Travis AFB in 1968 alone.⁴²⁸ Travis AFB served as the sole receiving station for Army war dead on the West Coast, accounting for 73 percent of the arrivals at the base. As of 1 July 1970, the Travis Mortuary Affairs Office was consolidated with those of other military services at the nearby Oakland Army Base, where all caskets arriving at Travis AFB were then transferred.⁴²⁹

Figure 69. Return of Vietnam War dead to Travis AFB, c. 1973 (60th AMW Historian).



⁴²⁶ Leiser, *A History of Travis Air Force Base 1943-1996*, 59.

⁴²⁷ *ibid.*, 60.

⁴²⁸ Diana Stuart Newlin, *Images of America: Travis Air Force Base*, (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2004), 59.

⁴²⁹ Leiser, *A History of Travis Air Force Base 1943-1996*, 60.

USAF Medical Service facilities potentially affected by the engagement in Vietnam were hospitals, mortuaries, and medical research centers.

Hospitals

The Air Force Medical Service established hospitals at each Air Force base during the 1950s. Many of these hospitals were expanded to accommodate the increase in patients as a result of the Vietnam War. Major hospitals were constructed or developed at Elmendorf, Travis, Andrews, and Lackland Air Force bases. The facility at Lackland AFB became the Air Force's largest. Constructed in 1957, the original 500-bed facility had its capacity doubled in 1961 (Figure 70).⁴³⁰

Figure 70. Wilford Hall Medical Center, Lackland AFB, Texas, 1957 (USAF photo).



The 100-bed hospital at Travis AFB was opened in 1949, and it expanded during the Korean War with a new wing and 200 more beds. The Vietnam War brought more hospital expansion to the newly christened David Grant USAF Hospital at Travis (Figure 71), with another addition built during 1966–1967. This \$700,000 project included a new dental clinic and about

⁴³⁰ US Air Force Medical Service, "A Brief History of the Air Force Medical Service through the mid-1990s," www.afms.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-130612-024.pdf.

100 more beds for the casualty staging unit adjacent to the main hospital building.⁴³¹

Figure 71. Travis Air Force Base hospital complex in 1966 (60th AMW Historian).



Mortuaries

Caring for the remains of the fatalities of war has been a component task of the Army Quartermaster Corps since the Civil War, and was conducted by the Mortuary Affairs personnel of the Quartermaster Corps.⁴³² Although the Air Force established the first mortuary facilities in South Vietnam, because most of the fatalities were Army personnel, operational control of the facilities were transferred to the Army on 1 July 1966. The Air Force remained involved, however, as they provided the airlift effort to bring the remains back to U.S. soil. As stated in the previous section, processing facilities were available at Travis AFB; facilities were also available at Dover AFB for East Coast airlift arrivals. Personnel at these mortuaries provided preparation of the remains for forwarding to their families. The wholesale return of remains during conflict was primarily instituted during the Vietnam War due to cargo jet capability, with the entire process taking 7–10 days from battlefield to receipt by families. This

⁴³¹ Chet B. Snow, *Travis AFB: 40 years on Active Duty 1943-1983*, Snow, (Fairfield, CA: Travis AFB Historical Society, 1983), 45, 53.; Leiser, *A History of Travis Air Force Base 1943-1996*, 28, 70.

⁴³² Joint Mortuary Affairs Center, "Joint Mortuary Affairs Center History," (Fort Lee, VA, 2014), accessed online: http://www.quartermaster.army.mil/mac/jmac_history.html.

return process eliminated the need to establish in-theater temporary cemeteries, as was done in previous wars.⁴³³

Medical research centers

Air Force medical research has primarily focused on medical issues related to aviation. In 1959, a new Aerospace Medical Center opened at Brooks Air Force Base, combining the School of Aviation Medicine (from Randolph AFB), the Lackland Hospital and the Air Force Epidemiology Laboratory (also at Lackland), and the Medical Service School which had been at Gunter AFB, Alabama. It is unknown if Vietnam-related research was conducted at this facility.⁴³⁴

4.4.6 Air Force logistics facilities thematic area

Logistics in South Vietnam

Air transport gave the allies in Vietnam a powerful tool for mobility and supply, permitting major operations in remote areas on short notice. Airlift also made it possible to economize on defensive forces by affording a fast means of reinforcing threatened regions, either from off shore or from other parts of Vietnam. Transports routinely sustained isolated garrisons, when necessary by parachute. Finally, the transport force conducted a countrywide passenger and logistics service and made immediate deliveries of needed spare parts to repair grounded aircraft.⁴³⁵

The initial setup of airlift capacity in South Vietnam occurred in 1962, with two squadrons of Air Force C-123s providing the services under the 315th Air Division. A regional airlift system was in place, with most supplies and personnel arriving via Clark Air Force Base, Philippines.⁴³⁶ The transport system grew over the next two years, and a centralized management system was put in place to control aerial ports, in-country transport, and airlift detachments. Additional cargo reception and transport hubs were established to relieve the congestion in Saigon. Most materiel arrived at

⁴³³ Mortuary Affairs Center (MAC), "Memorial Affairs Activities - Republic of Vietnam," (Fort Lee, VA: Army Quartermaster Museum, 2000), accessed online: <http://www.qmmuseum.lee.army.mil/mortuary/MA-Vietnam.htm>.

⁴³⁴ Edward B. Alcott, "Aerospace Medicine, Air Force," *Handbook of Texas Online*, Texas State Historical Association, 2010, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/siawf>.

⁴³⁵ Ray L. Bowers, "Tactical Airlift," in the series *The United States Air Force in Southeast Asia*, (Washington, D.C.: Office of Air Force History, United States Air Force, 1983), vii.

⁴³⁶ *ibid.*, 114.

redistribution points by water, and it was then moved by air to the interior. Redistribution activities were established at Da Nang, Pleiku, Nha Trang, Can Tho, Bien Hoa, and Qui Nhon, along with the air base at Tan Son Nhut.⁴³⁷

As the transport system matured, most logistical and tactical cargo movement were requested with an advance notice of 24–48 hours. On-hand stocks were matched with requests, and most shipments left the following day on one of the ever-growing fleet of planes. The Air Force was primarily responsible for tactical aerial port activities, while the Army prepared parachutes, platforms, and cargo for air drops.⁴³⁸

Large C-130s arrived in Vietnam very shortly after the Gulf of Tonkin incidents in August 1964 to carry personnel and equipment. The planes and crews went to work flying supplies from Clark AFB, one of the offshore locations where all C-130s were eventually stationed.⁴³⁹ As the troop buildup proceeded in the mid-1960s, the use of C-130s was greatly expanded in South Vietnam, which vastly expanded cargo capacity. By June 1965, a small group of C-130s was based at Tan Son Nhut. To support the greater transport capability, the airfields and cargo-handling facilities needed expansion, and new sites needed to be developed. A large logistics air terminal was constructed at Cam Rahn Bay in 1966, in line with the development of the area as a major port.⁴⁴⁰ The larger system needed greater management, and the 834th Air Division was established in 1966 to manage the airlift system.⁴⁴¹

Apart from tactical uses, the in-country airlift capacity was also utilized as a backup when surface transport was too slow. This use included transport of passengers, mail, high-value or emergency items, and perishable foods.⁴⁴² All cargo would enter the port system from depots (mostly manned by the Army), usually in the evening. The shipments were prioritized for movement and then organized into pallet loads, with some sent off the next morning, and others held as backlog. Mobility teams were

⁴³⁷ Bowers, "Tactical Airlift," 117, 120.

⁴³⁸ *ibid.*, 119, 137.

⁴³⁹ *ibid.*, 144; other stations included Naha and Tachikawa, Japan.

⁴⁴⁰ *ibid.*, 176.

⁴⁴¹ *ibid.*, 169.

⁴⁴² *ibid.*, 185.

sent to forward locations during tactical operations to provide support for unloading and cargo management.⁴⁴³

Over the next two years, airlifted cargo amounts increased by two-thirds, provision of equipment and facilities improved, and efficiency rose. The number of cargo and passenger-related facility sites leveled off to around 40 by mid-1967. Monthly rates of cargo handled at the aerial ports peaked at 209,000 tons in March 1968, and Cam Rahn Bay grew to become the major in-country point of origin for air cargo.⁴⁴⁴ With the drawdown of troops, the airlift system scaled down, particularly after 1970. As incoming cargo rates declined, outgoing passenger rates increased as military personnel returned to the United States.⁴⁴⁵

Airlift capability

The Air Force was instrumental in airlifting troops and supplies for the armed forces to Southeast Asia. The MAC trained, equipped, and operated global airlift forces during the Vietnam War as well as operated bases and air routes while also maintaining airlift command and control systems.⁴⁴⁶ Airlift responsibilities were shared between the 21st Air Force at McGuire AFB and the 22^d Air Force at Travis AFB. Other specialized airlift functions were executed by the 89th Military Airlift Wing, Special Missions, Andrews AFB; the 443^d Military Airlift Wing, Training, Tinker AFB; and the 1405th Aeromedical Transport Wing, Scott AFB. By 1967, the Air Force was the single manager responsible for strategic airlift as well as the executive director for DoD international air passenger traffic under MAC.⁴⁴⁷

In response to the Vietnam War, MAC operations were significantly impacted. During 1967, the command carried a record 2,349,695 passengers and 635,644 tons of cargo. Of these totals, 1,595,243 passengers and 528,200 tons of cargo moved to the Pacific area. The route to Southeast Asia was 10,000 miles, and the Air Force reduced the delivery time to six to nine days. The reduction in time increased U.S. combat capabilities, but also saved millions of dollars by allowing the Air Force

⁴⁴³ Bowers, "Tactical Airlift," 192, 194.

⁴⁴⁴ *Ibid.*, 241, 252.

⁴⁴⁵ *Ibid.*, 467–468.

⁴⁴⁶ MATS was reorganized into the Military Airlift Command (MAC) at the end of 1965.

⁴⁴⁷ DoD, *Department of Defense Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1967*, 377.

and Army to reduce and centralize supply inventories along with cutting the number and size of overseas depots.⁴⁴⁸

To meet the logistical demands of quickly shipping supplies and troops, the Air Force reorganized existing air bases for greater efficiency and also acquired new ones. For example, in the United States, MAC assumed control of Norton AFB in 1966.⁴⁴⁹ By 1967, MAC was airlifting personnel and materiel directly to Southeast Asia from seven bases in the United States. Passengers and cargo were shipped from Travis AFB, Norton AFB, McChord AFB, and McGuire AFB. Flights that only carried cargo left from Dover AFB, Charleston AFB, and Kelly AFB.⁴⁵⁰

In addition to military transports, commercial airlines also carried cargo and passengers under MAC contracts (Figure 72).⁴⁵¹ The use of commercial carriers to transport troops was formalized as early as 1951, under an agreement between the U.S. government and the President of the Air Transport Administration. The voluntary program was used to supplement DoD airlift needs that exceeded DoD capability. The Civil Reserve Air Fleet (CRAF) airlines operated and maintained their own aircraft, which were used during the Vietnam War for troop and cargo transportation. The civilian air fleet expanded rapidly in response to the demands of the war:⁴⁵²

The most striking increase came in contract carrier operations. These carriers airlifted more passengers and cargo across the Pacific in the month of December 1966 than had been handled by all U.S. civil and military air transports in their best year of transpacific operations during the Korean War. From six certified carriers participating in the airlift in January 1966, the number grew to twenty by 1967 and to twenty-three at the height of the build-up in 1968. By the latter year the commercial airlines were hauling 91 percent of the passenger traffic to Vietnam and 24 percent of the air cargo.

⁴⁴⁸ DoD, *Department of Defense Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1967*, 378.

⁴⁴⁹ *ibid.*

⁴⁵⁰ *ibid.*

⁴⁵¹ *ibid.*, 379.

⁴⁵² Theodore Joseph Crackel, "A History of the Civil Reserve Air Fleet," (Washington, D.C.: Air Force History & Museums Program, 1998), 146.

Figure 72. Army Troops board commercial flight from Travis AFB to Vietnam, ca. 1968 (60th AMW Historian).



Travis AFB became the primary West Coast aerial port for troops and supplies heading west to support the war and for those returning to the United States. Between 1965 and 1975, Travis AFB would remain the DoD's busiest military port. Travis would provide facilities for virtually every aspect related to military airlift during conflict, including aircraft and associated maintenance structures, storage for all types of supplies in warehouses and in open areas, refueling operations, passenger facilities, cargo-handling capabilities, and the associated administrative offices. The refueling operations included support for moving fighter aircraft and B-52 bombers to the conflict zone.⁴⁵³

By August 1965, a daily airlift service between Travis AFB and Tan Son Nhut Air Base in the Republic of Vietnam was in place using C-141A Starlifters.⁴⁵⁴ At the end of December 1965, Travis AFB C-133 and C-141 aircraft provided airlift for elements of the Army's 25th Infantry Division from Hickam AFB to Pleiku in central Vietnam, over 6,000 miles away. This complex and lengthy operation required 214 airlifts over one month by the Travis AFB crews.⁴⁵⁵ This deployment included moving 2,952

⁴⁵³ Mark Wilderman, "Travis AFB History Significant Events," (Travis AFB: 60th AMW History Office, 2011), 8.

⁴⁵⁴ *ibid.*

⁴⁵⁵ *ibid.*

troops and 4,479 tons of equipment.⁴⁵⁶ In the autumn of 1966, the Army's 1st Cavalry Division utilized the Travis AFB airlift capacity to transport approximately 9,000 replacement troops to Vietnam. This complex operation was facilitated by establishing an Army liaison team at Travis AFB to assist with scheduling.⁴⁵⁷ While these large operations took place occasionally, there was a constant daily flow of personnel and materiel from Travis AFB to Southeast Asia. Between 1966 and 1970, over 5,579,000 passengers and 1,097,924 tons of cargo were processed at Travis AFB (Figure 73).⁴⁵⁸

Figure 73. Travis AFB's crowded aerial port in 1967 (USAF).



Technical schools

The School of Systems and Logistics, Air Force Institute of Technology at Wright-Patterson AFB trained Air Force personnel during the Vietnam War. The curricula emphasized the challenges of supporting forces at a great distance and in a very different climatic environment.⁴⁵⁹ The campus underwent expansion in the 1960s to accommodate the training needs of Air Force personnel concerned with logistics and engineering.⁴⁶⁰

⁴⁵⁶ Newlin, *Images of America: Travis Air Force Base*, 56.

⁴⁵⁷ Tolson, *Vietnam Studies: Airmobility 1961-1971*, 118, 120.

⁴⁵⁸ Leiser, *A History of Travis Air Force Base 1943-1996*, 58.

⁴⁵⁹ Winkler, *Training to Fight: Training and Education during the Cold War*, 166-167.

⁴⁶⁰ *ibid.*

Altus Air Force Base, Oklahoma, became host to the MAC Training Center in 1967, and the base came under MAC control in 1968. Aircrew training in C-141 and C-5 transport aircraft was provided by the 443d Military Airlift Wing. The Vietnam War era was only the beginning, as aircrew training continues under the 97th Air Mobility Wing.⁴⁶¹

Airfields

McGuire AFB, New Jersey, was the East Coast partner to Travis AFB in terms of troop and supply transport roles during the Vietnam War, serving the 21st Air Force.⁴⁶² McGuire AFB transported troops and supplies to South Vietnam in vast quantities, and it was the largest air port on the East Coast (Figure 74). In 1973, POWs from North Vietnam were airlifted to McGuire AFB.

Figure 74. Early 1960s card showing MATS transport on the airfield at McGuire AFB, New Jersey (USAF photo).



Terminals

Terminals were needed for military airfield passengers similar to civilian airports. The passenger flight terminal at Travis AFB was built in 1946, but it was heavily utilized during the Vietnam War (Figure 75). Military personnel both deploying to South Vietnam and returning to the United

⁴⁶¹ *ibid.*, 168.

⁴⁶² Global Security.org. "McGuire AFB, New Jersey," <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/facility/mcguire.htm>

States made use of the facility. A 20,000 square foot addition was constructed in 1967, and the administrative and passenger check-in areas were remodeled that same year. A cafeteria was opened in the terminal in 1968, and a base exchange was opened across the corridor in 1970.⁴⁶³

Figure 75. Passengers awaiting transport, air terminal, Travis AFB, California, 1960s
(60th AMW Historian)



Depots

Depots and other types of supply facilities managed and distributed Air Force materiel. The Warner Robins Air Materiel Area (WRAMA) at Warner Robins AFB, Georgia, provided vital supply support in the Vietnam War effort. As shown by the “Air Materiel” title, the facility modified and maintained weapons systems such as the B-57 Canberra bomber, and the AC-119G and K gunships. Other systems serviced and maintained at WRAMA during the Vietnam War were “the AC-130 Gunship, various helicopters, the C-141, the C-130, the C-123, and the C-124 cargo aircraft.”⁴⁶⁴

⁴⁶³ Leiser, *A History of Travis Air Force Base 1943-1996*, 70.

⁴⁶⁴ William Head, “A Brief History of WR-ALC and Robins AFB,” (Warner Robins Air Logistics Center, GA: Office of History, 1991), accessed online: <http://www.robins.af.mil/History/temp/HISRAFB.htm>.

5 Conclusion

While the DoD's impact on Vietnam during the Vietnam War period was extensive, there is minimal documentation that records the physical changes the war had on the military's built environment in the United States. While this report documents the lack of a unified building campaign in response to the Vietnam War's requirements, it also highlights that many military bases were impacted significantly by increases in troop levels, changing training requirements, and the engineering demands of the Southeast Asian geography. While many Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force facilities were reopened, expanded, or adapted, there was no identifying architectural style used during that time. The reuse of WWII and 1950s buildings was common, and new construction was often part of the larger modernization initiatives that were being executed by the DoD during the 1950s and 1960s.

The Army experienced the largest growth among the U.S. military services from the demands of the Vietnam War. As a result, Army facilities were designed and constructed to meet the increases in troops and troop training as well as the modernization initiatives that were implemented throughout the mid-twentieth century. Army construction during this time resulted in barracks complexes that consolidated many functions such as troop housing, classroom and training areas, battalion headquarters, chapels, clinics, PXs, and other amenities that would make a soldier's life more convenient. Related to this were new school facilities and new ground training facilities.

Like the Army, Marine Corps bases in the United States underwent construction booms to meet the demands of housing and training the increased troop levels. These construction phases were intertwined with the needs of the effort in Vietnam as well as the overall modernization efforts of the military throughout the later 20th century.

The Navy's role in Vietnam was multifaceted and included involvement in shipping, aviation, construction, and combat. Consequently, Navy construction during Vietnam included housing, training facilities, and logistics facilities as well as the overall modernization efforts of the U.S. military during the later 20th century.

The role of the Air Force in Vietnam required that Air Force facilities accommodate moderate increases in airmen. Most of the Air Force training was to meet the demand for fixed-wing and rotary-wing pilots and for training support personnel for Air Force missions in Southeast Asia. During this time, increased construction on Air Force bases was also part of the DoD's effort to modernize facilities. Construction related to the Vietnam War efforts spread across Air Force facilities and included modernized housing (e.g., barracks complexes and BOQs), training facilities, and supporting facilities such as hospitals, research laboratories, and logistics facilities.

One of the ways the Vietnam War differed from previous 20th century conflicts was the long duration—over a decade. The U.S. involvement was gradual, and the focus was on meeting immediate demands. There was no need to repeat the massive WWII effort to establish and fully construct working installations in a few months time. As a result, there was no major overarching construction program across the DoD as a response to the U.S. military activities in the Vietnam War. Consequently, there was also no large-scale effort to produce standardized designs to be replicated across the country. Aside from new training methods such as “Quick Kill” ranges and Viet Cong villages, construction was largely piecemeal and focused on individualized training needs.

The intention of this document was to provide a broad overview of activities and construction that took place within the United States to support the war in Vietnam. This is a very wide and deep subject, and that fact limited the level of detail provided in this report. This document lays out the subject and gives enough detail to enable the creation of more in-depth subcontexts. These subcontexts will look at individual missions and break down the associated property types associated with that mission for purposes of determining individual significance. The subcontexts will also determine the character-defining features of those associated property types. As a result, future subcontexts will enable standardized determinations of NRHP eligibility to be made in a process that is applicable to many installations and that allows comparison between an installation's facilities as well as between the same property types across installations.

5.1 Categories of historic properties

The identification of historically significant properties is achieved through evaluation of their position within a larger historic context. According to the NRHP, historic contexts are defined as "...the patterns, themes, or trends in history by which a specific occurrence, property, or site is understood and its meaning (and ultimately its significance) within prehistory or history is made clear.⁴⁶⁵ A historic property is determined significant or not significant by applying standardized National Register Criteria for Evaluation to property within its historical context. The NRHP categorizes significant properties as buildings, sites, districts, structures, or objects.⁴⁶⁶

5.2 Criteria for evaluation

The National Register Criteria for Evaluation define how historic properties are significant by categorizing a property's associations with important historic qualifiers. The *National Register Bulletin #15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation* lists four major criteria to which a historic property can be associated: Criterion A—important events, Criterion B—persons, Criterion C—importance in design and construction, and Criterion D—information potential.⁴⁶⁷

5.3 Aspects of historic integrity

In addition to possessing historical significance, to be eligible to the NRHP properties must also retain sufficient physical integrity of features in order to convey their significance.⁴⁶⁸ Historic properties both retain integrity and convey their significance, or they do not. The National Register recognizes seven aspects or qualities of a property that define the concept of integrity. To retain historic integrity, a property must possess several, and usually most, of the seven aspects. The retention of specific aspects of historic integrity is paramount for a property to convey its significance. Determining which of these aspects are most important to a particular property requires knowing why, where, and when the property is significant. The seven aspects of integrity are again listed in *National*

⁴⁶⁵ National Park Service (NPS). *National Register Bulletin #15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*. (Washington, DC: US Department of the Interior, 1991), 7.

⁴⁶⁶ *ibid.*, 9.

⁴⁶⁷ *ibid.*, 12–24 summarized.

⁴⁶⁸ *ibid.*, 44–45.

Register Bulletin #15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation.

Integrity has very specific connotations in defining historic and cultural resources. Integrity is the authenticity of physical characteristics from which resources obtain their significance. Historic properties convey their significance through their integrity. Districts and individual resources are considered significant if they possess a majority of the seven aspects. Properties in a historic district are classified as either “contributing or non-contributing” resources. Contributing resources date from the historic period of significance established for the district. They contribute to the significance and character of the district through their historical associations and/or architectural values. Non-contributing resources are those that, due to the date of construction, alterations, or other factors, do not contribute to the district’s historic significance or character.

5.4 Themes under which Vietnam-era stateside facilities possess significance

Through researching the archival records and developing the overall historic context for DoD construction in the United States during the Vietnam War era, the authors determined that there is one period of significance under Criterion A, from 1962 through 1975. While specific properties may have been constructed, enlarged, or adapted during this time frame, that finding alone is not sufficient for the property to possess significance for Vietnam War-related U.S. military construction efforts. The key to significance is the question: *What properties on DoD installations were constructed or adapted to directly support the United States’ efforts in conducting the Vietnam War?* Also, can the property be placed into one of the thematic areas of ground training, air training, special warfare, schools, housing, medical facilities, and logistics facilities?

In addition to Criterion A, individual buildings might be significant under Criterion C for their architectural design, but Criterion C significance would need to be determined by the installation under a separate architectural context.

Properties may be significant for NRHP Criterion A during this period under one or more of the following historical themes (it is important to note that the listed property types are likely to be significant, but each individual property needs to be investigated at the installation level).

Additionally, the omission of a property type in the following list does not automatically exclude it from potentially having significance under one of the thematic areas.

- Facility was constructed, underwent a major expansion, or was adapted and heavily used during 1962–1975, and was directly related to providing Vietnam War-specialized ground training:
 - Training simulators
 - Training ranges
 - Mock villages

- Facility was constructed, underwent a major expansion, or was adapted and heavily used during 1962–1975, and was directly related to providing Vietnam War-specialized air training:
 - Pilot training
 - Helicopter training
 - Simulators
 - Airfields

- Facility was constructed, underwent a major expansion, or was adapted and heavily used during 1962–1975, and was directly related to providing Vietnam War special warfare training:
 - Administration complex
 - Training simulators
 - Classrooms

- Facility was constructed, underwent a major expansion, or was adapted and heavily used during 1962–1975, and was directly related to providing Vietnam War-specialized education:
 - Schools
 - Academic complexes
 - Training centers

- Facility was constructed, underwent a major expansion, or was adapted and heavily used between 1962-1975, and was directly related to the housing and training of the Vietnam War troop buildup:
 - Barracks complexes (barracks, mess halls, administration buildings, chapels, gymnasiums, branch exchanges, and branch clinics)
 - Classrooms

- Unit Headquarters
- Family housing
- Facility was constructed, underwent a major expansion, or was adapted and heavily used during 1962–1975, and was directly related to meeting the Vietnam War’s medical needs:
 - Hospitals
 - Morgues
 - Medical research laboratories
- Facility was constructed, underwent a major expansion, or was adapted and heavily used during 1962–1975, and was directly related to meeting the Vietnam War’s logistical needs:
 - Depots
 - Ports/Piers
 - Ammunition storage
 - Airfields
 - Terminals

5.5 Breakdown of typical evaluation process

A Cultural Resources Manager (CRM) should use this report to recognize the major trends in the Vietnam War construction efforts to identify facilities that potentially correlate with that period of significance (1962–1975). Because many of the Vietnam War-era buildings were constructed as infill or were the reuse of existing buildings, further research is necessary to determine the historic significance of a building or area.

The following steps will take CRMs through the process of determining NRHP eligibility for particular properties.

1. Determine if the **installation** had an important role in one or more of the context thematic areas for Vietnam-era stateside construction (i.e., ground training, air training, special warfare, schools, housing, medical facilities, and logistics facilities).
2. If the installation had no important role under these themes, then the property does not possess significance for Vietnam-era stateside construction.

3. If “yes” to theme(s), then determine if the **specific property or properties** under review were important on your installation under that theme(s). Sometimes there may be multiple properties in the same area of the installation that may address different themes over different periods of time, but all could be brought together as one Vietnam War-era stateside construction district. Is there a spatial link to the properties? Or are they dispersed, but all mission-related? Fort Benning, for example, has multiple themes but could still be one overall district.
4. If “no” to theme(s), then the **property** under study is not eligible under the Vietnam War-era stateside construction context (but it may be significant for non-Vietnam themes).
5. If “yes” for **individual or groups of properties**, then prepare a historic context that outlines the importance of the property(ies) to the larger theme (e.g., ground training, air training, special warfare, schools, housing, medical facilities, and logistics facilities).
6. Identify the **specific period(s) of significance** (which may be more than one for multiple properties under one theme, or may have multiple properties relating to more than one theme, or may have one property with multiple themes and multiple period(s) of significance). A period of significance is the time span that the property had its most important uses for the Vietnam War (remember that it may be significant for non-Vietnam War themes and periods of significance); it is possible that most missions or endeavors did not last the entire 1962–1975 period. Look at the mission specifically, and then look to see if there are any properties remaining that are significant under the context themes that reflect significance.
7. If a property was constructed prior to the Vietnam War era, but was heavily utilized during the Vietnam War effort and thus falls under the Vietnam period of significance, it should be reevaluated under the Vietnam context even if the property in question was determined “not eligible” for its original construction period.
8. Since this report details how specific properties are significant for the Vietnam War era, this report satisfies the need for a historic context under Criteria Consideration G. Thus, all buildings determined

significant for the Vietnam War era can be evaluated regardless of their age.

9. Determine if the property retains sufficient integrity to tell the story of its importance to its themes, and if it also retains character-defining features. Character-defining features are those elements of the building that are visual representations of historic significance. This determination is made by visual inspection, comparison with historical documents or photographs, and evaluation to measure individual aspects of integrity.

10. SIGNIFICANCE + INTEGRITY = ELIGIBILITY

5.6 Potential concerns with significance and eligibility

When using this historic context as an effort to determine eligibility for installation-specific resources, there are two potential issues that came to light while preparing this document: (1) properties that were constructed before the Vietnam War period of significance but were reused to directly support the war effort, and (2) properties that have been previously determined eligible for the NRHP based on a different area of significance.

Three specific examples of these concerns are given below.

The Bethesda Naval Hospital (now the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center) is eligible for the NRHP under Criterion C for its architectural design and under Criterion A for military, education, and science, but it may also require reevaluation for significance related to its usage during the Vietnam War (periods of significance may need to be extended for historic districts where their use during the Vietnam War was not previously considered). Military hospitals have their own area of significance, and may also have architectural significance, so they may be existing determinations of eligibility.

The passenger air terminal at Travis Air Force Base, California is representative of both concerns. It was constructed in 1946, but it played a pivotal role in moving personnel to Vietnam and bringing them back home. It was determined not eligible for the NRHP in 1996 due to its lack of significance for the Cold War. In cases like this, it would be up to the individual CRM to decide if reevaluation is warranted for the Vietnam War period.

As a facility constructed during the period of significance, the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School Historic District at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, was determined eligible under Cold War criteria, but it also has significance for the Vietnam War effort as a center for special warfare training. The CRM may need to add the Vietnam War significance statement to the eligibility determination for such properties.

5.7 Caveats

This report is a broad overview of DoD stateside construction to support military activities pursuant to the Vietnam War. One of the findings of this context is the high level of reuse of World War II temporary buildings for efforts pertaining to the Vietnam War. All of the World War II temporary buildings are covered by the WWII (1939–1946) Temporary Buildings Programmatic Memorandum of Agreement.

Unaccompanied personnel housing (UPH) units (and their associated mess halls) constructed during the period of significance are covered by the 2006 UPH Program Comment. It may be possible that the remaining buildings in barracks complexes such as administration buildings, chapels, branch exchanges, and branch clinics are historic districts in their own right. Ammunition storage facilities constructed during the period of significance are covered by the 2006 Ammunition Storage Program Comment.

Military family housing was constructed during the period of significance on many installations; however, the family housing construction program at any individual installation may have been part of the larger military construction program. Therefore, installation CRMs may need to look at their installation's specific history to determine if their family housing was constructed to directly support the housing of married personnel associated with a localized troop building for the Vietnam War. In addition, most of the family housing units constructed during the period of significance have been privatized, and the DoD is no longer responsible for NRHP determinations.

Once the actual eligibility determinations are made, it is possible that other important themes may be uncovered. These themes should be analyzed for significance in relation to the Vietnam War as a whole and to the central tenet that a stateside facility was constructed, underwent a

major expansion, or was adapted and heavily used during 1962–1975, and that its use was directly related to supporting the Vietnam War.

5.8 Identifying areas for in-depth research

The thematic areas as previously outlined are: ground training, air training, special warfare training, schools, housing, medical facilities, and logistical facilities. Subcontexts for each of these thematic areas should be developed to include an in-depth historic context, determination of associated property types, and character-defining features. Note that every thematic area may not be equally applicable to each branch of the Armed Services.

Currently, subcontexts are being prepared for (1) *Vietnam War-Era Ground Combat Training and Associated Facilities*, and (2) *Vietnam War-Era Helicopter Training and Use on U.S. Military Installations*. The broader overview context contained in this report can be preliminarily used in determining which properties may be significant on an individual installation by the CRM; however, the follow-on subcontexts will provide the specifics necessary for determinations of eligibility at the installation level.

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Appendix A: Project Proposal Highlights

Project synopsis

DoD Cultural Resource Managers will soon be faced with a large task. The buildup for the Vietnam War included construction of a multitude of mission-related support buildings and structures created on CONUS installations to support the war. About to turn 50 years of age, there is currently no existing context describing the development, construction, and use of Vietnam War mission-related facilities. There is need for a broad overview at a strategic level from 1962 through 1972 highlighting construction programs that replicated facilities across the landscape of many installations. This project will result in the creation of a historic context for the identification and evaluation of Vietnam-era facilities at CONUS DoD military installations. This context will provide military cultural resource professionals with a standardized approach to assist in determining historical significance of these facilities, greatly increasing efficiency and cost-savings. Project is DoD and nation-wide.

Approach and work plan

The involvement of the United States in the Vietnam conflict required the construction of large numbers of training and support facilities. Many of these facilities will become 50-years old in the next few years. There is need for a broad overview at a strategic level from 1962 through 1972 highlighting construction programs that replicated facilities across the landscape of many installations. This project will create a holistic historic context for Vietnam-era construction, with an overview history of what general categories of facilities were constructed, how they changed the landscape on installations, who funded and constructed them, how they were used, and the installations with the most remaining examples. The availability of a DoD-wide Vietnam-era historic context provides cost-savings by eliminating the need to write a separate context for each installation's resources. This project will result in a written context, a poster, a pamphlet, and a fact sheet for distribution. There will need to be a follow-on series of more in-depth contexts which pinpoint activities that resulted in both BASOPS buildings and mission-specific facilities being constructed at an operational level. These activities can be grouped into

four themes: helicopters, ground-training, air combat, and riverine warfare.

Background

Large numbers of basic training facilities are required to equip personnel with broad-based war-fighter skills. Additionally, individual conflicts often require specific facilities that either mimic the operational environment or provide expertise on the use of weaponry and tactics relevant to that environment. The buildup for the Vietnam War included construction of a multitude of mission-related support buildings and structures created on CONUS installations to support the war in Vietnam. Following on from the mock German towns and Japanese villages of World War II, the 1960s saw a new series of training sites including Viet Cong villages and tunnel networks. The facilities constructed on installations during the Vietnam War are no longer evaluated only through the “exceptional – less than 50 years” time-frame. They are now potentially eligible as standard NRHP properties. As we have seen with the Korean War era properties, the lack of a national context is an impediment to a broadly conceived understanding on what constitutes significance. A Vietnam-era context is needed that will provide this type of broad guidance for NHPA compliance.

Military mission benefits

From previous work on 1960s BASOPS facilities at various installations, it is apparent that many installations will have a large number of buildings/structures/districts needing NRHP evaluation in the next few years. It will save the DoD time and money if the historic context necessary for conducting the Section 110 inventories and Section 106 reviews for these properties is in place first. The availability of a DoD-wide Vietnam-era historic context saves resources by eliminating the need to write a separate context for each installation’s properties. The method of establishing a broad overview historic context, followed by multiple theme contexts created concurrently, enhances these savings through collaboration and the ability to utilize existing source material. This context, supplemented by the more specific ones, could be used for Programmatic Compliance actions if deemed necessary. These benefits will result in a stronger Cultural Resources program for DoD while providing installation CRMs and other DoD cultural resources professionals with better tools for compliance with the NHPA.

Approach

1. Material from an existing Vietnam-era training context written for Fort Leonard Wood and the four-volume Military Training Lands Historic Context (Legacy #05-265) will serve as the starting point for literature review. The review will also incorporate relevant information from the existing contexts for UPH and ammunition storage facilities.
2. The literature review will continue with previously unexamined histories, construction reports, installation master plans, photographs, training plans, manpower reports, appropriations, and other information gathered from libraries and archival repositories.
3. To better understand the physical characteristics and landscape components of these facilities, a trip will be made to examine a significant Vietnam-era installation (to be selected later).
4. The gathered information will be compiled, analyzed, and synthesized to create the written historic context, a broad overview at a strategic level from 1962 through 1972 highlighting construction programs that replicated facilities across installation landscapes and prominent facility types.
5. The historic context will be produced as a report which will be posted on DENIX and/or the Legacy website for ease of access. There will also be a poster produced, and a pamphlet designed that can be presented at conferences such as the Conference of Army Historians, the DoD Historic Buildings Conference, the National Trust conference, etc.

Appendix B: Literature Review and Useful References

Because there was no comprehensive collection of resources documenting the buildup for the Vietnam War, the research for this project encompassed a variety of sources from many different institutions. Although there are many resources dedicated to the Vietnam War, few mention construction executed in the United States. A wide net was cast examining the general sources written about the Vietnam War to map where and how the U.S. military was operating in Vietnam. This effort allowed researchers to trace the military's operations back to the United States to determine the influence that actions undertaken in Vietnam had on construction programs.

Many military libraries and museums provide online access to documents:

- National Archives and Records Administration (College Park, Maryland; Washington, DC)
- Library of Congress
- University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Library
- ERDC Library
- Pentagon Library
- U.S. Office of History, US Army Corps of Engineers (online USACE field histories and email)
- Marine Corps History Office
- Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps (HQMC) Records, Reports and Directives Mgmt Section (email)
- Archives and Special Collections Branch, Library of the Marine Corps, Quantico, Virginia (email)
- Air Force History (online)
- Air Force Historical Research Agency (online and email)
- Air Force Historical Studies Office (online)
- Air University, U.S. Air Force (online)
- Air Force History Index (online)
- Air Force Civil Engineering History Office, Tyndall, AFB
- U.S. Army Center of Military History (online and email)
- Naval History and Heritage Command [Naval Historical Center] (online)
- Navy Library
- Texas Tech University, The Vietnam Center and Archive (online)

- Defense Technical Information Center (DTIC) (online)
- Individual military installations and bases (phone calls and email)
- Individual military museums (mostly online)
- Online searches

General histories of each service provided background information on how the branch operated with the requirements of Vietnam. Establishing the operational requirements of a branch allowed for more refined searches which created a general understanding of what was being constructed in response on military installations.

During the 1950s and 1960s, the DoD published annual histories of each branch of the military. The histories were compilations of reports generated by the Secretaries of the Army, Navy, and Air Force. Although somewhat broad in their scope, these documents provided the foundational outline of what military construction was undertaken in the United States. While these reports detail military construction budgets and list approved projects, they often omit documentation of the completed projects. In 1968, the DoD historical summaries were suspended in favor of each branch publishing an annual report. After 1968, the Department of Army Historical Summaries provided many details on how the Army operated in the early 1970s.

Military newspapers and magazines provided features of specific training from which assumptions could be made about what was constructed in support of the training requirements.

Other sources of evidence

Historic photographs and base plans or maps also provided information on what was constructed during the Vietnam War. Where reports often generalized construction statistics, photographs, plans, and maps illustrate the physical changes and the overall impact on a base's built environment.

Sources investigated

Table 5 provides quoted material from selected literature. Table 4 gives a sample of quotes from the service members who participated in the Veterans History Project. Table 5 provides information about divisions, regiments, and bridges of the military services who served in Vietnam.

Table 3. Quotes from selected books.

| Book Title | Quote | Page | Reference Locations | Referenced Units | Reference Dates | Cross Referenced Internet Sources | Comments |
|---|---|------|---------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|--|---|
| Vietnam Studies: Airmobility 1961 1971 ⁴⁶⁹ | | | | | | | |
| <i>Vietnam Studies: Airmobility 1961-1971</i> | On 11 December 1961 the United States aircraft carrier USNS <i>Card</i> docked in downtown Saigon with 32 U.S. Army H-21 helicopters and 400 men. The 57th Transportation Company (Light Helicopter) from Fort Lewis, Wash., and the 8th Transportation Company (Light Helicopter) From Fort Bragg, N.C. Had arrived in Southeast Asia. | 3 | Fort Lewis, Wash. | 57th Transportation Company | 1961 | http://www.145cab.com/History/NL14HIST.htm | |
| <i>Vietnam Studies: Airmobility 1961-1971</i> | | | Fort Bragg, N.C. | 8th Transportation Company | | http://www.flyarmy.org/panel/battle/61121101.HTM | |
| <i>Vietnam Studies: Airmobility 1961-1971</i> | I was ordered to Fort Benning with instructions to develop tactical doctrine for the combat employment of helicopters | 5 | Fort Benning | | | http://www.theboxcar.org/1966.html History of 178th Assault Support Helicopter Company, from Fort Benning, mentions training program but not facilities. | |
| <i>Vietnam Studies: Airmobility 1961-1971</i> | | | | | | http://www.techbastard.com/army_base/ga/fort_benning.php | The concept of helicopter-borne air assault was tested at Fort Benning for two years before the 11th Airborne (Test) Division became the 1st (Air Assault) Cavalry Division prior to deployment to Vietnam in 1965. |

⁴⁶⁹ Lt. John G. Tolson (see Bibliography for full publication details).

| Book Title | Quote | Page | Reference Locations | Referenced Units | Reference Dates | Cross Referenced Internet Sources | Comments |
|---|---|------|---------------------|---|-----------------|-----------------------------------|----------|
| <i>Vietnam Studies: Airmobility 1961-1971</i> | To provide better command and control of the Army's growing fleet, the 45th Transportation Battalion was deployed to Vietnam in early 1962 from Fort Sill, Oklahoma and assumed command of the three Army Helicopter companies and the fixed-wing Otter company | 16 | Fort Sill | 45th Transportation Battalion | | | |
| <i>Vietnam Studies: Airmobility 1961-1971</i> | The Utility Tactical Transport Helicopter Company was redesignated the 68th Aviation Company and later the 197th Airmobile Company. | 29 | | The Utility Tactical Transport Helicopter Company, 68th Aviation Company, 197th Airmobile Company. | 1962 | | |
| <i>Vietnam Studies: Airmobility 1961-1971</i> | | 40 | | 13th Aviation Battalion, 145th Aviation Battalion, 52nd Aviation Battalion 14th Aviation Battalion 765th Transportation Battalion | | | |
| <i>Vietnam Studies: Airmobility 1961-1971</i> | The Caribou in Vietnam | 45 | | 1st Aviation Company (Fixed-wing Light Transport), 61st Aviation Company | | | |

| Book Title | Quote | Page | Reference Locations | Referenced Units | Reference Dates | Cross Referenced Internet Sources | Comments |
|---|--|------|---------------------|---|-----------------|-----------------------------------|----------|
| <i>Vietnam Studies: Airmobility 1961-1971</i> | Other Army Aviation Units in Vietnam: At that time our fixed-wing aviation assets were centralized in Vietnam in the Aviation Support Battalion (Provisional) commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Robert J. Dillard. This battalion consisted of the 18th Aviation Company (U-1A Otters) for light transport, the 73d Aviation Company (O-1F Bird Dogs) for reconnaissance, the 61st Aviation Company (CV-2B Caribou) for heavy transport and the 23d Special Warfare Aviation Detachment (JOV-1 Mohawk) for surveillance. | 47 | | The 18th Aviation Company, the 73d Aviation Company (O-1F Bird Dogs) , the 61st Aviation Company (CV-2B Caribou) , the 23d Special Warfare Aviation Detachment (JOV-1 Mohawk) | | | |
| <i>Vietnam Studies: Airmobility 1961-1971</i> | Cadres of the test units were activated on 15 February at Fort Benning, Georgia. | 51 | Fort Benning | | | | |
| <i>Vietnam Studies: Airmobility 1961-1971</i> | | | | 11th Air Assault | | | |
| <i>Vietnam Studies: Airmobility 1961-1971</i> | AIR ASSAULT II involved some 35000 personnel and covered over four million acres through the Carolinas | 54 | | | | | |
| <i>Vietnam Studies: Airmobility 1961-1971</i> | On 1 July 1965 the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) was officially activated pursuant to General Order 185....made up of the resources of the 11th Air Assault Division (Test) and the 2d Infantry Division. | 61 | | 1st Cavalry Division | | | |
| <i>Vietnam Studies: Airmobility 1961-1971</i> | | | | 173d Airborne Brigade | | | |

| Book Title | Quote | Page | Reference Locations | Referenced Units | Reference Dates | Cross Referenced Internet Sources | Comments |
|---|---|------|---|---------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|----------|
| <i>Vietnam Studies: Airmobility 1961-1971</i> | ...staging areas at Brookley Air Force Base, Mobile, Alabama, and Mayport Naval Base near Jacksonville Florida | 68 | Brookley Air Force Base, Mobile, Alabama; Mayport Naval Base near Jacksonville, Florida | | | | |
| <i>Vietnam Studies: Airmobility 1961-1971</i> | | | | 2d Battalion, 7th Cavalry | | | |
| The First Air Cavalry Division Vietnam ⁴⁷⁰ | | | | | | | |
| <i>The First Air Cavalry Division Vietnam</i> | Aircraft and pilots came from Fort Bragg and Fort Lewis...Preceded by individual and small unit training and by two division-controlled problems name EAGLE STRIKE and EAGLE CLAW, the division took to the field for its first test, AIR ASSAULT I. This took place in the vicinity of Fort Stewart, Ga., during late September and early October of 1963 and involved almost 4,000 Sky Soldiers and about 175 aircraft. | 22 | Fort Lewis, Fort Bragg, Fort Stewart | | | | |
| <i>The First Air Cavalry Division Vietnam</i> | | 23 | Fort Benning | | | | |

⁴⁷⁰ Edward Hymoff, *The First Air Cavalry Division, Vietnam* (New York, NY: M.W. Lads Publishing Co., 1967).

| Book Title | Quote | Page | Reference Locations | Referenced Units | Reference Dates | Cross Referenced Internet Sources | Comments |
|---|---|------|------------------------|---|-----------------|---|--|
| Logistical Support of Airmobile Operations Republic of Vietnam 1961 1971 ⁴⁷¹ | | | | | | | |
| <i>Logistical Support of Airmobile Operations Republic of Vietnam 1961-1971</i> | Two units were involved in this first deployment of aircraft to the Republic of Vietnam (RVN), the 57th Transportation Company (Light Helicopter), stationed at Fort Lewis, Washington and the 8th Transportation Company (Light Helicopter) stationed at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. | 2 | Fort Lewis, Fort Bragg | 57th Transportation Company, 8th Transportation Company | | | |
| <i>Logistical Support of Airmobile Operations Republic of Vietnam 1961-1971</i> | The other five aircraft were provided by the 33rd Transportation Company (Light Helicopter stationed at Fort Ord, California and the two H-13 aircraft were obtained at Sharpe Army Depot. | 2 | Fort Ord | 33rd Transportation Company | | http://fortording.com/history.html In the post-war 1950s, Fort Ord began to be repurposed as a training facility, a role it would occupy for the next three decades. The Fort's importance increased dramatically during the long years of the Vietnam War when it became the chief training center in the nation. [It was also the first racially integrated base in the nation]. In the face of escalating public opposition to the war in 1969, Fort Ord closed itself to outsiders....Immense size called for extensive facilities and by 1963, the Fort was equipped with an 18-hole golf course, two movie theaters, a twelve lane bowling alley (complete with military bowling leagues), a boxing ring, a sauna, a heated indoor pool, tennis courts and a thrift shop... | Fort Ord was closed in 1994. It was the chief basic training center (Wiki) |

⁴⁷¹ Major B.D. Harber, *Logistical Support of Airmobile Operations Republic of Vietnam 1961–1971* (St. Louis, MO: U.S. Army Aviation Systems Command, 1971).

| Book Title | Quote | Page | Reference Locations | Referenced Units | Reference Dates | Cross Referenced Internet Sources | Comments |
|--|---|------|---------------------|--|-----------------|---|--|
| <i>Logistical Support of Airmobile Operation Republic of Vietnam 1961-1971</i> | | 2 | Fort Ord | | | http://nimst.tripod.com/cgi-bin/FtOrd.html | Brief descriptions of the stages of growth and construction expansion at Fort Ord. |
| <i>Logistical Support of Airmobile Operation Republic of Vietnam 1961-1971</i> | Following the 57th and 9th, the 93rd transportation Company (Light Helicopter) arrived in RVN in January 1962. The 93rd was stationed at Fort Devens, Massachusetts, when it received an alert order in November 1961 for deployment to an unknown destination. | 10 | Fort Devens | 93rd Transportation Company | | http://www.fortdevensmuseum.org/history.php | History of Fort Devens, mentions of expansions and new constructions of the Fort but not during Vietnam. |
| <i>Logistical Support of Airmobile Operation Republic of Vietnam 1961-1971</i> | To some extent, the logistics gap was bridged upon arrival from Fort Riley, Kansas, in January 1962 of the 18th Aviation Company (U-1A Otter). | 13 | Fort Riley | 18th Aviation Company | | | |
| <i>Logistical Support of Airmobile Operation Republic of Vietnam 1961-1971</i> | The 45th Transportation Battalion stationed at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, deployed to Vietnam early in 1962 andthe 33rd, which deployed from Fort Ord, California, was positioned at Bien Hoa; the 81st, which came from Hawaii, was located at Pleiku. | 17 | Fort Sill Fort Ord | 45th Transportation Battalion, 33rd and 81st Transportation Companies (Light Helicopter) | | | |
| <i>Logistical Support of Airmobile Operation Republic of Vietnam 1961-1971</i> | The first maintenance company to arrive in-country was the 339th Transportation Company (Direct Support). It deployed from Fort Riley Kansas, in early 1962 and was positioned at Nha Trang. | 18 | Fort Riley | 339th Transportation Company | | | Simulated Vietnam jungle area at Ft. Riley? |

| Book Title | Quote | Page | Reference Locations | Referenced Units | Reference Dates | Cross Referenced Internet Sources | Comments |
|--|---|------|---------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|--|----------|
| <i>Logistical Support of Airmobile Operation Republic of Vietnam 1961-1971</i> | | 19 | Fort Benning | | | | |
| <i>Logistical Support of Airmobile Operation Republic of Vietnam 1961-1971</i> | | 26 | Fort Hood | | | | |
| <i>Logistical Support of Airmobile Operation Republic of Vietnam 1961-1971</i> | | 27 | Fort Campbell, Fort Riley, Fort Bragg | | | http://www.hood.army.mil/history/1960/vietnam.htm Fort Hood played an integral part in the Vietnam War by training soldiers for deployment. A village was built on post to simulate the Vietnamese countryside. | |
| <i>Logistical Support of Airmobile Operation Republic of Vietnam 1961-1971</i> | The 1st Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division had been operating in the III Corps Tactical Zone or nearly two year when in 196 the decision was made to deploy the remainder of the division to Vietnam. This deployment was unique in that the division was airlifted from Fort Campbell, Kentucky directly to Bien Hoa Air Base, Vietnam | 59 | Fort Campbell | 1st Brigade | | | |

| Book Title | Quote | Page | Reference Locations | Referenced Units | Reference Dates | Cross Referenced Internet Sources | Comments |
|-------------------------------------|--|------|---------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| The Army and Vietnam ⁴⁷² | | | | | | | |
| <i>The Army and Vietnam</i> | Over a month later, many of the presidential queries concerning Army preparation for low-intensity conflict were still being ignored. Kennedy's frustration was evident in a memo to Robert McNamara in which the president bluntly informed his secretary of defense that he was "not satisfied with the Department of Defense, and in particular the Army, is according the necessary degree of attention and effort to the threat of insurgency and guerrilla war."....In his blistering not to McNamara, Kennedy informed the secretary of Defense that he wanted counterinsurgency training added to the curricula of military schools at all levels, from West Point all the way up to the Army War College...To get the indoctrination program moving, Kennedy directed that topnotch Army colonels and brigadier generals be sent to the Special Warfare Training Center at Fort Bragg for a course on counterinsurgency | 31 | Fort Bragg | | | | It seems that military training has been the same as in previous wars (WWI, WWII, Korea) until President Kennedy recognized the need to change what Krepinevich calls 'the Army Concept' method of warfare to focus on low-intensity conflict. Fort Bragg was most likely the first to offer new training programs. However, a combination of factors, including lack of knowledge on low intensity war fare, unwillingness on key military personnel to change the Concept that was proved successful during WWI, WWII, and Korea hampered the President's proposals. |

⁴⁷² Andrew F. Krepinevich, Jr., *The Army and Vietnam* (Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1986).

| Book Title | Quote | Page | Reference Locations | Referenced Units | Reference Dates | Cross Referenced Internet Sources | Comments |
|-----------------------------|---|--------|--|------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| <i>The Army and Vietnam</i> | As a result of the Kennedy administration's push in 1961, the 1962 edition [of FM 100-5, Operations, also referred to as the bible on how to fight] contained two chapters relating to "counterinsurgency." ... | 40 | | | | | |
| <i>The Army and Vietnam</i> | In February 1965, CDC was still working on an adviser handbook and on plans for the integration of counterinsurgency doctrine into the service schools and training programs of the Army. | 40 | | | | | Check footnote of quotes for more sources? |
| <i>The Army and Vietnam</i> | Chapter 2: Section: Training for Counterinsurgency, Training to Defeat Guerillas, Field Guerillas | 46- 55 | Fort Benning, Fort Bragg, Fort Knox, | | | | Mostly mentions of the courses and seminars offered. According to Krepinevich, these courses were next to useless and were only incorporated into the training curriculum to appease the President and other critics of the Concept. |

| Book Title | Quote | Page | Reference Locations | Referenced Units | Reference Dates | Cross Referenced Internet Sources | Comments |
|-----------------------------|--|------|---------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| <i>The Army and Vietnam</i> | While operating under the CIA in the Civilian Irregular Defense Groups (CIDG) Program, unconventional warfare operations took on a secondary role, albeit temporary. Special Forces were initially deployed to South Vietnam in November 1961...The program had as its goal the pacification of provinces located in the interior of the country and occupied primarily by tribal groups...The Green Berets worked hand in hand with the people to fortify their village; they constructed shelters and an early-warning system and closely regulated the movement of people in and out of the area...etc. | 70 | | | | | Training--Special Forces were remnants from WWII, was new training provided to be ready for Vietnam? The program was later reverted to MACV's control. At this point lost effectiveness. Became more traditional offensive operations. |
| <i>The Army and Vietnam</i> | Structuring Special Forces for Counterinsurgency: Special Forces' expanded role for counterinsurgency contingencies was the result of John Kennedy's election as president...In his briefing Decker laid out a two-year program to increase the Army's counterinsurgency capability. It called for the expansion of Special Forces into four full-strength SFGs to be augmented by three psychological warfare battalions, civil affairs personnel, and engineer, medical, and military intelligence detachments. | 103 | | | | | Look for references: Lt. Gen. Lionel C. McGarr to Gen. George H. Decker, 15 June 1961, CMH and Papers, 2:70 |

| Book Title | Quote | Page | Reference Locations | Referenced Units | Reference Dates | Cross Referenced Internet Sources | Comments |
|-----------------------------|--|------|---|------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| <i>The Army and Vietnam</i> | Known as the Howze Board, after its chairman, Lt. Gen. Hamilton H. Howze, the group undertook a study of the Army's counterinsurgency program.. The board was a direct result of the Stilwell Report and the directive sent by DCSOPS to CONARCThe Howze Board convened on 19 December at Fort Bragg on only four days' notice and worked over the next month to arrive at recommendations in such areas as force structuring, training, and personnel. | 108 | | | | | Never carried out in full. Watered down. |
| <i>The Army and Vietnam</i> | The test program quickly gained momentum, and in September the Army conducted its Air Assault I exercise, testing an airmobile battalion at Fort Stewart, Georgia. | 122 | Fort Stewart | | | | |
| <i>The Army and Vietnam</i> | On 11 February 1964 the 11th Air Assault Division was activated at Fort Benning, Georgia, for the purpose of expanding the test program. | 123 | Fort Benning | | | | |
| <i>The Army and Vietnam</i> | The culmination of the interservice competition came in October/November with the joint brigade-level test of the Air Force's concept under STRICOM supervision at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri (Goldfire I) and the Army's unilateral test of the airmobility concept under STRICOM evaluation at Forts Benning and Stewart in Georgia (Air Assault II). | 123 | Fort Leonard wood, Fort Benning, Fort Stewart | | | | Goldfire later cancelled |

| Book Title | Quote | Page | Reference Locations | Referenced Units | Reference Dates | Cross Referenced Internet Sources | Comments |
|-----------------------------|--|------|------------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| <i>The Army and Vietnam</i> | On 8 March the first Marine BLT (battalion landing team) splashed ashore at Da Nang. | 141 | | | | | |
| <i>The Army and Vietnam</i> | | 147 | 173rd Airborne Brigade | | | | |
| <i>The Army and Vietnam</i> | But the president's mind was made up. He would not deviate from the course he had set in December 1964. The United States would fight to save South Vietnam, and the commander in the field would be supported. On 27 July the NSC conducted an early evening session at the White House in which the president reviewed the bidding and approved the 44 battalion request to "give the commanders the men they say they need." | 162 | | | | | 44 battalions was sent over to Vietnam. Request? Who was sent? |
| <i>The Army and Vietnam</i> | Westmoreland's proposed strategy envisioned a three-phase process culminating in the destruction of all insurgent forces and base areas by the end of 1967. Phase 1 would see the stabilization of the situation by the end of 1965 using the 44-battalion commitment; phase 2 involved the 24 battalion add-on projected for 1966 and called for "the resumption of the offensive"; phase 3 was reviewed as a mop-period in which remaining insurgent forces would be eliminated. | 165 | | | | | Footnoted: Westmoreland, A Soldier Reports, 146. Look up to see if the reports list deployments. |

| Book Title | Quote | Page | Reference Locations | Referenced Units | Reference Dates | Cross Referenced Internet Sources | Comments |
|-----------------------------|---|------|---------------------|---|-----------------|-----------------------------------|----------|
| <i>The Army and Vietnam</i> | U.S. ground forces continued arriving in South Vietnam: two Army brigades in July, followed by a corps headquarters. A marine regiment landed in August, and by the end of September the entire 1st Air Cavalry Division had been deployed to the Central Highlands. The remainder of the 1st Infantry Division was deployed by 7 October, and finally an entire ROK division was in-country on 8 November. | 168 | | 1st Air Cavalry, 1st Infantry division, ROK division and some others but no formal units and formation number | | | |
| <i>The Army and Vietnam</i> | These combat units did not belong to the Army but were U.S. Marine units deployed in I Corps. | 172 | | 1 Corps | | | |
| <i>The Army and Vietnam</i> | By 1966 there were fifty-seven such units in I Corps, and the number expanded to seventy-nine in 1967. | 173 | | 1 Corps | | | |
| <i>The Army and Vietnam</i> | The initial plan, EL PASO I, saw the 1st Cavalry Division establishing an airhead on the Bolovens Plateau in the Laotian panhandle, supported by one incursion by the 3d Marine Division pushing west from Quang Tri Province and another by the 4th Infantry Division driving up from the Central Highlands. | 180 | | 1st Cavalry Division, 3d Marine Division, 4th Infantry Division | | | |

| Book Title | Quote | Page | Reference Locations | Referenced Units | Reference Dates | Cross Referenced Internet Sources | Comments |
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| <i>The Army and Vietnam</i> | The operation utilized the Army's 1st Infantry Division, the 173rd Airborne Brigade, the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment (ACR), and a brigade of the 9th Infantry division. | 191 | | 1st Infantry Division, 173rd Airborne Brigade, the 11th armored Cavalry Regiment, 9th Infantry Division | | | |
| <i>The Army and Vietnam</i> | In another instance, pacification officials found units of the 25th Infantry Division using heavy weapons in response to VC fire coming from hamlets | 199 | | 25th Infantry division | | | Riverine Force part of the 9th |
| <i>The Army and Vietnam</i> | | 246 | | 3d Brigade of the 82d Airborne Division? | | | |
| Tunnel Rat in Vietnam⁴⁷³ | | | | | | | |
| <i>Tunnel Rat in Vietnam</i> | Infantry Advanced Individual Training: This was where soldiers learned skills of their job and ...Training...was conducted at Fort Campbell, Kentucky; Fort Dix, New Jersey; Fort Gordon, Georgia; Fort McClellan, Alabama; Fort Ord, California; and Fort Polk, Louisiana. Combat engineer training was undertaken at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, and chemical-warfare specialists were trained at Fort McClellan, Alabama. Armored cavalry scouts were trained at Fort Knox, Kentucky, at the Armor School. | 14 | Fort Campbell, Kentucky; Fort Dix, New Jersey; Fort Gordon, Georgia; Fort McClellan, Alabama; Fort Ord, California; and Fort Polk, Louisiana. Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, Fort McClellan, Alabama. Fort Knox, Kentucky, | | | | |

⁴⁷³ Gerald Rottman (see Bibliography for full publication details).

| Book Title | Quote | Page | Reference Locations | Referenced Units | Reference Dates | Cross Referenced Internet Sources | Comments |
|--|--|------|---------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|----------|
| <i>Tunnel Rat in Vietnam</i> | Most infantry AIT training centers were rated "Vietnam-oriented." The exception was Fort Dix, which trained personnel destined for assignments other than Vietnam. "Vietnam-oriented" meant that a small Vietnamese village was erected, sometimes with adjacent replica rice paddies. One was even built at Fort Dix even though it was not a Vietnam-oriented training center. | 14 | Fort Dix | | | | |
| <i>Tunnel Rat in Vietnam</i> | The author experienced the replicated Vietnamese village's tunnel system at Peason Ridge Training Area north of Fort Polk, Louisiana, in 1967. Other than being underground, it bore little resemblance to actual VC tunnel systems. | 15 | Fort Polk | | | | |
| Mounted Combat in Vietnam⁴⁷⁴ | | | | | | | |
| <i>Mounted Combat in Vietnam</i> | In 1956 for the first time Vietnamese officers attended the US Army Armor School at Fort Knox Kentucky to supplement their armor training in Vietnam. Between 1956 and 1973, 712 Vietnamese officers attended courses at Fort Knox. | 17 | Fort Knox | | | | |

⁴⁷⁴ General Donn A. Starry, *Mounted Combat in Vietnam*, in series Vietnam Studies (Washington, D.C.: Department of the Army, 1989). Accessed online: <http://www.history.army.mil/books/Vietnam/mounted/index.htm>.

| Book Title | Quote | Page | Reference Locations | Referenced Units | Reference Dates | Cross Referenced Internet Sources | Comments |
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| <i>Mounted Combat in Vietnam</i> | Advisers formed an exclusive group of officers and noncommissioned officers who were chosen by the Department of the Army strictly because they were available for reassignment and advisers were needed in Vietnam. There was no special schooling for advisers until early 1962 when a six-week course was established at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. This advisers' course, under the auspices of the US Army Special Forces School, was basically infantry oriented and no armor training was provided. | 19 | Fort Bragg | | | | |
| <i>Mounted Combat in Vietnam</i> | As early as 1954 the Army had studied the use of helicopters in cavalry units, and later experiments with armed helicopters had been conducted at the US Army Aviation School at Fort Rucker Alabama. By early 1959 the US Armor School at Fort Knox, Kentucky, and the US Army Aviation School had developed an experimental Aerial Reconnaissance and Security Troop- the first air cavalry unit.In early 1962 the Army's first air cavalry troop, Troop D, 4th Squadron, 12th Cavalry, was organized at Fort Carson, Colorado, with Captain Ralph Powell as its commander. | 50-51 | Fort Rucker, Fort Knox, Fort Carson | | | | |

| Book Title | Quote | Page | Reference Locations | Referenced Units | Reference Dates | Cross Referenced Internet Sources | Comments |
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| <i>Tail End Charlie: Memoir of a United States Marine in the Vietnam War</i> ⁴⁷⁵ | | | | | | | |
| <i>Tail End Charlie: Memoir of a United States Marine in the Vietnam War</i> | It was in August of 1965 when my brother told me he had gotten a letter saying he was drafted into the Army and that he had to go the next month. Life was really changing fast...On October 10, 1965, Eddie went into the Army at Whitehall Street in Manhattan, then traveled on to Fort Jackson, South Carolina. | 16 | Fort Jackson, SC | | | http://www.jackson.army.mil/Area/FtJHist.htm | Fort Jackson had grown over the years, but most of the buildings were temporary. Finally in 1964, construction began on permanent steel and concrete buildings to replace wooden barracks that had housed the Fort's troops since the early 1940's. In recognition of the Fort's 50th anniversary in 1967, the citizens of Columbia gave Fort Jackson the statue of Andrew Jackson that stands at Gate #1. With the establishment of the modern volunteer Army in 1970 and the need to promote the attractiveness of service life, construction peaked in an effort to modernize facilities and improve services. |
| <i>Tail End Charlie: Memoir of a United States Marine in the Vietnam War</i> | I went down to Fort Hamilton the next day and took all my tests. | 19 | Fort Hamilton | | | ???? | |
| <i>Tail End Charlie: Memoir of a United States Marine in the Vietnam War</i> | At Camp Lejeune we received our Military Occupational Specialties, or MOS (jobs.) | 31 | Camp Lejeune | | | http://www.lejeune.usmc.mil/mcb/history.asp | The value of this land to the Marine Corps has grown over the years as men have trained to fight wars in Korea, Vietnam and Saudi Arabia and have deployed for such actions as peacekeeping in Lebanon and a host of noncombatant evacuation operations throughout this decade. The idea of Special Operations Capable Marine Expeditionary Units was born at Camp Lejeune and Marines here continue to make strides toward the future of warfare in such as areas as urban and riverine operations. Camp Lejeune and the satellite facilities at Camp Geiger, Camp Johnson, Stone Bay and the Greater Sandy Run Training Area have a historic value that goes beyond their national strategic importance. |

⁴⁷⁵ Ronald John Jensen, *Tail End Charlie: Memoir of a United States Marine in the Vietnam War* (Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland, 2004).

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| US Marines in Vietnam ⁴⁷⁶ | | | | | | | |
| <i>US Marines in Vietnam</i> | The American military build-up called for by the Washington decisions of December 1961 was well underway as the new year opened. Several US units introduced in the closing weeks of 1961 had already begun operations by January. These included two US Army transport helicopter companies and a composite US Air Force detachment. Designated FARM GATE and composed of initially of 151 officers and men, the Air Force detachment had a dual mission of training VNAF elements and conducting attack sorties in support of President Diem's forces. The arrival of another US Air Force unit, a C-123 transport squadron, another Army helicopter company, and an Army communications organization, the 3d Radio Research Unit,...Designated Detachment A, 1st Radio Company, these were the first US Marines to participate in the ongoing build-up. | 46 | | | | | |

⁴⁷⁶ A publication series, U.S. Marines in Vietnam (Washington, D.C.: History and Museums Division, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps).

| Book Title | Quote | Page | Reference Locations | Referenced Units | Reference Dates | Cross Referenced Internet Sources | Comments |
|------------------------------|---|------|---------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| <i>US Marines in Vietnam</i> | Marines required to man this enlarged advisory unit began arriving in Vietnam as early as February. All of the new officer advisors were graduates of either Junior School at Marine Corps Schools, Quantico or the US Army Special Warfare School at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. | 47 | | | | | 8 |
| <i>US Marines in Vietnam</i> | It would be replaced in Hawaii by the 33d Transportation Light Helicopter Company from Fort Ord. | 59 | Fort Ord | 33d Transportation Company | | | |
| <i>US Marines in Vietnam</i> | | 60 | | 1st Marine Aircraft Wing | | | |
| <i>US Marines in Vietnam</i> | Marine transport aircraft from the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing augmented by three transports from the 3d Marine Aircraft Wing (3d MAW) would begin airlifting the task unit headquarters and the MABS-16 detachment from Okinawa. | 61 | | 3d Marine Aircraft Wing (3d MAW) | | | |
| <i>US Marines in Vietnam</i> | | 70 | | 93rd Helicopter Company | | | |
| <i>US Marines in Vietnam</i> | SHUFLY, the only US Marine tactical command assigned to South Vietnam, continued its combat support operations in the semi-isolated northern provinces throughout 1963. | 111 | | SHUFLY | | | previously mainly advisors to Vietnamese commands |

| Book Title | Quote | Page | Reference Locations | Referenced Units | Reference Dates | Cross Referenced Internet Sources | Comments |
|---|--|------|------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| <i>US Marines in Vietnam</i> | The Detachment, 1st Composite Radio Company, for example, continued its duties at the US Army Communications installation in Pleiku. | 139 | | 1st Composite Radio Company | | | Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS), Kaneho Bay, Oahu, Hawaii |
| The Vietnam War from the Rear Echelon: An Intelligence Officer's Memoir, 1972-1973 ⁴⁷⁷ | | | | | | | |
| <i>The Vietnam War from the Rear Echelon: An Intelligence Officer's Memoir, 1972-1973</i> | My military life had a dramatic beginning...In my very first week in the army...war protester made a move to attack Fort Dix...Our platoon of fifty men was called up to reinforce the MPs at the gate | 24 | Fort Dix | | | | Basic Training |
| <i>The Vietnam War from the Rear Echelon: An Intelligence Officer's Memoir, 1972-1974</i> | ...I hastily volunteered for Officer Candidate School (OCS). I realized that at least as an officer I would be responsible for my own death, should I have the misfortune of being shipped to Vietnam. This blessed training took place at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. | 26 | Fort Belvoir, Virginia | | | | OCS Training |
| <i>The Vietnam War from the Rear Echelon: An Intelligence Officer's Memoir, 1972-1975</i> | All individual exercises culminated in a full week of field exercises at Camp A. P. Hill in the boonies of Virginia. | 31 | Camp A. P. Hill | | | | Pictures of training (86+ |

⁴⁷⁷ Timothy J. Lomperis, *The Vietnam War from the Rear Echelon: An Intelligence Officer's Memoir, 1972-1975* (Lawrence, KS: University Press of Kansas, 2011).

| Book Title | Quote | Page | Reference Locations | Referenced Units | Reference Dates | Cross Referenced Internet Sources | Comments |
|---|--|------|------------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| <i>The Vietnam War from the Rear Echelon: An Intelligence Officer's Memoir, 1972-1976</i> | The longest subsequent training I could find was for that of an "Area Studies" course in Intelligence, which lasted six months. I just wanted to give Nixon more time. Upon arriving at Fort Huachuca, Arizona - the new army intelligence post - it became clear that this was not an academic seminar but a professional training course on how to both conduct espionage and recruit agents to spy for you. | 34 | Fort Huachuca, Arizona | | | | Intelligence Training. Maybe not the best officer to track. He was trying to escape deployment to Vietnam through extensive training for 2 and a half years. He later became an intelligence officer at MACV on his first tour. |
| Crucible Vietnam: Memoir of an Infantry Lieutenant⁴⁷⁸ | | | | | | | |
| <i>Crucible Vietnam: Memoir of an Infantry Lieutenant</i> | I flew back to San Francisco and several days later I went over to the sleazy city bus station...and caught the Greyhound bus across the Bay Bridge to the Army Base in Oakland. The base was primarily a processing center for bringing young men into the Army from the San Francisco Bay Area. | 6 | Oakland Army Base | | | | |
| <i>Crucible Vietnam: Memoir of an Infantry Lieutenant</i> | After we had sworn our oaths...we proceeded southward along the Pacific Coast ...to Fort Ord... | 6 | Fort Ord | | | | Basic Combat Training |

⁴⁷⁸ A.T. Lawrence, *Crucible Vietnam: Memoir of an Infantry Lieutenant* (Jefferson, NC: McFaland & Co. Publishers, 2009).

| Book Title | Quote | Page | Reference Locations | Referenced Units | Reference Dates | Cross Referenced Internet Sources | Comments |
|---|---|------|---|------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <i>Crucible Vietnam: Memoir of an Infantry Lieutenant</i> | In any case, Don and I were the only two from our training company who successfully passed the interview board and were recommended for acceptance into OCS. There were a number of Army officer schools, such as Infantry School at Fort Benning, Georgia; the Artillery School at Fort Sill, Oklahoma; the Armor School at Fort Knox, Kentucky; the Engineer School at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, and the Signal School at Fort Gordon in Augusta, Georgia | 12 | Fort Benning, Fort Sill, Fort Knox, Fort Belvoir, Fort Gordon | | | | OCS Training |
| <i>Crucible Vietnam: Memoir of an Infantry Lieutenant</i> | After completing my Basic Combat Training...I proceeded on to Advanced Infantry Training, which was also conducted at Fort Ord, near Monterey. | 30 | Fort Ord | | | | AIT |
| <i>Crucible Vietnam: Memoir of an Infantry Lieutenant</i> | After completing my AIT...I was sent across the country to attend the Infantry Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning in Columbus, Georgia, commonly referred to within the Army as "the Benning School for Boys." | 31 | Fort Benning | | | | OCS for Infantry Division |
| <i>Crucible Vietnam: Memoir of an Infantry Lieutenant</i> | We conducted jungle training, through the pine forests of Georgia... | 34 | | | | | jungle training at Fort Benning |

| Book Title | Quote | Page | Reference Locations | Referenced Units | Reference Dates | Cross Referenced Internet Sources | Comments |
|--|---|-------|--|------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| <i>Crucible Vietnam: Memoir of an Infantry Lieutenant</i> | After completing OCS, I was authorized a couple weeks of leave before I was required to report to my duty assignment at Fort Gordon...Upon arriving at Fort Gordon in Augusta, Georgia, I began my first officer assignment, servicing as the commanding officer of a Basic Training company. | 37-38 | Fort Gordon | | | | BCT at Fort Gordon as well? |
| <i>Crucible Vietnam: Memoir of an Infantry Lieutenant</i> | I made my way over to the Seventh and Mission Greyhound bus station in San Francisco in my officer's uniform...where I dutifully joined the queue of soldiers that were boarding military buses for the hour and a half ride up to Travis Air Force Base, near Sacramento, for our flight across the Pacific Ocean to Vietnam | 39 | Travis Air Force Base | | | | Travis AFB departure point for Vietnam |
| Rattler One Seven: A Vietnam Helicopter Pilot's War Story⁴⁷⁹ | | | | | | | |
| <i>Rattler One-Seven: A Vietnam Helicopter Pilot's War Story</i> | My military career started on November 25, 1968...I completed flight school on November 4, 1969, at Hunter Army Airfield in Savannah Georgia...I had an all too short tour of duty at Fort Carson, Colorado, and then received my orders to Vietnam. My departure was scheduled for May 15, 1970. I would be leaving the country from McCord Air Force Base near Seattle, Washington. | 10 | Hunter Army Airfield in Savannah, Georgia, Fort Carson, McCord AFB | | | | no training mentioned. |
| <i>Rattler One-Seven: A Vietnam Helicopter Pilot's War Story</i> | | 18 | | | | | Training in Vietnam. Training in new strategy and tactics. |

⁴⁷⁹ Chuck Gross, *Rattler One-Seven: A Vietnam Helicopter Pilot's War Story* (Denton, TX: University of North Texas Press, 2004).

| Book Title | Quote | Page | Reference Locations | Referenced Units | Reference Dates | Cross Referenced Internet Sources | Comments |
|---|---|------|----------------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|----------|
| Vietnam Perkasio: A Combat Marine Memoir⁴⁸⁰ | | | | | | | |
| <i>Vietnam-Perkasie: A Combat Marine Memoir</i> | I could see gold letters on a red brick wall illuminated by a spotlight: "Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, South Carolina." | 11 | Parris Island | | | | |
| Eye of the Tiger: Memoir of a United States Marine, Third Force Recon Company, Vietnam⁴⁸¹ | | | | | | | |
| <i>Eye of the Tiger: Memoir of a United States Marine, Third Force Recon Company, Vietnam</i> | John Edmund Delezen entered the Marine Corps in August 1965 and reported for basic training at Parris Island, South Carolina. After infantry training at Camp Geiger, North Carolina, he volunteered in November 1965 for the Third Force Recon Company that was forming there. | xi | Parris Island, Camp Geiger | | | | |
| <i>Eye of the Tiger: Memoir of a United States Marine, Third Force Recon Company, Vietnam</i> | More training followed: US Army Airborne School at Fort Benning, Georgia, in December 1965; rubber boat and submarine training in Vieques, Puerto Rico, in February 1966; and Special Forces Jungle Warfare School in the Panama Canal Zone, also in February. | xi | Fort Benning | | | | |
| <i>Eye of the Tiger: Memoir of a United States Marine, Third Force Recon Company, Vietnam</i> | When I learned about the UDTs during boot camp, I tried to go directly from boot to UDTR training at Little Creek. | 9 | Little Creek | | | | |

⁴⁸⁰ W.D. Ehrhart, *Vietnam-Perkasie: A Combat Marine Memoir* (Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Co. Publishers, 2004).

⁴⁸¹ John Edmund Delezen, *Eye of the Tiger: Memoir of a United States Marine, Third Force Recon Company, Vietnam* (Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Co. Publishers, 2003).

| Book Title | Quote | Page | Reference Locations | Referenced Units | Reference Dates | Cross Referenced Internet Sources | Comments |
|---|---|------|---------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| <i>Eye of the Tiger: Memoir of a United States Marine, Third Force Recon Company, Vietnam</i> | Probably the best tour of duty I ever had in the Navy was as a BUD/S instructor. I had first phase in Coronado and I did that job for three years. | 22 | Coronado | | | | Talks about a film he made to teach students how to infiltrate and snatch a prisoner. Further details the type of training they went through or put students through. Maybe helpful to draw a picture of the activities or the facilities they might have needed to conduct training? |
| Navy Seals : A History Part II⁴⁸² | | | | | | | |
| <i>Navy Seals : A History Part II</i> | SEAL Team ONE was commissioned on 1 January 1962 at the US Naval Amphibious Base Coronado, California under the command of Lieutenant David DEL GUIDICE< US Naval Reserve. | 30 | US Naval Amphibious Base Coronado, CA | | | | |
| <i>Navy Seals : A History Part II</i> | Training for prospective members of SEAL Team is located at the Naval Amphibious Base in Coronado, CA. A twenty week course called Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL Team (BUD/S) Training begins several times each year. Etc. | 37 | US Naval Amphibious Base Coronado, CA | | | | CONTINUES TO DETAIL THE TRAINING PROGRAM OF SEALS!!! TRAINING EXERCISES CONDUCTED AT CAMP LEGEUNE MENTIONED |
| <i>Navy Seals : A History Part II</i> | It was a few years later, in 1962, when I was deployed with UDT 12 on a Western Pacific tour. During our stop at Okinawa, a number of us were selected to go to parachute jump school. The US Army First Special Forces Airborne Unit had a jump school at their base on the island | 47 | | | | | Following the training. Trained all over the world. Okinawa in this case. Underwater training in Puerto Rico. |

⁴⁸² Kevin Dockery, *Navy Seals: A History Part II* (New York, NY: Berkley Books, 2003).

| Book Title | Quote | Page | Reference Locations | Referenced Units | Reference Dates | Cross Referenced Internet Sources | Comments |
|---------------------------------------|---|------|--|------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| <i>Navy Seals : A History Part II</i> | We went to all kinds of schools. We were commissioned as a SEAL Team in January 1962. And we went to schools almost from day one. Within a week...I was at Camp Pendleton going through basic infantry combat training. | 48 | Camp Pendleton | | | | |
| <i>Navy Seals : A History Part II</i> | Navy, Marine Corps, Army - all of them had training that we went to. Antiguerrilla and guerrilla ware training from the Marine Corps; Fort Benning and Army Ranger training. Five days after I graduated from Ranger school, I was down in Panama going through jungle warfare school. ,,,and we went across the country to Fort Bragg and attended Army Special Forces schools such as foreign weapons or kitchen table demolitions... | 48 | Marine Corps, Fort Benning, Army Ranger School, Fort Bragg | | | | |
| <i>Navy Seals : A History Part II</i> | After graduation, I was assigned to UDT 12, stationed right there in Coronado. After training, I went on to complete Army jump school at Fort Benning, Georgia, and was parachute-qualified. My first deployment came soon after to Southeast Asia and Vietnam | 83 | Fort Benning | | | | jump school |

| Book Title | Quote | Page | Reference Locations | Referenced Units | Reference Dates | Cross Referenced Internet Sources | Comments |
|---|---|------|-----------------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| ...and a hard rain fell : A GI's True Story of the War in Vietnam ⁴⁸³ | | | | | | | |
| <i>...and a hard rain fell : A GI's True Story of the War in Vietnam</i> | In New York City we transferred to buses and arrived at Fort Dix, New Jersey, in the early afternoon. I was digging deep, looking for strength. As the bus stopped the drill instructors, attacked. | 17 | Fort Dix | | | | Basic Training |
| <i>...and a hard rain fell : A GI's True Story of the War in Vietnam</i> | From basic I was shipped to Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Maryland for AIT, or Advanced Individual Training,. | 24 | Aberdeen Proving Ground | | | | AIT |
| <i>...and a hard rain fell : A GI's True Story of the War in Vietnam</i> | We took a bus to McGuire Air Force Base and pulled up next to a giant C-5A Starlifter. We sat backward in web seats without windows. | 28 | McGuire Air Force Base | | | | |
| Working Class War ⁴⁸⁴ | | | | | | | |
| <i>Working Class War</i> | Marine Corps basic training in the Vietnam years, conducted in only two places (Parris Island, South Carolina and San Diego, California), was a highly standardized and predictable cycle. | 90 | Parris Island and San Diego | | | | Basic Training Marines |

⁴⁸³ John Ketwig, *... and a hard rain fell : A GI's True Story of the War in Vietnam* (Naperville, IL: Sourcebooks, 2002).

⁴⁸⁴ Christian G. Appy, *Working Class War* (Chapel Hill, NC: The University of North Carolina Press, 1993).

| Book Title | Quote | Page | Reference Locations | Referenced Units | Reference Dates | Cross Referenced Internet Sources | Comments |
|--------------------------|--|------|--|------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>Working Class War</i> | The army, the service that trained the most men for Vietnam, had a similar system but was less brutal, and veterans report a variety of training experiences. The army operated about a dozen basic training camps throughout the country (for example, Fort Lewis, Washington; Fort Polk, Louisiana; Fort Dix, New Jersey; and Fort Jackson, South Carolina). | 90 | Fort Lewis, Fort Dix, Fort Polk, Fort Jackson | | | | Basic Training Army |
| <i>Working Class War</i> | A reservist from New York, Tauber writes about his experience of basic training at Fort Bliss, Texas, in the spring of 1969. | 93 | Fort Bliss, Texas | | | | Basic Training Reserves |
| <i>Working Class War</i> | There were also, by 1969, more than forty antiwar, underground GI newspapers that circulated secretly among trainees off and on base (for example, Shakedown at Fort Dix, Left Face at Fort McClellan, The Fatigue Press at Fort Hood, Last Harass at Fort Gordon, and Short Times at Fort Jackson). | 94 | Fort Dix, Fort McClellan, Fort Hood, Fort Gordon, Fort Jackson | | | | ?? |
| <i>Working Class War</i> | Also, many of the army combat soldiers fought in Vietnam went on to advanced training as paratroopers or Rangers, experiences comparable in intensity to marine basic. | 96 | | | | | |
| <i>Working Class War</i> | As chief of the Mental Hygiene Unit at Fort Ord, California (a major army basic training center), D... | 96 | Fort Ord | | | | Basic Training Army |

| Book Title | Quote | Page | Reference Locations | Referenced Units | Reference Dates | Cross Referenced Internet Sources | Comments |
|--------------------------|---|------|---------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| <i>Working Class War</i> | .At Fort Polk, Louisiana, one of the major training post for Vietnam-bound infantrymen, billboards were put up around the map to bolster morale. One billboard featured a painting of an American soldier using the butt of his rifle to knock down a man holding a rifle and wearing black "pajamas" (military slang for the traditional peasant garb that was worn by civilians and Viet Cong alike). ...At Fort Dix, one of the signs said, VIET CONG 0 BREAKFAST OF CHAMPIONS | 107 | Fort Polk, Fort Dix | | | | Basic Training Army |
| <i>Working Class War</i> | When soldiers did receive orders for Vietnam, many were struck with the realization that, for all their military training, they knew practically nothing about Vietnam,. That nation's history, geography, culture, politics - such topics were covered, at best, with a few lectures and a film at the end of AIT. | 113 | | | | | |
| <i>Working Class War</i> | It is rare, however, to find veterans who believe there were prepared for the specific challenges they would face in Vietnam. | 113 | | | | | |
| <i>Working Class War</i> | Probably the one aspect of training best designed to introduce American soldiers to the particular conditions of warfare in Vietnam, and the one most widely received (at least by combat soldiers), was the training conducted in mock Vietnamese villages. | 113 | | | | | |

| Book Title | Quote | Page | Reference Locations | Referenced Units | Reference Dates | Cross Referenced Internet Sources | Comments |
|---|---|------|--------------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Platoon Leader ⁴⁸⁵ | | | | | | | |
| <i>Platoon Leader</i> | There were no two ways about it. West Point was a pain in the neck, literally: in the tradition of the times I braced my chin deep into my neck the entire first year. | 9 | West Point | | | | |
| <i>Platoon Leader</i> | In February of 1969, I chose the infantry as my branch, and in March I volunteered for Vietnam....The road to war was now set, although there were to be a few stops along the way. The army, in its efficient way, allowed for a leave (honeymoon), a spate of schools (Airborne School, the infantry Officers Basic Course, Jumpmaster School, Ranger School), and even a short stateside assignment to learn the basics of being a second lieutenant in front of soldiers. Fort Benning, Georgia, was not much of a setting for a new bride...a move to Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and the 82d Airborne Division... | 10 | Fort Benning, Fort Bragg | | | | |
| Soldados Chicanos in Viet Nam ⁴⁸⁶ | | | | | | | |
| <i>Soldados Chicanos in Viet Nam</i> | I was taken to Oakland, California, for processing. And by the next morning, I was in Fort Ord. | 1 | Fort Ord | | | | Basic Training Army |
| <i>Soldados Chicanos in Viet Nam</i> | I got a two week leave before I went to Fort Polk | 12 | Fort Polk | | | | AIT |

⁴⁸⁵ James R. McDonough, *Platoon Leader* (Toronto: Bantam, 1986).

⁴⁸⁶ Charley Trujillo, *Soldados Chicanos in Viet Nam* (San Jose, CA: Chusma House Publications, 1990).

| Book Title | Quote | Page | Reference Locations | Referenced Units | Reference Dates | Cross Referenced Internet Sources | Comments |
|--|---|------|--|------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| <i>Soldados Chicanos in Viet Nam</i> | For basic training, I was sent to Fort Lewis, Washington. | 31 | Fort Lewis | | | | |
| <i>Soldados Chicanos in Viet Nam</i> | | 60 | Fort Jackson, SC | | | | |
| <i>Soldados Chicanos in Viet Nam</i> | From Fort Lewis I was sent to Fort Huachuca, Arizona, for vehicle driving school - truck driving. When I was there, they gave us a test and they told me, along with five other guys, that if we scored high in a certain test, they would send us to Fort Rucker, Alabama - some sort of chopper school. | 134 | Fort Lewis, Fort Huachuca, Fort Rucker | | | | Basic Training Army at Lewis, Truck Driving at Huachuca, Helicopter school at Rucker |
| <i>Soldados Chicanos in Viet Nam</i> | At Fort Knox, Kentucky, I was trained to be in a tank unit | 165 | Fort Knox | | | | |
| Where the Rivers Ran Backward⁴⁸⁷ | | | | | | | |
| <i>Where the Rivers Ran Backward</i> | So I went to war as an Engineer....The army had handed me a ticket to Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. | 4 | Fort Leonard Wood | | | | |

⁴⁸⁷ William E. Merritt, *Where the Rivers Ran Backward* (Anchor Group, 1990).

Table 4. Interview quotes from the Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress.

| Name | Branch | Unit | Quote | Fort | Comments | Cite As |
|----------------------|--------|--|---|---|---|--|
| U.S. Army | | | | | | |
| Benjamin Abrams | Army | Explosive Ordnance Disposal | I went to Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri and it wasn't very exciting and you do the basic exercise that they are teaching you as a soldier. After boot camp I went and spent two weeks at Redstone arsenal in northern Alabama and I learn about chemical weapons but of course chemical weapon's weren't used in Vietnam we were taught about bombs and after that I went to spend eight weeks at a naval plant south of Washington DC that where I learned about lots of types of weapons in the ...the last two weeks of my camp in Virginia in which I was in a Marine base and taught us about when the airplanes when they drop bombs and ... | Fort Leonard Wood | | Benjamin Abrams Collection (AFC/2001/001/60958), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |
| Robert Alekna | Army | A Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division | I enlisted. I enlisted in 1965. I was in college for two years and didn't do so well so I flunked out and I wound up joining the Army and went to Fort Knox, Kentucky. No. Wait a minute. That's Tennessee. Fort Knox -- Fort Knox, Kentucky. I can't remember now. But anyway went to Fort Knox, did my basic training. Then went to Fort Sam Houston in -- in Texas, for medic training as my next MOS, military occupational skill, completed my medic training. Then got my orders to go to Okinawa...And after about 10, 12 months in Okinawa, I decided that there's got to be a better way of serving in the military and decided to apply for officer candidate school and got accepted in officer candidate school, got assigned to Fort Benning, Georgia, their infantry training school, and completed that. | Fort Knox, Fort Sam Houston, Fort Benning | Basic Training - Army Fort Knox, Medic training (MOS) Fort Sam Houston, Infantry Training School Fort Benning | Robert Anthony Alekna Collection (AFC/2001/001/81876), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |
| Carlson Eugene Allen | Army | 117th Aviation Company, 222nd Aviation Battalion, 1st Aviation Brigade | Oh yes, quite well. My aviation training I received at, the first phase was at Fort Walters, Texas. I was there for about four months. They call that Primary One. And then once completing that phase and then I went onto Fort Rucker for the second phase of training, which was primarily instrument training and then also...flight tactics. Training you to fly a Huey and different types of missions that you would be expected to do as a Huey helicopter pilot out in the field. Landing in different types of LZs or landing zones, landing on slopes, confined areas, hauling troops, doing sling loads, and then also flying in instrument conditions. | Fort Walters, Fort Rucker | Fort Walters, Texas (Aviation - Basic?), Fort Rucker (MOS? Helicopter) | Carlson Eugene Allen Collection (AFC/2001/001/50231), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |

| Name | Branch | Unit | Quote | Fort | Comments | Cite As |
|--------------------|------------------------|--|---|---|---|---|
| Edward Bruce Allen | Army | A Battery, 4th Battalion, 60th Artillery Regiment; 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery Regiment; Air Defense Artillery | I took basic training at Fort Knox. Then I was scheduled to go to Fort Bliss, Texas, for missile school. During training, we experienced a lot of rain and the skin came off one of my feet, got infected. They couldn't transfer me from one post to another until that post profile was expired. | Fort Knox, Fort Bliss | Fort Knox (Army - Basic), Fort Bliss (Missile School, MOS?) | Edward Bruce Allen Collection (AFC/2001/001/1613), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |
| Alfred C. Anderson | Army Air Forces/ Corps | 94th Battalion, 410th Squadron, 8th Air Force | I was going all Army. I went to Fort Dix. There for a few days. And then we shipped out with the blinds drawn. The train, of course, was going to Wilmington. And we were all guessing what was going to happen to us, but the guy said, you notice the guys -- the regular Army guys, they got them Air Force patches off. You think we are going to the Air Force? I said, no, but I sure as hell hope so. When the train headed south, I would say a good two days, I believe -- I forgotten -- but we wound up in Miami Beach...I was 18 at the time, and we were jubilant, and, you know, clowns and had a good time. But the -- the funny part is, I only did 18 days in basic training in Miami Beach. They put out a notice that anybody who would volunteer to be an aerial gunner would -- would be sent out to Buckley Field, Colorado, and Denver, Colorado, and attend armament school, and then we would go to gunnery -- aerial gunnery school. And we would also be made sergeants right away...Do you think you could -- do you think you could fight in a war? We wanted to know. And so I succumbed and went to aerial gunnery school. Got my leather jacket, my sunglasses and my goggles and my wings and became a sergeant, and -- but I knew in my heart that I was going to pay dearly for that leather jacket and them goggles, and -- and I did pay. And I paid in spades. What else can I tell you?... | Fort Dix, Miami Beach, Buckley Field and Denver | | Alfred C. Anderson Collection (AFC/2001/001/53604), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |
| Tony Aragon | Army | 25th Infantry Division | It was a very rough day. I remember flying out of Denver to Washington State to Fort Lewis. It was just like you saw on TV. You get off the plane and they're (the officers) yelling at you. The slow pokes had to do pushups. It was a very rainy day I recall. It was very lonely. You're being yelled at and you're not use to it. | Fort Lewis | | Tony Aragon Collection (AFC/2001/001/17869), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |

| Name | Branch | Unit | Quote | Fort | Comments | Cite As |
|---------------------|--------|--|---|--------------------------|---|--|
| David L. Arlt | Army | 4th Infantry Division | <p>Josh McPhillips: Where did you go for basic training then?</p> <p>David L. Arlt: Fort Campbell, Kentucky. I was with the 101st Airborne Division. David L. Arlt: After basic we went to AIT.</p> <p>Josh McPhillips: AIT?</p> <p>David L. Arlt: Advanced Individual Training. I went to Fort Dix, New Jersey. (Slight Pause)</p> <p>Josh McPhillips: So where was your training done again?</p> <p>David L. Arlt: Fort Dix, New Jersey. That's where you go for your specialty of what you're going to be in. And I was a cook. I cant say a cook is going to be anything in a war or anything, but that will come a little bit later. After I got done with that, it took six weeks to go through all that. Then we headed overseas.</p> | Fort Campbell, Fort Dix | Fort Campbell (Army - Basic), Fort Dix (Army - AIT) | David L. Arlt Collection (AFC/2001/001/62920), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |
| Ronald A. Armstrong | Army | 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division | <p>Deborah Barrett: So, when you went in you took some tests. What else did you do?</p> <p>Ronald A. Armstrong: I got a physical - tested your hearing and everything. And then they marched us all to a downtown station - Union Station - and loaded us all onto a train at 7:00 at night. And then we took off on the train for Ft. Campbell, Kentucky.</p> <p>Ronald A. Armstrong: I think. No, I don't know. I don't think she came down for that. They had buses waiting for us that night to go wherever. They issued the orders for everybody in the company. You didn't know what they meant. If you had a MaS - military occupation specialty of 11 Bravo, that meant you were going to Vietnam.</p> <p>Deborah Barrett: And that's what you had.</p> <p>Ronald A. Armstrong: You were combat infantry. And I was 11 Bravo. I was sent down to Ft. Polk, Louisiana.</p> | Fort Campbell, Fort Polk | | Ronald A. Armstrong Collection (AFC/2001/001/68984), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |

| Name | Branch | Unit | Quote | Fort | Comments | Cite As |
|------------------------|--------|--|--|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| Philip Adams | Army | 36th Civil Affairs Battalion, 157th Security Force, 173rd Airborne Brigade, 172nd Infantry Brigade | Fort Knox (Basic) --> Benning (Jump School) (video interview) | Fort Knox, Fort Benning | | Phillip Adams Collection (AFC/2001/001/71900), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |
| William J. Adams | Army | 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment, 11th Brigade, 23rd Infantry Division | Fort Hood, Texas (Basic) ---> Fort Campbell, Kentucky (Jump School) | Fort Hood, Fort Campbell | | William J. Adams Collection (AFC/2001/001/9469), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |
| Steven John Albert | Army | Headquarters Company, 25th Infantry Division; 4th Psychological Operations Group (PSYOP) | Fort Ord (Basic) ---> Ford Ord (Admin AIT) --> | Ford Ord | | Steven John Albert Collection (AFC/2001/001/66796), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |
| Douglas Gary Albertson | Army | 558th Military Police Company | Fort Jackson (For Supplies) ---> Fort Stewart, Georgia (Basic) ---> ?? | | Overseas ? Served during Vietnam, but went to Germany | Douglas Gary Albertson Collection (AFC/2001/001/47062), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |
| William E. Aldridge | Army | 5th Special Forces Group; 6th Special Force Group | Fort Dix (Basic) --> Fort Sill (Artillery) --> Fort Benning (OCS) ---> Africa ---> Panama (General Warfare School) ---> Special Forces Vietnam | Fort Dix, Fort Sill, Fort Benning | | William E. Aldridge Collection (AFC/2001/001/76905), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |
| Donald E. Alexander | Army | Company B, 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division | Fort Campbell, Kentucky (Basic) --> Fort Polk (AIT) | Fort Campbell, Fort Polk | | Donald E. Alexander Collection (AFC/2001/001/9667), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |

| Name | Branch | Unit | Quote | Fort | Comments | Cite As |
|------------------------|--------|---|--|--------------------------|---|---|
| Trinidad Alfaro | Army | 25th Infantry Division | Fort Campbell, Kentucky (Basic) --> Fort Polk (AIT) | Fort Campbell, Fort Polk | | Trinidad Alfaro Collection (AFC/2001/001/38224), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |
| Stuart Long Alison | Army | 65th Engineer Battalion, 25th Infantry Division | Fort Gordon (Basic and AIT- Radio) | Fort Gordon | | Stuart Long Alison Collection (AFC/2001/001/58919), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |
| Charles Wayne Alligood | Army | 125th Transportation Comman | Fort Gordon (Basic) --> ? | | | Charles Wayne Alligood Collection (AFC/2001/001/64471), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |
| Robert Patrick Arnoldt | Army | 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division | <p>Alexandra Hantalas-Adams: Where did you train?</p> <p>Robert Patrick Arnoldt: Basic training was at Fort Pats, Kentucky-spent nine weeks there. Then I went to infantry school in Fort Ord, California. I was there for about ten weeks or eleven week. Then I went to Oakland Army base for two or three days, and shipped out from there.</p> <p>Alexandra Hantalas-Adams: What training did you receive?</p> <p>Robert Patrick Arnoldt: Well in basic training it's you know the basics of being a soldier how do march, how to salute what to do blah blah. Infantry school was a whole different ball of wax. It was serious business, weapons training, explosives, land navigation, living in the field, close combat, radio, pretty much everything you could possibly be doing, I learned how to do. Quiet thorough, quiet efficient, probably helped on a couple occasions to save my life.</p> | Fort Pats, Fort Ord | Fort Pats (Basic), Fort Ord (AIT, Infantry) | Robert Patrick Arnoldt Collection (AFC/2001/001/76372), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |

| Name | Branch | Unit | Quote | Fort | Comments | Cite As |
|-------------------|--------|--|--|-----------------------------|--|--|
| David D. Augustyn | Army | 1st Air Cavalry | <p>Dave Augustyn: The Basic training is that what you are talking about?</p> <p>Sheila Quintana: Mmhmm.</p> <p>Dave Augustyn: It was in Fort Lewis Washington, in 1968 August 7th. And I was going to turn 21 on the 24th so I turned 21 in basic training. So. It was pretty intense. And uh, and then we went straight into advanced infantry training. Which was uh. The fear began right there because when they talk infantry, you're going to Vietnam unless you get something wrong with you physically or what ever. It were about 99% of the people at my training after your basic AIT Advanced infantry training, we were all going. Reality set in that I wasn't going to be basic training then some sort of a desk job or something lucky. And that I was going into combat and probably the front lines.</p> | Fort Lewis | | David D. Augustyn Collection (AFC/2001/001/26823), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |
| Thomas Ray Axley | Army | C Company, 4th Battalion, 8th Training Brigade; 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division | <p>Thomas Ray Axley: For processing, went to Louisville, Brick Station, and from there took physical and written exams and everything. And I was a little overweight at the time and they didn't want to take me but I went back a few months later and took a weight assessment and everything -- weight assessment, they went ahead and processed -- decided to keep me and processed me.</p> <p>And from there, I went to Fort Knox, Kentucky, to -- for basic training, basic infantry, and that was in September of 1970 and I was with the Charlie Company, Fourth Battalion, Eighth Training Brigade, and started with eight weeks of basic infantry training, and a lot of marksmanship. ...It was -- compared to today, I think it was a lot more rigorous. The -- there was a lot of marching and everything, and in the company area, we had to double-time from our barracks to the mess hall or to the orderly room or somewhere. There wasn't no -- you just couldn't casually walk. It was double-timing, and early -- early morning hours, getting us up and get things squared away in the barracks and then out on the company street for the day's training, whatever it happened to be, the first day or rifle marksmanship or map reading or -- just a variety of things that we did.</p> | Fort Knox, Fort Sam Houston | Fort Knox (Basic), Fort Sam Houston (AIT, MOS-Medic) | |

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| | | | <p>And then from there, after eight weeks -- after I graduated from there, after eight weeks of basic infantry, they reassigned everybody depending on what your M.O.S. was going to be, which is military occupational skill, and I guess through the testing, everything, decided I was going to be a medical specialist or a medic, so they sent me to Fort Sam Houston, Texas, to be a medic. And that was 10 weeks. And during those 10 -- 10 weeks of training, we went through basic medical skills, field skills, hospital skills, that the hospital -- either stationary hospital or field hospital would need.</p> | | | |
| <p>Jeffrey G. Ballmann</p> | <p>Army</p> | <p>Headquarters, Headquarters Company A</p> | <p>Jeffrey G. Ballmann: I served basically in two places I got, when I was drafted, Fort Gordon, Georgia for basic training and I stayed there for the next ten, eleven months. After that when I was, got lucky time to go to Viet Nam, I went to Viet Nam and I ended up in a place names Natrang.</p> <p>Deonna Douglas: Tell me about your training.</p> <p>Jeffrey G. Ballmann: It's basically, it's two types of things it's military training and they try you teach you how to march and how to obey and break you down as an unit and everything. But it's you know, but it was also physical training and conditioning and you get up early in the day, stay up late at night and get up the next morning and start all over again. I was one of the few people that probably gained weight in basic training, because we ate breakfast every morning which I didn't, you know when I was in college I would grab something as I was running out the door, so I had all these big meals and I ate em, they weren't the best food in the world but it wasn't the worst either, so I gained about 20 pounds in basic training which is unheard of. Uh the physical part I was very good at, uhh the captain of the company loved me for that, but with the rifle it was a different story, I wasn't a real good shot and uhh one day he loved me, next day he hated me but thank goodness the physical stuff was at the end of training, so he loved me when I left opposed to hating me.</p> | <p>Fort Gordon (Basic),</p> | | <p>Jeffrey G. Ballmann Collection (AFC/2001/001/52921), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress</p> |

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| James Barnes | Army | Battery C, 138th Field Artillery | <p>Pat McClain: Today I'm interviewing James F. Barnes, 698 South Street, Scottsburg, Indiana. Date of birth, February the 22nd, 1943. My name is Pat McClain, and I'm on the staff of United States Senator Richard Lugar. Mr. Barnes, were you drafted or were you en- -- did you enlist into the Army?</p> <p>James Barnes: I guess you could say I enlisted in the National Guard. At the time that I enlisted, or joined the Guard, 1964, my brother is three years older than, you know, I am, and he was already in the Army. He was stationed in Germany. And our parents were a little older than most parents. And my dad was in real poor health. And my brother advised me to do the National Guard so I wouldn't have to be gone. You know, so I could help take care -- help take care of them while he was gone. So I wound up in -- in the Guard. And I think it was in March I went to Fort Knox for my basic training. Then after that went to Fort Sill for some advanced training on -- in artillery, because the unit I was assigned to at Bardstown, Kentucky, was artillery....</p> <p>James Barnes: And, you know, we trained at Fort Hood. Got to know a lot of people from the different battalions or batteries or whatever. And then when you got ready to go to Vietnam, they give us 30 days. Sent us home, you know, for a 30-day leave. And then we all had to meet at Fort Hood in October. And they grouped us all together, and we flew from -- I think they took us to Dallas, Texas. We flew from there to Honolulu. When -- if anybody asked me if I been there. "Well, yeah." I say, "Yeah, I was there for a half hour. 4:30 in the morning. 5:00 o'clock in the morning we left."</p> | Fort Knox (Basic), Fort Sill (AIT-Artillery), Fort Hood | Enlisted in National Guard '64, served in the states before deployed to Vietnam | James F. Barnes Collection (AFC/2001/001/369), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |

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| William Battle | Army | 25th Infantry, 1/5 Mech. | <p>Robert Etheridge: Do you recall your first days, like, once you found out that you had been drafted; what was that experience like?</p> <p>William Battle: Scary. Very scary, because I had never really been away from home. I first went to Fort Bragg but they had too many troops to train there so they transferred some to Fort Jackson, South Carolina, where I took my basic training.</p> <p>Robert Etheridge: What was that experience like?</p> <p>William Battle: Oh, it was -- well, it was teaching you how to be tough; and it was really tough because of the weather, the conditions down there in the summertime in South Carolina, it is unbelievable hot down there. And now that I look back on it, it was fun, basic training and AIT was fun.</p> | Fort Bragg, Fort Jackson | | William C. Battle Collection (AFC/2001/001/4417), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |

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| James A. Baumbarger | Army | 687th Land Clearing Company, 87th Engineers | <p>James Baumbarger: I was born and raised in Whitehouse, Ohio. Went to school at Anthony Wayne High School up until the 11th grade. I come out of school, worked until I was in my 20s. Draft notice come, I decided with my dad's advice to join the United States Army in 1966. I joined the army, went to basic training at Fort Knox, Kentucky. Went to Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri for AIT.</p> <p>Andrew L. Fisher: And what did you learn?</p> <p>James Baumbarger: -- to become an engineer, to learn how to operate heavy equipment, learn how to read grade stakes. All the good stuff. From AIT, I went to Bamberg, Germany. Was in Bamberg, Germany for approximately four months, come down on a levee Was sent to Vietnam with a 30-day leave in route.</p> <p>Andrew L. Fisher: Why would they send you all the way to Bamberg, Germany, and then send you all the way to Vietnam from there?</p> <p>James Baumbarger: They were expanding the manpower in Vietnam. It was a push. I went over as when they would have the highest troop concentrate after I got there. That was when they had the big manpower push for more soldiers in Vietnam so they could get the conflict over with.</p> | Fort Knox (Basic), Fort Leonard Wood (AIT) | | James A. Baumbarger Collection (AFC/2001/001/21632), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |

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| Francis J. Bayer | Army | 155th Aviation Company; 92nd Aviation Company; 8th Squadron, 1st Cavalry Division; 35th Infantry Division | <p>Francis J. Bayer: ...But, it was interesting because there were a few of us that were heading for the same destination down in Fort Polk, Louisiana to spend the summer months in the heat of the south. It was interesting experience there. And there was about 8 different guys I was stationed with in basic that were going to be going through flight school also so we formed a kind of a camaraderie,</p> <p>Amy J. Betts: And so was your flight school in Fort Polk also?</p> <p>Francis J. Bayer: No from there we went to Fort Walters, Texas, which has been closed since then. But that was the primary, where you took your primary aviation training. And you start off with 3 weeks of officer training intermixed with classroom work and meteorology and aerodynamics and mechanical aspects of different aircraft and whatnot. And after those first 3 weeks then you actually finally got to go out to the flight line and see your first helicopter. They were actually flying three types of helicopters at the time.</p> <p>...Anyway, then you spent your primary flight school at Fort Walters, Texas. That was 4 1/2 months down there...Then right after the New Year we had to report to Fort Rucker, Alabama to complete our training and that was at that time what they called the Advanced Helicopter training facility. Current there is only one and that is Fort Rucker. National Guard has 2, eastern and western training centers. Western being in Tuscan and the eastern in Indiantown Gap outside of Harrisburg.</p> | Fort Polk (Basic), Fort Walters (Flight School), Fort Rucker (Advanced Flight School) | | Francis J. Bayer Collection (AFC/2001/001/17074), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |

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| George A. Beadles, Jr. | Army | 1st Signal Battalion | <p>George A. Beadles, Jr.: My father had been in the Air Force. My mother had been in the Army. She had been involved with -- she had been a switchboard operator. And I decided to go in the Army and work in telephone work. And I went in, went to Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, and took central office training for 26 weeks.</p> <p>George A. Beadles, Jr.: My date of enlistment was January the 31st, 1966. It was snowing.... And, of course, the train went slow, and it would stop. And the tracks were being cleared. And we finally arrived in Georgia. I can't remember right now. And then we took a bus and ended up in Fort Benning.</p> <p>Patrick Hunter: Right. Can you tell me about your boot camp training experiences?</p> <p>George A. Beadles, Jr.: I was in -- I think it's called Sand Hill, the -- part of Fort Benning. And we had to have five guards. So somebody would be stuck walking three or four hours every night. And then someone -- he'd have to wake somebody else. And they'd walk three or four hours every night. And the first time I had to wake somebody up to relieve me, I didn't think they was ever going to wake up. And, of course, you had different personalities and different things. So you wasn't always sure how to approach somebody. You didn't know whether you should shake them or you should stand back and talk loud and see if they wake up. And it was -- every time you woke someone up so they could relieve you was a different experience, because you weren't used to them, and they certainly wasn't used to being woke up. And because it was January, the last of January, the training was in the winter months. Even in Georgia sometimes it was cold, because you were in World War II buildings, and you had to keep your windows open. And then that's also why you had the fire watch, because they were wooden buildings and they wouldn't catch on fire. And once or twice we had to ask to throw coal in a boiler to heat the water to warm the building. And, of course, the food was fattening; but I ate it, anyway.</p> | Fort Monmouth, Fort Benning | | George A. Beadles, Jr. Collection (AFC/2001/001/5381), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |

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| Ronald Warren Best | Army | 3rd Platoon, B Company, 4th Battalion (Airborne), 503rd Infantry Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade | Ronald Warren Best: They helped you. They would motivate you, yeah. They have ways of motivating, you know, and after you -- I don't know how many potatoes you get to peel, but you're going to do what they want you to do. If you just flat don't fit, you get what's referred to as a discharge for the convenience of the government; that's if you smoke too much dope, or you're not fitting in, it's just not working out for you. But all the rest of us went through just fine and went off to our various directions. I went to medic training down in Texas, then I went to Fort Benning, Georgia, for jump school, then I went to (?head and head?) to get everything dyed green and get lots of shots because we were going to Southeast Asia. | Fort Sam Houston (? AIT), Fort Benning (Jump School) | | Ronald Warren Best Collection (AFC/2001/001/76678), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |
| Jerry Estel Blanton | Army | 525th Engineer Detachment | Larry Ordner: My goodness. Well, where did you go for basic? Jerry Estel Blanton: Fort Knox, Kentucky. Larry Ordner: Yeah. When you think of basic training, what -- what comes to mind? Jerry Estel Blanton: Oh, it's just the -- the gruesome, the yelling. But it was something that, like I said, everyone had to face it. Larry Ordner: Um-hum. Well, after basic training, Jerry, then -- then what? Did you have additional training? Jerry Estel Blanton: Yes. I went to Fort Meade, Maryland, training into the Fire -- in the Fire Department. | Fort Knox (Basic), Fort Meade (AIT) | | Jerry Estel Blanton Collection (AFC/2001/001/2739), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |
| Paul E. Bosselait | Army | Radio Research Battalion 330 | I left Gardner and went to Worcester, Massachusetts, and enlisted there. They sent me by bus down to Fort Dix in New Jersey for basic training...So from there I went to advanced training at Fort Monmouth in New Jersey. That was from February of 1970 until July of 1970. My military occupational specialty was 32 Delta, which was listed as a facilities controller.... | Fort Dix (Basic), Fort Monmouth (AIT) | | Paul E. Bosselait Collection (AFC/2001/001/68381), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |

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| Glen Brown | Army | 1st Cavalry Division | <p>Glen Brown: Uh-huh. Q -- kind of training they did?</p> <p>Glen Brown: We did a lot of physical training and a lot of weapons training, learned how to shoot fire weapons -- and we had tests in how to do those things -- and how to throw hand grenades and how to read maps and how to survive in the wilderness and how to make a bed and how to eat in 2.2 seconds and how to stand in lines and how to clean bathrooms and clean floors and -- that's it.</p> | | | Glen Brown Collection (AFC/2001/001/1349), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |
| Michael Buchanan | Army | B Company, 588th Combat Engineers | <p>I was stationed in several different places. When I went into the army in 1969 I went to basic training at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. From there I went to school at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, and went to school to be a heavy equipment mechanic, to work on bull dozers and earth moving equipment. After that I was slotted to go to Vietnam, but our orders were cancelled and I went to Germany for four months where I was in an engineer unit. I was then put on orders to go to Vietnam. I went to Vietnam in January, of 1970. And then after I was wounded I was a patient at, I was Medivacced to Japan and I spent a month in Japan in the hospitals there. They got you ready to withstand the flight back to the United States. I spent a number of months at the Great Lakes Naval Hospital, up in Great Lakes, Illinois. And after I was discharged from there, a couple of months later I was discharged from the army from Fort Sheridan, Illinois.</p> | Fort Bragg (Basic), Fort Belvoir (AIT) | | Michael Rodney Buchanan Collection (AFC/2001/001/9567), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |
| Larry Buehner | Army | 37th Infantry Scout Dog Platoon, 1st Air Cavalry, I Corps | <p>I was just in an infantry unit down in Ft. Polk. From there, because of my, let's say the test that you take in the service, they figured I was sergeant material, so they sent me from there. I went to Fort Benning, Georgia to NCO school.</p> | Fort Polk (Basic), Fort Benning (NCO) | Interesting stories about trainings with dogs | Larry Buehner Collection (AFC/2001/001/24562), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |

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| Craig Caldwell | Army | Charlie Company, 3rd Battalion, 187th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division | <p>Craig Caldwell: Okay, I graduated in June of '66. Just about every graduate of VMI was headed into the Army--not the Army, but into military service. And within about-- within a year's period of time, just about everybody that was still in the military service was either in Vietnam or had been in Vietnam. So I went in in February. I delayed my entry into the service to come home for a few months and went in in February of '67, and I went to Fort Benning, Georgia, to the Infantry Officers' Basic School, and spent time there learning tactics, doing live fire exercises, operating communications equipment, walking around in the woods a lot, enhancing my skills at reading a map, and learning leadership skills and training because that's--Jane Purtle: So, now you also did some advanced training while you were there in Fort Benning?</p> <p>Craig Caldwell: Oh, yes, yeah. I had volunteered to go to Vietnam. I wanted to go to Vietnam. I, you know, felt--there's no question that John Kennedy and a few other people like that had really had an influence on me, and I felt like the country, you know, needed my service. And I didn't understand all the politics particularly, but I felt that I had a duty to go, and I felt like this was--the Vietnam war was the historic event of that decade and maybe of many decades. And I wanted to be involved, but I wanted to live through it also. And I felt like if I could do the most vigorous training that was offered by the United States Army, then I might have a chance of coming out of this situation in one piece. So I went to ranger training-- was the--was probably the more advanced rigorous training that the Army had at that time to learn how to basically do commando kinds of things and lots of patrolling and patrolling behind enemy lines and things of that nature. And we spent a lot of time in the woods then; I mean, days and days in both mountainous country as well as down in Florida for about three weeks, and then I came back and did a-- learned how to jump out of an airplane with a parachute and--for about three weeks, and then I was on my way to Fort Campbell, Kentucky.</p> | Fort Benning | went through ROTC at VMI before entering the military | vCraig Caldwell Collection (AFC/2001/001/3574), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |

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| John Castro | Army | 26th Engineer Battalion | <p>Steve Estes: That's OK, it was kind of a joke anyway. What were your impressions, you were in Fort Knox for your basic training and then Fort Leonard Wood. What were your impressions of those places having grown up on farms and then in Detroit?</p> <p>John Castro: Well, I thought they were pretty neat. You know at least, well the bunk area and the barracks sort-of reminded me of living in a barn. They had the siding on the outside and you could see the posthole in the floor and all that in there and they had some kind of material that wasn't plastered like in a house. You know, just rustic and it looked like the inside of a barn. One thing that really fascinated me was the machine that they had for washing dishes. One thing that really impressed me is that it was like a washing machine with the old type agitator with ringers. Something like that but it had bumps all over that was used for peeling potatoes. That was pretty neat. Then I was expanding my knowledge and horizons. In Advanced Infantry Training, I was also a squad leader and when I graduated, I graduated with the second highest score ever recorded for that MOS [Military Occupational Specialty], Then the post commander wanted to see me. He wanted me go to West Point. And I had to take a physical. I went and saw a doctor because my eyes weren't adjustable to 20/20 vision with glasses I was told that wasn't able to go to West Point. And I did get a trophy and recognition for having such a high score in that MOS. And then I went on leave, a 30 day leave and that was the first time my mom expressed her concern. Because she knew I was going to Vietnam after that.</p> | Fort Knox (Basic), Fort Leonard Wood (AIT) | | John R. Castro Collection (AFC/2001/001/19026), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |

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| Max Cleland | Army | 68th Signal Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) | <p>Edwin M. Perry: You get to go to airborne school?</p> <p>Max Cleland: Yeah. Which is a few days -- few weeks into -- into being young (inaudible) officer at Fort -- Fort Gordon, I said, you know, I'm going to -- I'm going to tackle this thing called -- called jump school. So after Fort Gordon and then microwave radio officer training at Fort Monmouth, which is where I got selected to be an aide, I went to jump school where I knew I was crazy then. I mean, jumping out of a perfectly good airplane, you know you're flat-out crazy, but that was a great experience to survive (laughter) and to get my wings pinned upon my chest. And back in those days, that was what you're supposed to do. I mean, keep in mind, in 1964 or '65, Barry Sadler's song, you know, "The Ballad of the Green Berets," was number one song in America. He was on The Ed Sullivan Show. So Special Forces, Vietnam, airborne -- that was all de rigueur. That was all, you know, what was happening. And I was very much interested in -- in the action and -- and went to jump school, was an aide for a year Stateside to a general and then volunteered for Vietnam.</p> | Fort Gordon (Jump School), Fort Monmouth (Radio) | ROTC before entering | Max Cleland Collection (AFC/2001/001/3512), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |

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| Joseph Louis Coleman, Sr. | Army | 999th Signal Corps | <p>Joseph Louis Coleman, Sr.: Uh, that's a long road. (laughs). Where did I go? Okay. Fort Chaffee, Arkansas is where I did my basic training. Left Fort Chaffee, Arkansas and went to uh, Fort Knox, Kentucky. I did uh, training in radio, teletype and stuff like that. That was my uh, basic, not the basic, but after basic training; as far as school, career that you're going to serve in the military. So I stayed there for, I don't know how many months, 18 weeks or something like that. Left Fort Knox and went to Fort Bragg, North Carolina where I trained with the 82nd airborne division. Uh, I had military police training and ride patrol. Then I went to South Carolina where I practiced with the civilian police department. They trained the military police. From Fort Bragg, North Carolina I got out of the service and went home for six (6) months I got back into the service and then I re-enlisted at that point.</p> <p>Christopher Razor: (laughs)</p> <p>Joseph Louis Coleman, Sr.: So before my time was up, rather than stay out, there weren't any jobs or anything. So I went back into the service in 1964. From there to Fort Carson, Colorado. Uh, where they had been looking for me. And uh, I didn't know that. I was picked at Fort Carson, Colorado after re-enlisting and they sent me to West Point. From there to West Point, from West Point back to Fort Carson and from Fort Carson to Vietnam. I had orders to go to Vietnam. I had orders to change, so uh, to reflect me going to the Ryukyu Islands instead. At this point I was the NCO, so uh I was pretty much making my own decisions as to where I would like to go. I had a better chance of not going to Vietnam than some guys did because I was in charge of a squadron at that time. West Point came back then we went to the Rykunka Islands, uh, stopped at Guam, and uh, we went to Okinawa, which was my home base. That way I could carry my family. From there, which was my base, we worked out of there. We went to the Philippines to uh, to _____ to the China Sea and the Gulf of Siam and the surrounding Vietnam area. But, the majority of my time was in Okinawa. We went TDY, so to speak, into the areas of Vietnam.</p> | Fort Chaffee (Basic), Fort Knox, Fort Bragg, Fort Carson, West Point | | Joseph Louis Coleman, Sr. Collection (AFC/2001/001/38350), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |

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| John K. Colligan | Army | 605th Transportation Company, Pipesmoke Recovery, 128th Assault Helicopter Company | <p>Terry L. Beckenbaugh: Do you recall your first days in the service?</p> <p>John K. Colligan: Yes. In early 1970-I think it was February -1 reported to New Orleans to the Old Customs House, where we were inducted, you know, given physicals and so forth, and then I was sent to Fort Polk, Louisiana, for basic training. And, I did basic training there, and then following basic training, I went to Fort Eustis, Virginia, for Helicopter Recruit Chief training.</p> | Fort Polk (Basic), Fort Eustis (Chopper) | | |
| Godfrey A Crance | Army | 100th Chemical Group | <p>Met by a bus, which took us to Fort Ord, which must be the nicest place in the world to do basic training. There we were in September, we were there until December, it rained somewhat but it was never really miserable. We had time to go to San Francisco and Monterey, and the Laguna Seca Racetrack. At the end of my two months of basic, I got orders, the only one out of two hundred and sixty six men in my unit, to go to Fort McClellan, Alabama.</p> | Fort Ord, Fort McClellan | | Godfrey A. Crane Collection (AFC/2001/001/68384), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |
| Kenneth Crawford | Army | | <p>My first training experience was in basic training. And basic training then was probably different from what it is now because in basic training then we went through eight weeks of basic training and basically it was just preparing us for what we could expect in the army. After the eight weeks of basic training, we went through what was called eight weeks of AIT. AIT means advanced individual training, and basically that's where they train you for whatever you were going to specialize in. When I went in, I was going to specialize in administration and that's what I was trained for in my AIT, which was in Fort Knox, Kentucky.</p> | Fort Knox | | Kenneth O. Crawford Collection (AFC/2001/001/58802), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |

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| Julius Thomas Crouch | Army | Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV); Headquarters, 3rd Army | <p>Julius Thomas Crouch: I was commissioned through the ROTC program.</p> <p>Lisa A. Moreira: So tell us about leaving for training camp and what your early days were like.</p> <p>Julius Thomas Crouch: Well, I went to Fort Knox, Kentucky for officer's basic course. It was -- it was like being back in school. I completed the officer's basic course, and there was a gap between officer's basic course and my time in flight school. And so I remained at Fort Knox for a month or so, and then I went to Fort Walters, Texas to the primary helicopter school. Then I completed that training and went to Fort Rucker for advance helicopter school, had an incident with one of the flight instructors. Fort Rucker, Alabama in 1966 and 1967 wasn't the best place to be if you were a black man. And I got my -- first I got my class change. I was moved from one class to another. And then I was removed from the flight school.</p> <p>Lisa A. Moreira: Okay. So you went to flight school. Do you have any other specialized training?</p> <p>Julius Thomas Crouch: Yeah. I went to the Psychological Warfare School at Fort Bragg, North Carolina prior to going to Vietnam.</p> | Fort Knox, Fort Walters, Fort Rucker, Fort Bragg, | | Julius Thomas Crouch Collection (AFC/2001/001/80914), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |

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| James H. Davis | Army | Army Security Agency (ASA) | <p>Michael Willie: So when did you actually report for basic training? And where was that at?</p> <p>James H. Davis: Fort Jackson, South Carolina....So I got my orders for language school, I don't know, somewhere two or three weeks before the end of basic and there was going to be a study in Vietnamese in Fort Bliss, Texas, for a year so I knew that probably I was going to go to Vietnam....We spent a lot of time in class learning Vietnamese and learning the basics and then we went and listened to tape recordings which is something, to a point, something you do in studying any language even in college or whatever. This is mainly structured around a military orientation, you know. We learned all the casual phrases: Hello, how are you and all that kind of stuff.</p> <p>Michael Willie: Now what was after language school?</p> <p>James H. Davis: Well, for the Army Security Agency people we went to military intelligence. It was really an electronic warfare, school. No, not really, that's not quite it either. What the Army security agency does each service has its own security service. You're intercepting communications...So that's what we learned in San Angelo, Texas. At the moment the name of the base escapes me. It was an Air Force base. We had Air Force, Marines, Army, all kinds of people going through the school.</p> | Fort Jackson (Basic), Fort Bliss (Lang School) | | James H. Davis Collection (AFC/2001/001/5953), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |
| Jerry Ray Davis | Army | 335th Transportation Group | When I first went in service I went in to basic training on December, 22, 1965. We were stationed at Fort Jackson, South Carolina while we completed our basic training, after that we went to AIT which is Advanced Individual Training and we did that at Fort Eustis, Virginia. There I was trained as a helicopter engine repairman. Uh, the course was about nine weeks long, and they taught us about tu-turbine and reciprocating engines. When we first went there, the commanding officer spoke to us there was like 450 of us in an auditorium and he said that once we completed the course 90 percent of us would go to Vietnam, and it was true to his word. We completed our course, did a 15 day leave, and then left Vietnam. | Fort Jackson (Basic), Fort Eustis (AIT) | | Jerry Ray Davis Collection (AFC/2001/001/60146), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |

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| Kent C. Decker | Army | 39th Combat Engineer Battalion | . And, you know, when you was -- I was in Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, for my basic training and AIT. | Fort Leonard Wood | | Kent C. Decker Collection (AFC/2001/001/76676), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |
| Walter James Dexter | Army | | <p>Yes, we had basic training at Ford Campbell, Kentucky. That was in '66. It was kind of funny. You go out one door, you're in Kentucky, the other door you're in Tennessee. It was Fort Campbell, Kentucky. We had basic training there.</p> <p>David Brusseau:</p> <p>What did you think about that?</p> <p>Walter James Dexter:</p> <p>Basic training was very different. Because I wasn't used to getting hollered at, number one. The drill sergeant was a hollerer. I don't think he could ever talk. Because every time he opened his mouth, he hollered. That was something hard to get used to because I never really got hollered at like that at home. But then it was something that, after awhile, you get used to. It was different. We had basic training and we had to go through obstacle course. We all went through the same thing. Had to climb over a wall with a rope, come down, crawl up under a fence, with your body down. Things like that we had to train.</p> <p>David Brusseau:</p> <p>Anyone shooting at you?</p> <p>Walter James Dexter:</p> <p>No, not during basic training. Not like that. I went through that through AIT. I had advanced infantry training at Fort Polk, Louisiana.</p> | Fort Campbell (Basic), Fort Polk (AIT) | | Walter James Dexter Collection (AFC/2001/001/80420), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |

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| David D. Dryden | Army | 82nd Medical Detachment; 587th Medical Detachment; 571st Medical Detachment | <p>David D. Dryden:</p> <p>Well, I entered the service in July of 1958 after graduating from the University of South Dakota as a distinguished military graduate. My first military post assignment was at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. I was commissioned in the Army Medical Service Corps. My undergraduate degree, was in journalism. My first very short assignment was assigned to the Brooke Army Medical Center Public Information office where I wrote short articles on interesting military events and covered some sports activities at that time, because at that time there were a lot of athletic teams in the military that competed with each other.</p> <p>I was only in that assignment for about three months, and then I went to the Basic Officers course for the Army Medical Service Corps. Then during the time I was in that course, I was selected to go to helicopter flight training. I subsequently went to Fort Walters, Texas for the first half of the training, and then the last half of the training was done at Fort Rucker, Alabama. I completed flight training, and my assignment out of flight school was to Wertheim, Germany where I was assigned to an Army Medical Evacuation Detachment at that time, where I flew for three years, essentially medical evacuation missions all over Germany....So it was a very interesting and rewarding and learning experience in flying in Germany just because of the weather, largely. I guess I'm trying to follow, after that, the unit that I was in was subsequently transferred out of Germany to Fort Bragg, North Carolina, where we were assigned to the 45th Air Ambulance Company. This became a very temporary assignment for us, as we all knew the unit was sent back to the states, specifically, our unit to Fort Bragg to be dispersed, and the pilots all got orders mostly to go to the Republic of Vietnam, in mid 1963.</p> | Fort Sam Houston (? AIT), Fort Benning (Jump School), Fort Rucker, Fort Bragg | | <p>David D. Dryden Collection</p> <p>(AFC/2001/001/72727), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress</p> |

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| George E. Dunn | Army | 13th Field Artillery | I enlisted in the Army on July 31st, 1961. I enlisted after four years of college. I had two years of college in Virginia which had an ROTC program and then I went to a state school in North Carolina which did not. So I enlisted in the army with the full intent of going on and getting into the officer candidate school, which I was able to do. Took me a lot longer than I thought to get accepted, but I finally got accepted. I went to the officer candidate school program at Fort Sill Oklahoma and graduated as a second lieutenant of artillery March of 1965. | Fort Sill | | George E. Dunn Collection (AFC/2001/001/9178), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |
| Milford Elliott | Army | 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry, 25th Division | Well, like I said, I enlisted in March of '68, and I had to catch the bus, come to Baltimore to be inducted and everything. Then after that we were sent to Fort Bragg, North Carolina, which I held -- I was there for basic training. And I thought that I was going to get some boot training, but what I was getting was infantry training. So when I graduated from North Carolina basic, I was sent home for two weeks for a leave. Then I had to report to Fort Gordon, Georgia, where I was down there to take airborne infantry training. I can still remember when I got there that night, big old E-7 about six-foot-five, six-foot-seven, weighed about 240 pounds, got off the bus, he says, "You belong to me for the next eight weeks." And that's what we did, we belonged to him for the next six, eight weeks. But taking that airborne training, it was a lot of fun. You had -- myself, I never did do much exercising or nothing like that, but down there, they put you in shape. And then after that -- [Tape stopped and restarted.] Now, down there in that airborne infantry training, every morning when we got up, the first thing was, we'd start -- we had to start running two miles every morning, plus we had to do so many push-ups, so many sit-ups. Then as the weeks went on, everything got a little bit harder. After about third or fourth week, we were running five miles every morning, running, hooping, hollering, singing, having a good old time, bunch of old boys, you know. And the calisikes (ph) got hard, but as -- as the time went on, you got used to it, and it -- it really made you feel good, except when you got going on a field march with a full pack and stuff, and some fool would mess up, and you had to fall down and give about 25 push-ups with a full pack full of gear and stuff. That wasn't a lot of -- a lot of fun. And they'd take you and let you practice -- take you to a field and let you practice jumping out of a airplane, just to see how it would feel like and stuff before they sent | Fort Bragg (Basic), Fort Gordon (Artillery), Fort Benning (Jump) | | Milford Washington Elliott, III Collection (AFC/2001/001/17232), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |

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| | | | <p>you to jump school in Fort Benning, Georgia. You were down there for, I think it was three weeks now, three or four weeks. That's a long -- and you have a -- what they call a ground week, tower week, and jump week and stuff, and that's when you get your wings and you get stationed with another outfit and you never get to jump again. [Tape stopped and restarted.] After we all graduated and everything, we were all called out outside the company battalion and stuff, and they gave out orders where you were supposed to report. Half of us went to Germany -- or half of them went to Germany, and the other half of us had to go to Vietnam. So they sent us home on leave. We were home on leave about 30 days, we had to report to Oakland.</p> | | | |
| George Thomas Fox | Army | 179th Military Intelligence, 199th Infantry Brigade | <p>George Thomas Fox:</p> <p>Oh, well, after Fort Benning, I went to the, through the Army, U.S. Army Intelligence School, which then, at least most of it, was located at Fort Holabird, Maryland, which has been closed down since then, but it's in a, oh, in a kind of industrial suburb of Baltimore called Dundalk.</p> <p>And, um, that, that was a more civilized existence; we weren't living in barracks, we weren't turning out at, you know, 4:30 in the morning for P.T. and uniform and eating in a mess hall, we were living in suburban apartments and drive, commuting into training, you know, in our cars every day, and, and just sorta living like civilians except for eight hours of training a day. Um, and at the Intelligence School, they put us all first through a kind of basic orientation course on the Intelligence branch and what it did, um, and, and that orientation course was heavily weighted towards Vietnam, which most of us were going to. And then they put me through a much longer course on air photo interpretation.</p> | Fort Benning, Fort Holabird | ROTC before entering | George Thomas Fox Collection (AFC/2001/001/8174), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |

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| Robert E. Frantz | Army | Headquarters Battery, 6th Battalion, 33rd Artillery Regiment | <p>I went through the physical at Indianapolis, and I was then sent to Fort Campbell, Kentucky for basic training. I completed the basic training, was held back there to help train the next basic training unit, then was given AIT orders to go to Fort Sill, Oklahoma. And at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, I received training as artillery surveyor. And I went through the Survey Chief's School which are two schools. One is a rod alignment school, and the other one is the Chief's School where you learn to operate the theatizer, that is what we used at that time. It was like a transit type of thing. They are instruments to measure angles and some other equipment to measure distance. And when I completed that, well, the basic training had brung me to E3. If I maintained a certain grade level through the AIT school, I automatically got another grade, so I came out of there a Specialist 4th Class, and received orders to go to Vietnam. I was sent to Vietnam. I'm trying to think. I think it was March or April of '69, and flew into Cam Rahn Bay.</p> | Fort Campbell (Basic), Fort Sill (AIT - artillery) | | Robert E. Frantz Collection (AFC/2001/001/10464), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |
| Ronald Gawthorp | Army | 41st Artillery Group | <p>Ronald Gawthorp:</p> <p>They took us out, put us on an airplane. We got off in El Paso, Texas, Ft. Bliss I took my basic in Ft. Bliss, Texas. Then they put me into, because I had journalism experience, they put me into the Department of Defense information where then they sent me back to Indianapolis to Ft. Benjamin Harrison. That's where I learned how the Army manages the news _____. You know, and anything from basic combat situations to doing a company newsletter to handling nuclear weapons.</p> <p>Barb Graham:</p> <p>And you were a journalist.</p> <p>Ronald Gawthorp:</p> <p>I was a journalist, yes. Then after that, I was sent to Hunter Army Airbase in Georgia, which is right next to Ft. Stewart, Georgia. And they had a base newspaper there and I was assigned to the base newspaper there for six months. Then I got my orders to go to Vietnam. It was in, I think it was in November.</p> | Fort Bliss (Basic), Fort Benjamin Harrison | | Ronald A. Gawthorp Collection (AFC/2001/001/1772), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |

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| Michael Haas | Army | | <p>And it said to report to Fort Hood, Texas on a certain date. And it was really difficult because I think we graduated at Hopkins about the 15th of June. Hopkins always started late and graduated late. And they wanted me at Fort Hood, Texas on the 16th or 17th, so I couldn't even drive it there that quick. It turned out that that was just a general date and that was all fixed up, ... The First Armored Division and Second Armored Division there, so it was all tanks and armored personnel carriers. And my initial orders sent me to the Second Armored Division, but for some reason I got there and they said no you're really going to be stationed at the First Armored Division....I spent from June of 1967 until almost, I guess it was about Christmas of 1968, so it was the rest of '67 and virtually all of '68 at Fort Hood. And I was second lieutenant. Arrived brand new and actually arrived there before going back then to Fort Benning, Georgia and going through the infantry officer's basic course and then also through ranger's school. And I was in ranger's school through December, in fact, we graduated just a couple of days before Christmas 1967. Then went back to Fort Hood and stayed at Fort Hood essentially all of 1968....Ranger's school was pretty tough. You're cold, hungry, tired for nine weeks. And you do lots of really difficult things that maybe if you looked at a list at the beginning of ranger's school, you probably said, no, I can't do that or that's just too much, I don't think I can do it. But if you just took it a day at a time, I found that you could do it. Just did all these things that were in different phases. The first three weeks was at Fort Benning, Georgia and it was pretty much a weeding out phase and a strengthening phase. You just did a lot of exercises, you learned how to tie knots, you learned how to patrol, being out with just what's on your back and maps and map reading And you did all these things for three weeks. Then you went to the mountain phase, which was in a place called Dahlenega, Georgia. There's a big mountain there. You did mountain climbing; you did a lot of patrolling. You're up in the mountains, of course by that time, it was October or November and it was cold. You made these big fires at night. You had to watch around the fire; somebody had to be awake at all times. Then you were on mission's all day. For two weeks at a time, you wouldn't be around running water or a building or barracks or anything like that. You were just completely in these groups or patrols</p> | Fort Hood, Fort Benning, Elgin Air Force Base | | |

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| | | | <p>out doing the patrolling. And you had a couple of instructor's with you. And they suffered as much as you did. They ate the same food. They were just as cold and tired and hungry, I guess as everybody else. [double talk].....I was just going to say the last phase was at Elgin Air Force Base, in Florida, and that was a swamp phase. And that's especially since there was a war in Vietnam going on, that was important because it wasn't really jungle, but you were in the marsh and swamp. And sometimes you were literally walking through swamp all day. I mean, your feet would not dry.</p> | | | |
| Michael Haas | Army | | <p>So before I went to Vietnam, I was sent to the transportation school at Fort Eustis. And that was early 1969. And I got to Vietnam, I'm think June of '69. Well, I was at Fort Eustis from January until probably early May of '69 in two different courses: one was the transportation corps officer's orientation course and that was like a basic course but shorter, since you had already been through a basic course; and then I went through what was called the Cargo Officer's Course, which prepared you to be what they called a Cargo Officer or be in charge of ship offloading and moving, just the logistics of getting things on and off ships... all of the paperwork it actually takes to ship huge amounts of goods back and forth. So I went to both of those courses there. And again, pretty much everybody in those courses was on their way to Vietnam, although a couple of people went to Korea and some went to Germany or even England at that point, but many of those went to Vietnam after they went to Germany or England.</p> | Fort Eustis | | <p>Michael Allan Haas Collection (AFC/2001/001/43138), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress</p> |

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| Richard Lee Hein | Army | 336th Assault Helicopter Company, 1st Aviation Battalion | <p>So at the time, the draft was kind of breathing down my back and I had signed up to go to -- I was in Illinois going to the Chicago Military Reception Station and take a test for ROTC -- not ROTC, but OCS, and I had previously tried to get into the Warrant Officer Flight Program prior to that but had not been successful, and as luck would have it, I ran into a high school classmate who had enlisted for three years, served in Korea and was back finishing up a year at the Army Recruiting -- or Military Recruiting Station in Chicago, and obviously he was able to steer me in the right direction. I came back to the Reception Station the next day, took the test. It was called a Flight Aptitude, FAST, Test for the Military Flight School. I passed that and then about a week later I was off to Fort Polk, Louisiana, for basic training. Basic training goes for four weeks -- or for eight weeks, and then I was on to primary flight school in Mineral Wells, Texas. We went through training in Texas. It was called primary. That's basically the -- the techniques and the education on the basic flying, and then after that we were transferred to Hunter Army Airfield in Savannah, Georgia, for advanced instrument training and actual combat tactical training, and so basically I spent a year in basic training and flight school and then, of course, in August of '69 I was headed to Vietnam. I had a year's tour to serve over there. So that's how I got through the training part and then I'm now trained and ready to serve on active duty, and at the time that I graduated from flight school I was commissioned as a Warrant Officer, Grade 1.</p> | Fort Polk, Mineral Wells, TX (Primary Flight School), Hunter Army Airfield Savannah, George, (AIT) | | Richard Lee Hein Collection (AFC/2001/001/76673), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |

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| David Hoy | Army | 52nd Signal Corps | <p>To Tampa, Florida to Fort Benning, Georgia. Sand Hill. In Sand Hill, I went through seven weeks of basic training, an eight weeks of basic training. And in the seventh week they started to talk about posting the next duty station. And I kind of figured, well, a lot of these guys are going to go to Vietnam and that's a real problem, but I got computer stuff. So I 'm going to be OK, don't worry about it. Well, the postings occurred and I was headed to Fort Ord, Georgia,... or Fort Ord, California, which is the infantry training unit to head over to Vietnam...ell. I wouldn't say enjoying it. But it certainly wasn't a bad place to be. And its my understanding that a letter was finally sent by my mother to the CO that indicates that, if I didn't get moved out of infantry, she would appeal to a higher authority. And in her case, she meant God and in the CO's place he meant something else. And so I was then moved, in my seventh week of infantry training, out of Ford Ord, California to Fort Huachuca, Arizona....Fort Huachuca, Arizona. I go to signal school there, learned Morse Code, learned elements of radio training....</p> | Fort Benning (Basic), Fort Ord (AIT-Infantry), Fort Huachuca (Radio) | | David Harrison Hoy Collection (AFC/2001/001/55576), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |
| U.S. Navy | | | | | | |
| David Eugene Autry | Navy | Naval Security Group (NAVSECGRU); USS Oklahoma City (CLG 5); USS Providence (CLG 6) | <p>David Eugene Autry: First few days in boot camp, well, when we got off the bus at Great Lakes Naval Training Center, this little guy, he must have been all of 5'2", looks up at my 6'4" frame, and says, you, come over here and stand here. And I said, all right. Right now I'm short....Well, let me just give you the chronology of my service. After boot camp, I went to Charleston, South Carolina, and worked on tug boats there while I was waiting for an opening in the specialty school I had applied for; and then went down to Pensacola to the Communications Training Center down there, we called it Spy School; and then after that, I got sent to the Commander 7th Fleets Flagship in southeast Asia for two years. And while serving on the USS Oklahoma City and the USS Providence, we supported operations in Vietnam. We were on the gun line a lot. We visited all over southeast Asia, which was very interesting. We hit just about every country in southeast Asia, and it was very, very educational.</p> | Great Lakes Naval Training Center, Pensacola (Communications Training Center), | | David Eugene Autry Collection (AFC/2001/001/82638), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |

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| Kenneth Dale Agenbroad | Navy | Carrier Air Wing 9 Squadron (VA 146) | Kenneth Dale Agenbroad: Well counting the first days in the service is when we first got down to Pensacola for indoctrination. It was really scary because of the drill instructors. I went 3 days before I had the nerve to look at one of them. | Pensacola | | Kenneth Dale Agenbroad Collection (AFC/2001/001/28162), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |
| Frederick H. Baker | Navy | | Yeah, I went ... I don't know if it's still the same now, but I went to basic training down in San Diego, then every summer I would go on a cruise on a different ship some place. I did that for a few years, and I was getting deferments because I was going to college. I was getting deferments from active duty. But finally they said, "Well, that's all the deferments you can get." And so then I went active. I had two years of active duty, supposedly. I actually got out a little early because of Vietnam. | Naval Training Center San Diego | | Frederick H. Baker Collection (AFC/2001/001/33355), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |
| Daniel Alan Bernath | Navy | USS Kearsarge (CVS 33); USS Yorktown (CVS 10) | So, I went in the Navy. Then, they sent me to boot camp. They put us on a train from, Great Lakes, Illinois was where Navy boot camp is. | Great Lakes Naval Training Center | | Daniel Alan Bernath Collection (AFC/2001/001/72600), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |

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| Leo Mark Bonaventura: | Navy | 3rd Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force | <p>Dr. Bonaventura is sixty-two years old and was born on August 1, 1945. Dr. Bonaventura served in the Vietnam War. He was in the Fleet Marine Force, the 3rd Marine Division in the Fourth and Fifth Regiment, and held the following rank of Lt. Commander and Lt. Colonel....Jarred Scott: During the war, where did you live and where did you work?</p> <p>Leo Mark Bonaventura: Well, I got drafted... So we got two days off and flew home. My wife cried for two days and my dad was angry because he could have gotten me out of it ...I wound up at Camp Lejeune for six weeks of maps and weapons in Jacksonville, North Carolina. I was assigned there with fifty-four corpsmen, two helicopters. We learned how to do all that stuff. Then, we were attached to a Marine Corps regiment battalion. ...We were about six weeks and learned all the things we could. ...Then, we were shipped to Camp Smedley-Butler in Okinawa, which was a staging location for Vietnam for most of the Marine battalions. From there we went to Vietnam.</p> | Camp Lejeune | According to About.com, Even so, the Marines use the Navy for much of their logistical and administrative support. For example, there are no doctors, nurses, or enlisted medics in the Marine Corps. Even medics that accompany the Marines into combat are specially-trained Navy medics. | Leo Mark Bonaventura Collection (AFC/2001/001/58717), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |
| Charles H. Brewer | Navy | VF-33 (Fighter Squadron FITRON) | <p>So September is when I was signed in but on January 3rd, 1967, I took a train to Chicago, spent the night in a YMCA which was real noisy, I remember that, on January the 3rd. And on January 4th, I was inducted into the Navy. And kind of a neat story there.</p> <p>There was four or five of us. This was in Chicago, Illinois, on January the 3rd, cold and rainy and snowy and we had the idea, "I wonder if they would let us go to San Diego". So we asked and sure enough they allowed us, and they flew us to San Diego on January the 5th, I guess, it was the 4th because I arrived on the 4th in San Diego and we went to boot camp in San Diego, California...And because of the testing and all that you go through in boot camp, I guess, my scores were good enough and not knowing what career I wanted, I was accepted in - are chosen to go to electronic training school in Millington, Tennessee. So I spent from April the 6th of '67, to November the 16th of '67 in Class A training electronic school training in Memphis....The military lifestyle and discipline were a challenge, I mentioned that, even in</p> | Naval Training Center San Diego, Millinton, Tennessee (Class A School), Factory Training at St. Louis? | | Charles H. Brewer Collection (AFC/2001/001/73444), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |

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| | | | <p>the barracks and a Class A school in Memphis....Part of the training prior to the tour in Viet Nam was some factory training in St. Louis. Several of us, because of our electronics, some of the electronic counter measures that the aircraft had was so new that we had to go to the factory to the schooling. So that was just three or four weeks training in St. Louis which was a treat for Navy personnel to go to factory training. And that was prior to the deployment.</p> | | | |
| Donald Leslie Burgess | Navy | USS Enterprise (CVN 65) | <p>That was boot camp, I believe it was 11 wks and after that I got a short 2 wk leave after boot camp and then I got orders to firefighting school in Philadelphia I forgot the name and I went to firefighting school, think that lasted for 7 or 8 weeks also and after that another 2 wk probably leave I then had orders to go to the USS Enterprise which was homeported in Oakland, CA.... Donald Leslie Burgess: Yea, firefighting school was about 4-6 weeks.</p> <p>James D. Schopfer: What was that like, did they light buildings on fire?</p> <p>Donald Leslie Burgess: They lit a mock ship, which they had it was nothing more than a huge tank that was on a 1 way hinge, after class work, you did a lot of class work, and a lot of book work, then they put on, it was called the USS Buttercup So they get you on Buttercup and you're acting like its normal routine and they set off this huge firework and that meant it was a hit, you had to get into your damage control gear and take your stations where you were a firefighting man, hose man, nozzle man, whatever and there were holes that when that bomb went off the ship, the buttercup starts slowly thinking and you had to, I don't know how many degrees list before you were sunk but the holes in the bulkhead you had to shove mattresses and shove clothes and whatever you could into the bulkhead to keep the water from sinking you, and I don't think there's a class that saved the Buttercup. So it was a test of your skills and taught you great discipline as far as you and your comrades you're not in this by yourself and your not a 1 man gang, that ship goes down and everyone goes down with it, so.</p> | ?? | | <p>Donald Leslie Burgess Collection (AFC/2001/001/72124), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress</p> |

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|-----------------|--------|---|--|---|----------|--|
| Allan Carpenter | Navy | VA-72, USS Independence (CVA/CV 62) and USS Franklin D. Roosevelt (CVB/CVA/CV 42) | <p>I graduated from high school and enlisted in the Navy in September of 1955....I went to boot camp in Bainbridge, Maryland. Went on from there to airman preparatory school in Norman, Oklahoma. Norman, Oklahoma, went on to further schooling and ended up in the fall of -- let me see -- 1950 --....1958, I guess it was, in Patuxent River, Maryland, where I was assigned to an airborne early warning squadron. And I was a radar -- airborne radar operator in that squadron. Put in a couple of years there. And I'm losing track of my time frame --....And while I was putting my time in at Quonset point I had a division officer who suggested that my talents could better be used as a commissioned officer and he put a lot of pressure on me and convinced me that I should apply for some programs. I did that. I applied for two commissioning programs...So I qualified. I found out first that I was accepted into the integration -- excuse me. Yeah, the integration program and went to OCS at Newport, Rhode Island....Graduated from there. Was commissioned in the summer 1962. Went on to flight training at Pensacola and got through that fairly rapidly, about 14 months, and earned my wings at Kingsville, Texas...And shortly after we all had to come back in the first of the year, we started what we called a base loading move. The Navy had decided to move all the A-4's to Cecil Field in Florida. And so we were involved in that move. We got down there and I think in February sometime. Took awhile to get the squadron set up in its new digs and learn our way around. And then we started training to go back because our squadron had been picked in Washington to turn right around and make another West Pac cruise from the east coast.</p> | Bainbridge, Maryland; Norman, Oklahoma; Patuxent River, Maryland; OCS at Newport, Rhode Island; Pensacola | | Allan Russell Carpenter Collection (AFC/2001/001/27085), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |

| Name | Branch | Unit | Quote | Fort | Comments | Cite As |
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| Thomas Richard Carper | Navy | 7th Fleet, CTF 72 | <p>They do announcements; and one morning they announced in our homeroom, "Anybody interested in winning a navy scholarship, go see your guidance counselor." I said, "that could be me," and I went and saw my guidance counselor that day, learned about something called Navy ROTC, Reserve Officer Training Corp... So I said, "boy, I'd like to try that," interviewed, tested, all that stuff, and won the scholarship and went off to Ohio State....Well,, our second midshipman cruise was at the end of my sophmore year, and it was bifurcated into two parts. We went to Little Creek, Virginia and landing school, training school, and that was fun....They trained us to be sort of like marines doing activites for three or four weeks. And after we did that, they sent us down to Corpus Christi, Texas, and we learned how to fly airplanes and put us in these little tiny planes and had a pilot instructor and went out and did all kinds of flying. It was fun; it was exciting....My last cruise at the end of my junior year just before my senior year was Long beach, California. We were on a jumbo oil, The Navasota. It was a great duty. We would go out on Monday morning, fly around the South Pacific -- South Eastern Pacific, and then come back into port Friday afternoon, have the weekend off; and on Monday, go out and do the same thing again. It was fun. ...We went down to Pensacola. VT-10 was the name of the training squadron at the time. I spent about, I want to say, maybe about a half a year or so there. I love Pensacola, beautiful white beaches. And I liked spending the time in the airplane and the guys that I flew with. And the sort of the introductory courses in airmanship and all. We went off from there to Corpus Christi, Texas. I really like Corpus Christi. I remember we got to Corpus Christi. One of my buddies from Pensacola and I sort of went out together. He was from Baltimore. Sal Serio, S-E-R-I-O, and we got out to Corpus Christi; and we wanted to be able to live out in the economy.</p> | Little Creek, Virginia; Long Beach, California, Pensacola | | Thomas Richard Carper Collection (AFC/2001/001/2338), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |
| Ronald J. Christopher | Navy | NAG/NSA Naval Advisory Group | <p>The -- my first day in the Navy, we got on a bus in Cleveland, Ohio, and went to basic training or boot camp in Great Lakes, Illinois. ...In my particular instance, after that I was -- I knew I was going on to an electronic maintenance school, so I went on to there. And then after that, it was geographics.</p> | Great Lakes Naval Training Center | | Ronald J. Christopher Collection (AFC/2001/001/190), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |

| Name | Branch | Unit | Quote | Fort | Comments | Cite As |
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| William David DeBoard | Navy | | Louisville, Kentucky, for my physical and then from there I went, flew up after I took my physical to Great Lakes and went right into boot camp. | Great Lakes Naval Training Center | | William David DeBoard Collection (AFC/2001/001/2709), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |
| David Delgado: | | | <p>Jessica Schwab: Okay (coughing). Where was your training camp?</p> <p>David Delgado: San Diego.</p> <p>David Delgado: Actually, boot camps are I would say very similar, in ... in that they're trying to basically get you to pay attention to, uh, the ... the group notion of, you know, being, uh, one team; following orders; about always keeping an eye out for your fellow teammates and your teammates looking out after you. That was the whole, uh, analogy of ... of boot camp. Uh, in training camp, I uh, got blessed that I had, uh, a lot of wind. By that, I mean that, uh, I could play breath instruments. And so they put me in one of three Navy (coughing). We used to play for the graduations and everything.</p> | Naval Training Center San Diego | | |

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| Gerald P. Frisch | Navy | | <p>Gerald P. Frisch: We trained all the time we were land based. When our ship was in port at San Diego California we were stationed, detached from the ship, at naval air station Marimar, California, which is the top gun, remember the movie top gun, ok that's where that came from, that's the base I was on. We were stationed there for 9 months, and we would go out to sea for 9 months, then we'd come back for 9 months, then back out to sea for 9 months. So we made 2 western pacific cruises, and one South American cruise.</p> <p>But you know what you said about the train when we were in land base, we would go to Nevada and let our pilots practice over the desert their gunnery capabilities from their fighter planes. They would have for instance, one plane would toll a banner and the other plane would shoot at this banner. Carrier qualifications is what they called it, ok, that was about 10 days. When that was done they would do carrier qualifications, we could go to alameda, CA and pick up the U.S.S. Ranger which is a bigger aircraft carrier and we would go out for 10 days and do carrier qualifications which is landing and taking off and landing and taking off, nighttime operations combat, simulated combat.</p> | Naval Training Center San Diego, Marimar, California; Alameda, CA | | Gerald P. Frisch Collection (AFC/2001/001/10369), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |
| Lawrence G. Fullerton | Navy | Air Traffic Controller, USS Midway | <p>It was Great Lakes Naval Training Center. As I said, in February. Just absolutely bitter cold. We got off, the wind was blowing off Lake Michigan. Actually, there was a big area that was totally full of ice and snow that I thought was a lake but it was actually a, what they call a grinder, or what would be the equivalent of a parking lot but you used it for practicing marching and things. And I thought it was a lake for most of the time I was up there. And the first thing they did was shave our heads and not give us hats. So yeah, I can remember that. Then going through all the physicals and the getting issued all your uniform and all of that was the first couple of days.</p> | Great Lakes Naval Training Center | | Lawrence G. Fullerton Collection (AFC/2001/001/208), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |

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| Charles R. Gabbard, Jr. | Navy | USS Bennington (CVS 20) | They sent me to basic training at Great Lakes Naval Air Station, north of Chicago. I was there for about three months. And then I spent a month in Norman, Oklahoma, in the aviation section of the navy. They called us Airedales. And so we were the support group for the aviation part of the navy. And the regular navy thought we were a little less than being the navy, you know, and so they looked down upon us. But we were above the decks and they were below, so that was one of the perks, I suppose. They sent me to aerographer school in Lakehurst, New Jersey, and I was there for probably two or three months. Aerographer school was a school about weather, and so we learned about the weather. | Great Lakes Naval Training Center | | Charles R. Gabbard, Jr. Collection (AFC/2001/001/621), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |
| Sterling M. Giannotti, Jr. | Navy | USS Sandoval (APA 194); USS Mills (DE 383); USS Preble | Back in those days, once you're enlisted and you were going to be an officer in the United States Navy, you were sent to New Port, Rhode Island and you have four to five months of intensive training and screening and physical training and studied subjects such as navigation, gunnery, operation, leadership, etcetera. And if you passed all these subjects, you were commissioned as an ensign in the Navy or equivalent to a second lieutenant in the Army and you had a four year obligation to serve in that service. | New Port, Rhode Island | | Sterling M. Giannotti, Jr. Collection (AFC/2001/001/21515), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |

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| William J. Haynes | Navy | USS Coral Sea (CV 43) | <p>First it was pre-flight training, which was four months in a naval station. There was no actual flying involved. But there was physical training, military training, and academic training like basic military history and stuff like that. Also more scientific subjects pointed toward flight like engineering and mathematics, aerodynamics and meteorology and things of that nature. That was a four month period at the end of which I was commissioned.</p> <p>From there I went to primary flight training. That assignment was in the Pensacola area. It was at Softley Air Field. We flew the T-34B.</p> <p>Don't remember for sure, if you need to know I have my log books. Some months, because from there we went up to basic flight training which was still in the Pensacola area, just up north a little bit. There we flew to T-28.Next I went to advanced flight training. That was in Corpus Christi, Texas. I think it's interesting to note that the high point of our training was our first landings on the carrier, did that in basic training. The [inaudible] in those days was a Lexington, but it was having some work done some place so my group landed on the Essex in the Gulf of Mexico. Then, I went to advanced flight training which was in Corpus Christi, Texas. We flew the US-28 which was the first multi-engine air plane that I had ever flown, and that was of course, a new and challenging experience. They could go sideways. So mostly, you were in the south.</p> | Pensacola, FL; Softley Air Field; Corpus Christi, TX; | | William J. Haynes Collection (AFC/2001/001/72752), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |
| Tom Herold | Navy | USS Bradley, USS Goldsboro | Well, I went to boot camp in the Great Lakes and that was in the winter time. That wasn't much fun. I got orders for Pearl Harbor in Hawaii and caught my first ship. | Great Lakes Naval Training Center | | Tom Herold Collection (AFC/2001/001/7916), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |

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| Joe Wendell Huey | Navy | USS Coral Sea, X Division, Administrative Department | <p>Larry Ordner: And then from there where did you go?</p> <p>Joe Wendell Huey: Great Lakes.</p> <p>Larry Ordner: Did you have boot training there?</p> <p>Joe Wendell Huey: Un-hmmm.</p> | Great Lakes Naval Training Center | | Joe Wendell Huey Collection (AFC/2001/001/2683), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |
| Robert C. Jones | Navy | Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 1stMarines | <p>Boot camp. Boot camp was in Chicago. Navy boot camp. Boy...what I can remember was; my four years experience in the military, you know, we hear the term the best of times...the worst of times were really true. I used the statement that I was born and raised in Vermont; I grew up in Vietnam, and now I live in New Hampshire; you know. Ah, at boot camp...ah...all I remember was Chicago, it was from September to November. Um, it wasn't bad. It was, again different. I was looking for different. Boot camp was different</p> | Great Lakes Naval Training Center | | Robert C. Jones Collection (AFC/2001/001/3527), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |

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| Karl F. Kleinbub | Navy | San Diego, California; Beeville, Texas; Memphis, Tennessee; Oceana, Virginia | <p>Lynelle Chen: Do you recall your first days in service?</p> <p>Karl Kleinbub: Oh yeah. Oh yeah, we left here on a Monday morning or Monday afternoon, they flew us to Chicago, kept us overnight there, and then, we boarded a plane next morning, and flew to san Diego, California,....Got out of boot camp, came home for about two weeks leave, around Christmas time, and then I went to Beeville Texas for six months waiting to get into my aviation electronics school....</p> <p>After I got out of aviation school, I went to A-school was in Memphis Tennessee after I did my six months down in Texas, and then I went to a school and they gave you a basic military training on survival, bail out, water landing with parachutes, you know surviving getting out of your chute and harness, getting away from straddle lines so they don't take you under. How to swim, how to survive with the clothes you got on, making a life vest out of your shirt or your pants. They taught you that your white hat would actually keep you afloat and then, I left there and I went to naval air station Oceana which was at Virginia Beach Virginia and I worked in the communication navigation shop for just about four, five months down there. I got an opportunity to go into the electronic countermeasures and that's where I finished up my career. [I] had a class 5 assignment and we configured pods that hung on various types of aircraft that did radar jamming.</p> | Naval Training Center San Diego, CA; A-school Memphis, TN; | | Karl F. Kleinbub Collection (AFC/2001/001/74482), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |

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| Daniel Knight | Navy | USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63); USS Samuel Gompers (AD 37) | <p>Okay. So you went to San Diego for boot camp. And could you describe boot camp in 1965, what kind of memories do you have of that?</p> <p>A: Ah, that's so long ago. All I remember is it was a lot of classes, a lot of marching and a lot of exercise.</p> <p>Q: What kind of classes did you have as a boot?</p> <p>A: We had seamanship, how to tie ropes, survivor -- survival, firefighting. We also had small arms training. We fired the M-1 rifle in [inaudible]. I got to shoot the BAR and the Thompson also.</p> <p>Q: Your training then is really somewhat generalist --</p> <p>A: Yes.</p> | Great Lakes Naval Training Center | | Daniel Knight Collection (AFC/2001/001/81767), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |
| James Lorew Lawrence | Navy | 7th Fleet | <p>James Lorew Lawrence:</p> <p>It was at the NTC in San Diego California. We would get up sometimes at 4am in the morning, our company came out of boot camp with, and this is going to sound weird, but the golden winey. We were the first inline for everything. We would me standing outside the mess hall at Sam, but it didn't open until 6am.</p> | Naval Training Center San Diego, CA | | James Lorew Lawrence Collection (AFC/2001/001/67579), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |

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| James Kenneth Lee | Navy | HT-8 (Helicopter Training Squadron); VP-30 (Patrol Squadron); VP-10; VP-31; USS Antietam (CVA 36); USS Lexington (CVS 16); USS Ticonderoga (CVA 14) | <p>The first two weeks we were escorted over to a little island associated with Navy basic training center called a Nimitz Island for whatever reason... we were taught a little bit about marching and then taken back to the main section of the base to begin our basic training. And then here most of the Navy basic training consists of classroom studies and we did have other activities but anywhere that we went on the facility we were always in, formed in a company and we would march.....We would form out outdoors from the barracks into our company. We'd march to the chow hall. After the chow hall eating activity then we would form again outside the building, and we'd march back to the barracks and back outside the barracks march to a classroom. We would spend two hours a day on what's called, "The Grinder." It's just a very large paved ground where's there plenty of room for many companies to be marching around in.Other things that we did, we had a replica of a Navy destroyer that was built on solid ground and it was referred to as the USS Neversail. So we would spend time on this replica of it. It was a large size, a regular size type of a replica of a ship. And we learned about battle damage and how to repair battle damage, fighting fires. And we had different classifications. Primarily there was a class A, B and C fires, so a simple one would be a wood structure would be an "A" fire and then "B" would be like oil fires and then a "C" fire would be electrical fires. Now there are more classifications but we would go through these.....And one of the significant things about this was that on this USS Never saw some of the firefighting - everybody had to learn how to fight fires, to recognize fires, what type of equipment to use and, so, when -- p....And so we had two types of individuals involved in fighting the fire. One was heat suppression group and the heat suppression group they would generally be up front. They have a water hoses that has a large spray of water so that what this does it absorbs the heat. And we had to demonstrate that the ones holding the regular fire hoses fighting the fire experience how hot the, an oil fire could be. So the suppression, the heat suppression group, they would put down this nozzle that they had absorbing all the heat and then all of a sudden it felt like that we were Meshach, Meshach. I forget the three.</p> | Naval Training Center San Diego, CA | | James Kenneth Lee Collection (AFC/2001/001/82427), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |

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| Simon J. Leon | Navy | USS Longbeach (CGN 9) | <p>Simon J. Leon: Right. I got out of Great Lakes boot camp, went to Banebridge, Maryland for radioman's school and code school.</p> <p>Larry Ordner: When you went to radioman's school, was that something that was based on your aptitude?</p> <p>Simon J. Leon: Yes, it was.</p> <p>Larry Ordner: Huh-huh.</p> <p>Simon J. Leon: I scored high enough and had an aptitude for it so they went ahead, it was one of the rates that I qualified for and that's what I had asked for, and I went ahead and was assigned it. I had to extend my enlistment from two years to four years to be able to get the school, which I did, and went there and was taught radio operations, transceiver operations, all of the books on the rules and regulations of operating military equipment.</p> <p>Larry Ordner: Huh-huh.</p> <p>Simon J. Leon: And then from there, I started some code school, was unable to finish due to the fact that the USS Longbeach where they were sending me was preparing to go overseas on west pack. And code school at that time wasn't as great a skill that people needed. They weren't using code as much as they use to during World War I and World war II.</p> | Great Lakes Naval Training Center | | Simon J. Leon, Jr. Collection (AFC/2001/001/2604), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |

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| Stephen L. Lortz | Navy | USS Pogy (SSN 647); USS Wasp | Later on when I enlisted, then I went down to the AFES station to be sworn in. We were sworn in there and then we were sent to the airport and took a plane up to the Great Lakes Naval Training Center and that is where I started boot camp for the navy. | Great Lakes Naval Training Center | | Stephen L. Lortz Collection (AFC/2001/001/66661), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |
| Mitchell W. Mauer | Navy | Fighter Squadron 114 (VF-114), 7th Fleet | Lois Elaine Jackson: So that was good. Okay, boot camp was about how long? Mitchell W. Mauer: I think it was three months, I'm guessing. That was unique going out there, during January, February, March; it's pretty cool in San Diego. All you had were those dress blues, the wool type and you were cold all the time in those, especially when you had to stand watches around your barracks, to keep other people from stealing your flag, and your guns and stuff like that. | Naval Training Center San Diego, CA | | Mitchell W. Mauer Collection (AFC/2001/001/66003), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |

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| U.S. Air Force | | | | | | |
| John Reay Abrami | Air Force | 42nd Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron | <p>...they took me down there they flew me down there and uh, I can remember arriving it was late at night and there was a bus that uh, came, picked us up and took us to the Air Force base. Lackland....And so that was uh, three months of training going through Air Force officer training and uh, you come out of that a second lieutenant and from there they shipped us off to our different areas and mine was navigation so we went to the Mather Air Force Base...Yes. There were two specialized schools there one for the bombardier training and almost every one of those guys went into the B-52's, and then us we had quite a different variety of assignments uh, there was the, the F-111 's, which had a back seat it was just like becoming a fighter pilot accept you, you were the E.W.O. in the back, electronic warfare officer. And uh, several other aircraft, I remember one guy got a reconnaissance slot in the R-B-57, that was a high altitude reconnaissance plane. That was kind of special, uh. But, uh, there was two of us that went into the Electronic warfare slot, my friend. Randy Jones, and I we uh, we got the slots.But, uh, from there we had to go through some more training uh, some survival schools in Washington and down in south Florida, Homestead. And then we went to Shaw Air Force Base, which was going to be our training for the electronic warfare plane EB-66. And, there's really two models of that plane, uh, but nether of PageH them existed at the airbase because, all of the planes were overseas, flying, they were all operational.</p> <p>So, all our training consisted of was uh, simulator training. Learning the different aircraft systems for both of the airplanes.</p> | Lackland AFB, Mather AFB, Shaw AFB | | John Reay Abrami Collection (AFC/2001/001/67969), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |

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| James R. Alvis | Air Force | 71st Special Operation Squadron, Air Force Reserve | <p>Basic training was down at -- all Air Force basic training, certainly for an enlisted personnel, was at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. So I spent six weeks at basic training in Lackland, and that was not particularly fun.</p> <p>Lesley Reser: After basic training, where did you go from there?</p> <p>James R. Alvis: My next step was off to tech school. When I enlisted in the Air Force Reserve I had an option of two -- two slots that were open at the Air Force base. One of them was reciprocating engine aircraft mechanic, and that's what I wanted. I wanted to work on the aircraft. So I went to tech school at Shepherd Air Force Base, Wichita Falls, Texas, and that was about a -- oh, I don't know -- 13-, 14-week tech school to learn about becoming a -- a mechanic on reciprocating or piston engine aircraft.</p> <p>Lesley Reser: So you had further training, then, after that?</p> <p>James R. Alvis: No. I went back to Purdue Extension _____ --</p> <p>Lesley Reser: Okay. So, you went back to Purdue. Then at what point did they call you up again?</p> <p>James R. Alvis: And the unit that I was attached to down at Bakalar Air Force Base, the 930th Tactical Airlift Group, was one of those units that was announced for the activation. And we had -- we had a 30-day period to get our personal effects in order. And then we reported for active duty down at Bakalar Air Force Base on Monday, May 13, 1968</p> | Lackland AFB, Shepherd AFB, Purdue Extension | | James R. Alvis Collection (AFC/2001/001/1196), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |

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| Jay Van Trawver Anderson | Air Force | 531st Tactical Fighter Squadron | Some very interesting feelings. For one, we were sworn in in Baltimore and flown immediately to San Antonio, Texas, where I went to basic training ... think I was -- by that time I had left boot camp and was in Colorado for technical training. I was a weapons specialist and they were training me on a bunch of weapons. | Lackland AFB, | | Jay Van Trawver Anderson Collection (AFC/2001/001/107), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |
| Leonard L. Barnett | Air Force | | I was in basic training in Lackland. So after basic training, your tech school at Laurey. | Lackland AFB, TX, Tech School at Laurey | | Leonard L. Barnett Collection (AFC/2001/001/20848), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |
| Richard Lyman Bates | Air Force | 433rd Tactical Fighter Squadron, 8th Tactical Fighter Wing | <p>I was commissioned through the Air Force ROTC program at the University of North Dakota. I was commissioned in June of 1970.</p> <p>I was commissioned through the Air Force ROTC program at the University of North Dakota. I was commissioned in June of 1970.</p> <p>There's no boot camp per se, but between my junior and senior year of college I had the summer camp which was a six week indoctrination and military indoctrination course. I did that in Spokane, Washington at Fair Child Air Force Base. That would have been the summer of 1969.</p> <p>That was at Mather Air Force Base in Sacramento, California. It was initially I was not selected for pilot training. I was selected for navigator training and that's where that course was, undergraduate navigator training is what they called it.</p> <p>Well, then I was lucky enough to be selected to fly in the F-4 phantom. And the training in that, for that was in California also at George Air Force Base near Victorville, California. So I did that training there. And from there I was assigned to Ubon Royal Air Force Base in Thailand. So that was my first operational flight</p> | Mather AFB, Sacramento, CA; George AFB, Victorville, CA | | Richard Lyman Bates Collection (AFC/2001/001/27026), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |

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| Dennis M. Biggs | Air Force | Tactical Air Command | <p>Neither one, I went in through ROTC; I went in as a regular officer. Kenneth Weston: Do you have any recall of your first day or couple days of service? Dennis M. Biggs: Really it was mostly traveling to pilot trainings. First pilot training class was in Georgia. At Spits Air Base in Georgia. That was the first part, going down there and getting ready for flight training..... Training was pretty different then than it is today, actually they don't do that sort of thing anymore, we used to have basic for 3 months, they put you through a course and you flew a propeller plane to start with. Then you went on the jet and most of that was they gave you 25 hours in a propeller plane to see if you were proficient that you knew how to fly. We all took flying before we went. We went into the jets, twin-engine sestion jet we had at the base, we graduated from that. We started out with 62 people and 47 got through basic, then we went too primary which is the next phase where we flew the training jet. 43 started phase when we got through there was 39 that graduated and got there pilot license. Then you were allocated which aircraft you were going to fly, by where you finished in the class. ...I went into fighters, which was Tactical Air Command. The first fighter I flew was the F-100. This is the first fighter I flew at Myrtle Beach, SC, which has since closed.....After I graduated from pilot training. That was two phases so in two years I moved four times and went to 4 differet bases. To check out into the fighters. I finished up at Dallas; I stated out in Luke Air Force Base in basic program, then we went to advanced fighter school at Wells, which was in Las Vegas. That's where we mostly did air to air, actually firing weapons and dropping bombs..... In training the other story I'd like to share in that, when I went to the squadron we would practice bombing down in point set going? Which was down in South Carolina. But before we'd got out on training sessions we could throw a dollar in the pot; and the one who won the competition, ejected his bomb closest to the target, and the rockets closest to the target and the best strike would win the pot. We could go in flights of 4. And when we came back in we'd give up the money whoever won. It wasn't a lot of money but it was whether you won or not.</p> | Spits AFB, Georgia; Luke AFB (Basic), Wells AFB, Las Vegas, NV; Myrtle Beach, South Carolina Somewhere | | Dennis M. Biggs Collection (AFC/2001/001/17449), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |

| Name | Branch | Unit | Quote | Fort | Comments | Cite As |
|---------------------|-----------|--|---|---|----------|--|
| Billy Warren Borrer | Air Force | 553rd Reconnaissance Squadron, 553rd Reconnaissance Wing | <p>Basic was in San Antonio, Lackland Air Force Base and we got here three days before Christmas and it was cold and [clears throat] there was 78 of us in a barracks, two stories and... it was different because most of ours... fellows in our barracks were from the Midwest, very few was from anyplace except the Midwest, Midwestern states, so Well, uh... it's pretty routine. You just learned customs and courtesies, you know the Air Force and uh... they gave you Basic English classes and Math classes and how to wear the uniform and what to do and what not to do. Uh...</p> <p>Yes, I was station in California at Travis Air Force Base and I read in the Air Force Times, the newspaper, that they were starting a new outfit and it was going to be in Thailand and I thought Thailand is better than Vietnam, although I didn't know much about Thailand and I didn't know anything about what we were going to be doing, so I volunteered and a week later, I was told that I had the job and... uh... to leave, sell my house in California and move my family to San Antonio and be at Fairchild Air Force Base in Washington State and I did and from then on, it was flight school, and survival schools and everything. Then I got to go to Thailand.</p> | Lackland AFB, TX (Basic); Fairchild AFB, WA (Flight school) | | Billy Warren Borrer Collection (AFC/2001/001/67991), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |

| Name | Branch | Unit | Quote | Fort | Comments | Cite As |
|----------------------|-----------|---|--|---|----------|---|
| Harold Charles Braly | Air Force | 736th Bomb Squadron, 454th Bomb Wing | <p>I attended ROTC at UCLA. And thats how I entered the air force. In 1951 the Korean War was under way and they were looking for pilots. So several of us in our class volunteered for pilot training. And so when we graduated in June, three of us left for a Bartow Florida which is near Winter Haven. And my oldest and best friend whom we still keep in touch with, Art _ was one and another was one was John Hanes.</p> <p>Well the first days were of course going to basic pilot training in Bartow. So I recall those quite well.....Well we had no boot camp, as such. We spent a summer in 1950 at summer camp. This was in Hamilton Field. Which is located north of San Francisco Bay area. We spent, as I recall, a couple of months there and we did everything which the G.I does. So in a sense that was boot camp. We slept in Barracks. We ate in the mess hall. We had KP duty. And we cleaned our own Barracks.</p> <p>Well as I mentioned earlier, the Korean war was under way when I went into pilot training. So we graduated in as I recall two August 1952.1 was at Vance Air Force base in Enid, Oklahoma at the time. And in multi-engine training.</p> | Bartow, Florida (Basic); Vance AFB (Multi-engine training) | | Harold Charles Braly Collection (AFC/2001/001/62622), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |
| Joe Lee Burns | Air Force | 433rd Tactical Fighter Squadron | Ok. So but Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, then pilot training at Reese, uh, then we went through a training school Davis Monthan, Tucson, Arizona, then went to Southern California, at George Air Force Base, and then went to war. Went to Ubon, Thailand-Ubon Air Base, Thailand. | Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Reese AFB (Pilot Training); Davis Montha, Tucson, AZ (Training school) | | Joe Lee Burns Collection (AFC/2001/001/72186), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |

| Name | Branch | Unit | Quote | Fort | Comments | Cite As |
|----------------------|-----------|------|--|---|----------|---|
| Michael Thomas Burns | Air Force | | <p>Well, I loved it. After, R.O.T.c. summer camp I went right into pilot school and that was pilot school is awesome. You get to first of all, it is a bunch of guys about your age and you learn how to fly these little props about twelve hours and then you start moving into jet engines and the whole idea of flying, the whole tradition of, flying and fighting really takes over, you really just can't wait to get up in the air.</p> <p>Let's see, as I said we had about twelve hours in, it's a Cessna 1-72, and that's a piece of cake to fly. Then it's a real small straight wing T-37 twin engine jet we called it the "tweet" because it's got a real loud scream to the engine when they're taxiing, its real maneuverable about five months in that airplane and then the last six months are in the TT38 which is the astronauts' chase plane and it's a white needle nose jet that follows the shuttle down and the combat version of it is the F-5. So the question was? Those were the airplanes that they fly in pilot school.</p> <p>First place, pilot school, Enid, Oklahoma for one year, fifty-two weeks of pilot training. Then Tucson, Arizona for F-4 training then to the state of Washington for two weeks of survival school up near the Canadian border. Then to Homestead air force base in Florida for sea survival and to the Philippine Islands for a week in the jungles, for jungle survival then to my base in Thailand.</p> | Enid, OK (Pilot School), Tucson, Arizona (F-4 Training); ??, WA; Homestead AFB, FL (Sea survival) | | Michael Thomas Burns Collection (AFC/2001/001/25900), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |
| David Burress | Air Force | | <p>Andrea Lee: Tell me about your boot camp and training experiences.</p> <p>David Burress: San Antonio, Texas. I was there in April, which was nice weather, wasn't hot in Texas. And, you know, it was -- it wasn't really difficult looking back on it, it was just basically just trying -- getting in shape from all the things you didn't do before, running, climbing over things. And it wasn't as demanding as the Marines or the Army, but I -- we had to get up at 4, 5 o'clock in the morning. You had to eat, be dressed and standing down there ready to go. And it was -- it was good training. It got me in shape and I enjoyed it.</p> | San Antonio, TX | | David Burress Collection (AFC/2001/001/10315), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |

| Name | Branch | Unit | Quote | Fort | Comments | Cite As |
|-----------------------|-----------|--|--|---|----------|--|
| Michael John Bushaw | Air Force | 306th Bomb Wing; 4258th Bomb Wing; 4252nd Bomb Wing; 31st Tactical Fighter Wing | Michael Bushaw: Okay, I started out with Basic Training at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas. When I was finished there I went to Chanute Air Force Base in Rantoul, Illinois. From there I went to the 306 Bomb Wing, McCox Air Force Base in Orlando Florida. I was there a year and went to six month TUI which is temporary duty to U-tapao Thailand which lasted two and a half months. From there I went to Katina Okinawa and I finished up my six months and then I went back to McCox in Orlando and I was there about eight months and then I went off to Vietnam. | Lackland AFB, TX (Basic); Chanute AFB, Rantoul, IL (?); McCox AFB (?) | | Michael John Bushaw Collection (AFC/2001/001/59945), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |
| Patrick Peter Caruana | Air Force | 319th Airlift Wing | I had several training experiences, so I'll go through them sort of separately if it's OK. The first training experience was when I was enlisted. And that was basic training Lackland Air Force base where I went through basic training to become an airman in the Air Force. That was quickly followed by technical training (technical school) training to become an aircraft mechanic. Then I was a mechanic for two years. Then after that I was accepted at the Air Force Academy and for the first two months there I went back through basic training which was very, very vigorous and very demanding physically and mentally where they try a lot of different things to try to find out what you're made of then show what you can really do. After that I went through four years of academics, and when I graduated from the Air Force Academy, I went into a year of pilot training, which was also very demanding, where we learned how to fly jet airplanes. And that was followed after a year with training in the specific kind of airplane that I was to fly operationally. And throughout my Air Force career I had many schools both academic and flying schools that I went to in order to get the proficiency and the skills that I needed. | Lackland AFB, TX (Basic); Tech School?; Air Force Academy | | Patrick Peter Caruana Collection (AFC/2001/001/32023), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |

| Name | Branch | Unit | Quote | Fort | Comments | Cite As |
|------------------|--------|---|--|---|----------|---|
| U.S. Marines | | | | | | |
| Samuel K. Beamon | Marine | HMM-262 (Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron); HMM-164 (Marine Medium Helicopter Training Squadron) | <p>Samuel Beamon: A Marine Corps boot camp is like no other--no other place on earth. It was hard, mentally challenging, physically challenging. Basically, they broke you down physically and mentally and rebuilt you into a Marine, so I'm not saying it's easy. It's the same thing for today. The young kids that are going in, they're just out of high school and they' re molding them and making a better citizen out of them....That was Parris Island.</p> <p>Samuel Beamon: Well, after I finished my Aviation schools, I was assigned to New River, North Carolina----which is outside of Camp Lejeune, that's the helicopter base there and I thought I'd be working on transports, but--transport aircraft, but after I learned transport aircraft, the next thing I learned was helicopters and they sent me to New River, North Carolina.</p> <p>Samuel Beamon: The school--the basic Helicopter schools and Aviation schools are located in--in Millington, Tennessee.</p> <p>Samuel Beamon: But the Jet schools were in North Carolina.</p> | Parris Island; New River, Camp Lejeune; Millinton, TN | | Samuel K. Beamon Collection (AFC/2001/001/70372), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |

| Name | Branch | Unit | Quote | Fort | Comments | Cite As |
|---------------------|--------|--|--|---|---|---|
| Steven L. Bobb, Sr. | Marine | Force Logistics Command, 3rd Marine Division | <p>Steven L. Bobb: San Diego. There's only two Marine Corps recruiting stations, what they call them. There's one Parris Island, South Carolina, and San Diego, it's the only two Boot Camps in the Marine Corps. And they just basically split it, split the states down the middle. And the ones from that half go to South Carolina, and the ones from this half go to San Diego.</p> <p>Steven L. Bobb: Yeah, you go to Camp Pendleton where you do infantry training, basic infantry training. And then from there you're given your MOS, which is what is your job, it's a number designation that they give you, whether it be infantry or engineers or whatever, they're going to send you to training. They sent me to Quantico, Virginia. Quantico, Virginia is where all the Marine Corps formal training is at, to be an ammo tech, that is somebody that works in an ammo dump with munitions and ordinances. You learn about fuses and all the small arms, everything up to five-hundred-pound bombs, that sort of thing like that. So, that's where I went after infantry training.</p> <p>Steven L. Bobb: That's, after another short leave, 20 some odd days, I went to Camp Pendleton where they do a little training to get you prepared to go to Viet Nam. And that was, oh, roughly 20 some odd days, I think, something like that.</p> <p>Steven L. Bobb: A lot of it was the booby trap thing, because Viet Nam, of course, there was lots of booby traps and punchy sticks and trip wires and that sort of stuff like that and how to look for it, that sort of thing. How to do house-to-house combat, which you've seen on TV where they figured that, and in Iraq they would have to do that same thing. So you learn stuff like that. And just basic things just to get, just to get you prepared.</p> | San Diego, CA; Parris Island, SC; Camp Pendleton; Quantico; | San Diego, CA (Basic); Parris Island (Basic) ; Camp Pendleton (Basic Infantry) ; Quantico (Ammo Tech-SeeBees) | Steven L. Bobb, Sr. Collection (AFC/2001/001/9818), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |

| Name | Branch | Unit | Quote | Fort | Comments | Cite As |
|-------------------|---------|--|---|---------------|----------|---|
| David F. Bunting: | Marines | HMH-363 (Heavy Marine Helicopter Squadron) | <p>David F. Bunting: I was in the platoon leaders' class to become a second lieutenant in the field, decided that it might be more interesting flying, so I -- that was six months. I went to -- then I went to flight school for a couple years in Florida.</p> <p>Robert Weisel: Pensacola?</p> <p>David F. Bunting: Pensacola, yes.</p> <p>Robert Weisel: And --</p> <p>David F. Bunting: Naval flight school.</p> <p>Robert Weisel: And what was that training like? Can you sort of walk us chronologically through that?</p> <p>David F. Bunting: Yeah, it was in stages. The first stage was sort of preflight. We learned about engines and weather and other stuff that got us going. I should note that I had never flown in a plane before, other than the flight that got me down there, and so flying was a magical mystery tour. And then we started the first phase, which was a small plane with an instructor, and then went to a larger plane, a T-28, which was a pretty gutsy plane, a lot of fun to fly. And we did carrier qualifications in that plane and then transitioned from there into helicopters as the war started to heat up and they needed bodies.</p> | Pensacola, FL | | David F. Bunting Collection (AFC/2001/001/79733), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |

| Name | Branch | Unit | Quote | Fort | Comments | Cite As |
|------------------------|---------|---|---|--------------------------------|----------|--|
| Antonio P. Bustamante: | Marines | Marine Aircraft Group 36 | well ah going into boot camp was a very rude awakening. Of course we never anticipated the type of rigorous hard training we were going to receive. Ah I trained in amice rd up in Santiago California, ah went through boot camp and I think the boot camp was something like 13 ah weeks of physical training there. Ah our platoon that I was in which the platoon, we made our platoon from the graduating class. After graduating from the boot camp ah I went to ah camp penal ten for ITR training which is Infantry- Training Regimen and that we went there and I think it was some were between four to eight week of combat training at that time. After getting out of Infantry Training Regimen, I was assign to the first marine air wing up in eltoral in Sanato California and there started my training. Of course there we were schooled and we were trained and we volunteered our friend of mine named David Ronnie and myself volunteered to go to Vietnam at that particular time and of course we waited for almost a good three or four months before we got our orders to go to Vietnam. | San Diego, CA; Camp Pendleton; | | Antonio Pena Bustamante Collection (AFC/2001/001/72097), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |
| John Butler | Marine | 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division | A: Bewildering, busy. They -- it is a -- it's -- boot camp for officers takes place right here in Virginia at Quantico. And the -- it's 10 weeks long and the whole time they're trying to weed out individuals that they don't feel will be able to become Marine officers. It's a lot of physical training. A little bit of weapon and fieldcraft. But the -- it's basically a program to weed out those that shouldn't become Marine officers. | Quantico | | John Butler Collection (AFC/2001/001/185), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |

| Name | Branch | Unit | Quote | Fort | Comments | Cite As |
|---------------|---------|--|---|--|----------|--|
| Tom Carpenter | Marines | VMA- 331 (Marine Attack Squadron); VMA-214; VMA-211; 1st Marine Division | <p>I went to the Basic School in Quantico, Virginia./....So you go and learn how to do infantry tactics and become a platoon leader basically,....we knew that we left Quantico and we were then going back to the Navy for two years to Flight School, Pensacola, or one of the INAUDIBLE in Texas, INAUDIBLE. Being in the Navy situation where you were just going to flight school was challenging but nothing like what they were going to face.</p> <p>Tom Carpenter: Right. Started out in Pensacola where I did basic flight training. From Pensacola I went to Meridian, Mississippi, where I took basic jet training. From Meridian, Mississippi, I went to Kingsville, Texas, where I took advanced flight training A-4. Went on to USS Lexington, became carrier qualified, and in November of 1972, I put on my Naval Aviator INAUDIBLE. Was sent from there to Cherry Point, North Carolina, where I went into placement into Air Group squadron.....You learn Marine tactics which are different than Navy tactics. Basically we spent most of our time learning how to fly close air support. The Marine Corps essentially surrendered most of its artillery-a lot of its artillery-for World War II in exchange to have its own air wing. The Marines used aviation as artillery, basically. You can go farther with it and with precision. There's this concept of close air support, where Marine pilots are on the ground and they go into the forward areas with the infantry. ...Now we were doing the aviation training and learning close air support, dropping bombs, shooting rockets, doing straightening, all that sort of stuff, with the thought that eventually we would go to Vietnam and be used for close air support to support the infantry in Vietnam. So I went to a INAUDIBLE group in Cherry Point, North Carolina. I spent, I think, like a year there. [silence on tape]</p> <p>Tom Carpenter: Okay, so Cherry Point and then from there I was sent to Beaufort, South Carolina, where I joined Marine Attack Squadron 331, flying an A-4 Skyhawk, the 'E' version, I think it was.</p> | Naval Academy; Quantico; Pensacola (Flight School); ?? | | Tom Carpenter Collection (AFC/2001/001/43284), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |

| Name | Branch | Unit | Quote | Fort | Comments | Cite As |
|------------|--------|---------------------|---|--------------------------------|----------|---|
| Tom Carter | Marine | 3rd Marine Division | <p>Tom Carter: Yeah, you do. You go--as I recall, I think boot camp you had like a ten-day leave, and then you reported back. Boot camp was in San Diego, and then you reported back to Camp Pendleton, which is in the Oceanside, California, area. And from--it must be eight weeks of training from there.</p> <p>Morgan Case: In a rifleman school?</p> <p>Tom Carter: Yeah.</p> <p>Telinda Case: So that was your job? Was that your--</p> <p>Tom Carter: Yeah, my military occupation was--</p> <p>Telinda Case: Right.</p> <p>Tom Carter: --a grunt, rifleman.</p> | San Diego, CA; Camp Pendleton; | | Tom Carter Collection (AFC/2001/001/154), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |

| Name | Branch | Unit | Quote | Fort | Comments | Cite As |
|------------------------|---------|---|---|--------------------------------|----------|---|
| Samuel Charles Collins | Marines | Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division | <p>Samuel Charles Collins: Well 1968 I joined and I reported to San Diego and I'll never forget that day. But we went through training there and I believe it was October we were graduated from boot camp and that was probably the toughest time in my life, going to boot camp.and so anyway after that we went to ITR training, which is Infantry training and since I didn't get chose for Infantry, which we called the Grunts, only went through 4 weeks of that. I believe they went through 6 or 8 weeks of training if they were in the Infantry and so we went through 4 weeks and during that time we shot machine guns, shot many different weapons, learned how to do that.</p> <p>We learned how to read maps, we went to POW camps, if they escaped they taught us different ways of how to deal with the psychological part of being a POW. Just a lot of different training there and then we went home for 20 days after that and after my 20 days I remember I reported to 29 Palms, California and it was more of a staging area and we would wait there. ...</p> <p>Like I said it was a staging area and they waited until they needed somebody in Vietnam and then they would pick us out. Well I volunteered for Vietnam.But finally I got my Westpac orders to go to Vietnam, so I got to go home for another 20 days and on reporting back to Camp Pendleton, California I went through a 30 day training period prior to going to Vietnam where they taught us about booby traps, they took us down wooded trails and it was impossible for anybody to go walk down those trails without setting off something 'cause they had so many and we also learned how to attack small towns, villages, going from house to house, different things like that.</p> <p>....But that was pretty much my training before I went to Vietnam and then we shipped out for Okinawa.</p> | San Diego, CA; camp Pendleton; | | Samuel Charles Collins Collection (AFC/2001/001/62349), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |

| Name | Branch | Unit | Quote | Fort | Comments | Cite As |
|-------------------------|---------|--|--|--|----------|---|
| Ronald Lamar Coss | Marines | Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division | <p>I was at Parris Island in South Carolina. And I was there for approximately eight weeks.</p> <p>However, you know, that is the way it went. And so I was there for eight weeks. And after that I graduated. I went to a place called Camp Geiger, which is an annex of Camp Lejeune. So I went to Camp Geiger and had six weeks of training and then I went to Lejeune. And then I had a 30-day leave. I came home for 30 days. I went to California. I went to Camp Pendleton. And I did eight weeks of training -- jungle training. And they took us up in the mountains. The place we were at was called Las Spogas (ph). It was 110 degrees in the daytime and it was 30 degrees at night. They had what we call Quonset huts. I don't know if you've ever watched Gomer Pyle?</p> | Parris Island; Camp Geiger/Camp Lejeune; | | Ronald Lamar Coss Collection (AFC/2001/001/76245), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |
| John Spach Creech, Jr.: | Marines | 7th Communications Battalion | <p>Everybody knows about Parris Island. I spent the summer of '63 at Parris Island, June, July, August, and graduated from Parris Island as a PFC in the Marine Corps. You know, so, great transformation, from a scuzzy maggot, piece-of-shit civilian, to a United States Marine. Only thing I'd ever graduated from. From there, you go to a place at Camp Lejeune, called Camp Geiger, which was weapons training. And that's where you learn all about all the weapons, you know, the 3.5 rocket launchers, Browning automatics, M60 machine guns, M1's, hand grenades, flame throwers, tactics, crawling under machine gun fire, you know, all the things that prepare you for battle. And it's a -- that was a pretty rough place, you know.</p> <p>Juliana Creech: And how long were you there?</p> <p>John Spach Creech, Jr.: That's -- I think that's -- I think it was a month, something like that, five weeks, learning about all the weapons. But Parris Island, you learned about the rifle, you know, "This is my rifle, this is my gun, this is for fuckin', this is for fun" -- I mean, "this is for killin', this is for fun." And you do all those kind of things.</p> | Parris Island; Camp Geiger/Camp Lejeune; | | John Spach Creech, Jr. Collection (AFC/2001/001/42783), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress |

Table 5. List of divisions, regiments, and brigades of the military services involved in the Vietnam War.⁴⁸⁸

| Element/Command Designation | Major Elements | Minor Elements | Home at the time of Vietnam War | Comments/Notes of Interest |
|---|-----------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| NOTE: Information for this section was taken from, <i>Vietnam Order of Battle</i> ; ⁴⁸⁹ <i>Where We Were in Vietnam 1945–75</i> ; ⁴⁹⁰ and <i>Mounted Combat in Vietnam</i> . ⁴⁹¹ | | | | |
| 1st Cavalry Division | | | Fort Benning, Georgia | Wiki |
| | 1st/5th Cavalry Rgts | | Fort Benning, Georgia | Wiki |
| | 2d/5th Cavalry Rgts | | | |
| | 1st/7th Cavalry Rgts | | | |
| | 2d/7th Cavalry Rgts | | | |
| | 5th/7th Cavalry Rgts | | | |
| | 1st/8th Cavalry Rgts | | | |
| | 12/12th Cavalry Rgts | | | |
| | 2/12th Cavalry Rgts | | | |
| | 1st Sqdn 9th Air Cav | | | |
| | 11th Avn Grp | | Fort Benning, Georgia | Wiki |
| | 228th Avn Bns | | | |
| | 229th Avn Bns | | | |
| | 2d/17th Artillery | | | |
| | 2d/19th Artillery | | | |
| | 2d/20th Artillery | | | |
| | 1st/21st Artillery | | | |
| | 1st/30th Artillery | | | |
| | 1st/77th Artillery | | | |
| | Co E 52d LRP | | | |
| | Co H 75th Inf Rangers | | | |

⁴⁸⁸ Where table cells are blank, no further information could be obtained within scope of the project.

⁴⁸⁹ Shelby L. Stanton, *Vietnam Order of Battle* (Washington DC: U.S. News Books, 1981).

⁴⁹⁰ Michael Kelley, *Where We Were in Vietnam, 1945–75: A Comprehensive Guide to the Firebases, Military Installations, and Naval Vessels of the Vietnam War* (Hellgate Press, 2002).

⁴⁹¹ General Donn A. Starry, *Mounted Combat in Vietnam* (Vietnam Series, Washington, DC: Department of the Army, 1989).

| Element/Command Designation | Major Elements | Minor Elements | Home at the time of Vietnam War | Comments/Notes of Interest |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|--|
| 1st Infantry Division | | | Fort Riley, Kansas | Wiki and http://www.militaryvetshop.com/History/1stInfantry.html |
| | 1st /2d Inf Rgts | | | |
| | 2d/2d (Mech) Inf Rgts | | | |
| | 1st/16th (Mech) Inf Rgts | | | |
| | 1st/18th Inf Rgts | | | |
| | 2d/18th Inf Rgts | | | |
| | 1st/26th Inf Rgts | | | |
| | 2d/28th Inf Rgts | | | |
| | 5th/60th Inf (Mech) Inf Rgts | | | |
| | 3d Sqdn 11th ACR | | | |
| | 1st/5th Artillery Rgts | | | |
| | 8th/6th Artillery Rgts | | | |
| | 1st/7th Artillery Rgts | | | |
| | 6th/15th Artillery Rgts | | | |
| | 2d/33d Artillery Rgts | | | |
| | Bty D 25th Artillery Rgts | | | |
| | 1st Avn Bn | | | |
| | 162d Avn Cos | | | |
| | 173d Avn Cos | | | |
| | C Trp 16th Air Cav | | | |
| | 1st Sqdn 4th Cav (armored) | | | |
| | F Co 52d Inf LRP | | | |
| | I Co 75th Inf Rangers | | | |

| Element/Command Designation | Major Elements | Minor Elements | Home at the time of Vietnam War | Comments/Notes of Interest |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|---|
| 1st Marine Division | | | Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton | During the Korean War , \$20 million helped expand and upgrade existing facilities, including the construction of Camp Horno. When Camp Pendleton trained the country's fighting force for the Korean and Vietnam Wars , approximately 200,000 Marines passed through the base on their way to the Far East. In 1975 Camp Pendleton was the first military base in the U.S. to provide accommodations for Vietnamese evacuees in Operation New Arrivals; over 50,000 refugees came to the base in the largest humanitarian airlift in history.[7][8]Camp Pendleton has continued to grow through renovations, replacing its original tent camps with more than 2,626 buildings and over 500 miles of roads. Efforts today continue to preserve the heritage of Camp Pendleton's founders and the Marine Corps' history. The original ranch house has been declared a National Historic Site. (Wiki) |
| | 1st Marine Regiments | | Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton | |
| | 5th Marine Regiments | | Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton | http://www.ocregister.com/news/base-243036-exhibit-pendleton.html |
| | 7th Marine Regiments | | Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton | http://www.ocregister.com/news/vietnamese-243238-pendleton-family.html |
| | 1st/26th Marine Rgt | | | Operations New Arrivals camps built at Pendleton for Vietnamese refugees |
| | 2d/26th Marine Rgt | | | |
| | 3d/27th Marine Rgt | | | |
| | 5th Marine Division | | | |
| | 1st Recon Bn | | | |
| | 1st Force Recon Bn | | | |
| | 1st Tank Bn | | | |
| | 1st Amphibian Tractor Bn | | | |
| | 1st Armored Amphibian Co | | | |
| | 1st anti-tank Bn | | | |
| | 11th Artillery Rgt | | | |
| | 1st Marine Air Wing | | | |
| 1st Marine Regiment | | | Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton | http://www.i-mef.usmc.mil/external/1stmardiv/1stmarregt/history/history.jsp |
| 3d Marine Division | | | Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton | Reactivated at Camp Pendleton for the Korean War, trained in new tactics and maneuvers, and then moved to Okinawa after Vietnam. (Wiki) |

| Element/Command Designation | Major Elements | Minor Elements | Home at the time of Vietnam War | Comments/Notes of Interest |
|------------------------------|---|----------------|---|---|
| | 3d Marine Rgts | | | Reactivated on 16 June 1942, in North Carolina as part of the WWII military expansion. Several tours, did not participate in UN defense of South Korea but continually actively train in Hawaii and Japan to remain combat ready. Later then deployed to Vietnam. Following the retrograde of forces from Vietnam, the regiment was initially relocated to Camp Pendleton later moved to Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii. http://www.mcbh.usmc.mil/3mar/History.htm |
| | 4th Marine Rgts | | | |
| | 9th Marine Rgts | | | |
| | 3d Tank Bn | | | |
| | 3d Amphibian Tractor Bn | | | |
| | 3d Anti-Tank Bn | | | |
| | 3d Recon Bn | | | |
| | 3d Force Recon Bn | | | |
| | 12th Marine Artillery Rgt | | | |
| | 1st Marine Air Wing | | | |
| 3d Marine Regiment | | | Marine Corps Air Station New River, Jacksonville, North Carolina | Reactivated June 16, 1942, at New River, North Carolina, as part of WWII military expansion; deployed to American Samoa-->New Zealand-->China-->South Vietnam-->relocated to Camp Pendleton (Wiki) |
| 4th Infantry Division | | | Fort Lewis, Washington | http://www.4thinfantry.org/content/division-history |
| | 1st/8th Inf Rgts | | | |
| | 2d/8th Inf Rgts | | | |
| | 3d/8th Inf Rgts | | | |
| | 1st/12th Inf Rgts | | | |
| | 2d/12th (sent to 25th Inf Div, Aug67) | | | |
| | 3d/12th Inf Rgts | | | |
| | 1st/14th (came from 25th Inf Div, Aug67) | | | |
| | 3d 22d (Sent to 25th Inf Div, Aug67) | | | |
| | 1st/35th Inf Rgts (came from 25th Inf Div, Aug67) | | | |

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|--|---|--|---|---|
| | 2d/35th Inf Rgts (came from 25th Inf Div, Aug67) | | | |
| | 2d/34th Armored Rgts | | | |
| | 1st/69th Armored Rgts | | | |
| | 2d/9th Artillery Rgts | | | |
| | 5th/16th Artillery Rgts | | | |
| | 6th/29th Artillery Rgts | | | |
| | 4th/42d Artillery Rgts | | | |
| | 2d/77th Artillery Rgts | | | |
| | 1st Sqdn 10th Cav | | | |
| | E Co 20th Inf (LRP) | | | |
| | E Co 58th Inf (LRP) | | | |
| | K Co 75th Inf Rangers | | | |
| | | | | |
| 5th Infantry Division, 1st Bde (Mech) | | | Fort Carson | Originally stationed at Fort Carson but relieved and reassigned to Fort Devens to be refilled and deployed to Vietnam. |
| | 1st/77th Armored Rgt | | | |
| | 1st/11th Inf Rgts | | | |
| | 1st/61st Inf Rgts | | | |
| | A Trp 4th Sqdn/12th Cav | | | |
| | P Co 75th Inf Rangers | | | |
| | 3d Sqdn/5th Cav | | | |
| | 3d/187th Inf Rgt (opcon from 101st Abn) | | | |
| 5th Marine Division | | | Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton | Wiki |
| 5th Marine Regiment | | | Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton | Wiki |
| 7th Marine Regiment | | | Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton | Wiki |
| 9th Infantry Division | | | Fort Riley, Kansas | Wiki |
| | 6th/31st Inf | | | |

| | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|--|
| | 2d/39th Inf | | | |
| | 4th/39th Inf | | | |
| | 2d/47th (Mech) Inf | | | |
| | 3d/47th (Riverine) Inf | | | |
| | 4th/47th (Riverine) Inf | | | |
| | 2d/60th Inf | | | |
| | 3d/60th (Riverine) Inf | | | |
| | 5th/60th (Mech) Inf | | | |
| | 3d Sqdn/5th Cav Inf | | | |
| | E Co 50th Inf (LRP) | | | |
| | E Co 75th Inf Rangers | | | |
| | 9th Avn Bn | | | |
| | 2d/4th Artillery Rgts | | | |
| | 1st/11th Artillery Rgts | | | |
| | 3d/34th Artillery Rgts | | | |
| | 1st/84th Artillery Rgts | | | |
| | H Bty 29th Artillery Rgts | | | |
| | | | | |
| | 6th/31st Inf Rgts | | | |
| | 2d/47th (Mech) Inf Rgts | | | |
| | 2d/60th Inf Rgts | | | |
| | 5th/60th Inf Rgts | | | |
| | D Trp 3d Sqdn/5th Air Cav | | | |
| | E Co 75th Inf Rangers | | | |
| | 2d/4th Artillery | | | |
| | 39th Cav Plt (Air Cushioned Vehicles) | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | 9th Marine Expeditionary Force (n/a) | | | |
| | 9th Marine Regiment | | | |

| Element/Command Designation | Major Elements | Minor Elements | Home at the time of Vietnam War | Comments/Notes of Interest |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|---|
| 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment | | | Fort Meade, Maryland | Wiki |
| 11th Infantry Brigade (Light) | | | Schofield Barracks, Hawaii (?) | <u>Beginning in early 1967, the brigade trained extensively in jungle operations in preparation for commitment to Vietnam. To stress realism in the Vietnam-oriented tactical training, the brigade conducted "live-fire" operations in the rugged, thickly vegetated terrain of the Koolau Mountains on the island of Oahu.</u> http://www.hill4-11.org/history/11th-bde.html |
| | 3d/1st Inf Rgts | | | |
| | 4th/3d Inf Rgts | | | |
| | 1st/20th Inf Rgts | | | |
| | 4th/21st Inf Rgts | | | |
| | 6th Bn 11th Artillery Rgt | | | |
| 11th Marine Regiment | | | Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton | Wiki |
| 12th Marine Regiment | | | Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton | Wiki |
| 13th Marine Regiment | | | | |
| 23d Infantry Division (Americal) | | | | The 23rd Infantry Division, Americal, was reactivated again in 1967 in the jungles of Vietnam. Now they traced their roots to Task Force Oregon that operated in the I Corps area of operations that included Chu Lai, Quang Ngai Province, and Duc Pho. Task Force Oregon originally consisted of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade, 1st Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division, and the 3rd Brigade of the 25th Infantry Division, which was later redesignated as the 3rd Brigade of the 4th Infantry Division. The task force became operational on April 20, 1967. Their early Operations included Malheur I and Malheur II, Hood River, Benton, Cook. http://www.militaryvetshop.com/History/americal.html |
| | 2d/1st Inf Rgts | | | |
| | 3d/1st Inf Rgts | | | |
| | 4th/3d Inf Rgts | | | |
| | 1st/6th Inf Rgts | | | |
| | 1st/20th Inf Rgts | | | |
| | 3d/21st Inf Rgts | | | |
| | 4th 34th Inf Rgts | | | |
| | 5th/46th Inf Rgts | | | |
| | 1st/52d Inf Rgts | | | |

| Element/Command Designation | Major Elements | Minor Elements | Home at the time of Vietnam War | Comments/Notes of Interest |
|-------------------------------|--|----------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| | F Trp 8th Air Cav | | | |
| | E Trp 1st Armored Cav | | | |
| | F Trp 17th Armored Cav | | | |
| | E Co 51st Inf (LRP) | | | |
| | Americal scout Inf | | | |
| | H Trp 17th Cav | | | |
| | 1st Sqdn 1st Armored Cav | | | |
| | Chu Lai Prov's Defense Cmd | | | |
| | 6th/1th Arty Rgts | | | |
| | 1st/14th Arty Rgts | | | |
| | 3d/16th Arty Rgts | | | |
| | 3d/18th Art Rgts | | | |
| | 1st/82d Arty Rgts | | | |
| | 3d/82d Arty Rgts | | | |
| | G Bty 55th Arty Rgts | | | |
| 25th Infantry Division | | | Schofield Barracks, Hawaii (?) | http://www.25thida.org/division.html ; Wiki |
| | 1st/5th (Mech) Inf Rgts | | | |
| | 4th/9th Inf Rgts | | | |
| | 2d/12th (from 4th ID, Aug67) Inf Rgts | | | |
| | 1st/14th (to 4th Inf Div, Aug 67) Inf Rgts | | | |
| | 2d/14th Inf Rgts | | | |
| | 2d/22d (Mech) (from 4th Inf Div, Aug67) Inf Rgts | | | |
| | 3d/22d (from 4th Inf Div, Aug 67) | | | |
| | 4th/23d Inf Rgts | | | |
| | 1st/27th Inf Rgts | | | |
| | 1st/35th (to 4th Inf Div, Aug 67) Inf Rgts | | | |
| | 2d/35th (to 4th Inf Div, Aug 67) Inf Rgts | | | |

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|--|-------------------------|--|--------------------------|---|
| | 2d/34th Armor | | | |
| | 1st/69th Armor | | | |
| | 3d Sqdn/4th Armored Cav | | | |
| | F Co 50th Inf (LRP) | | | |
| | F Co 75th Rangers | | | |
| | 25th Avn Bn | | | |
| | 1st/8th Artillery Rgts | | | |
| | 2d/9th Artillery Rgts | | | |
| | 7th/11th Artillery Rgts | | | |
| | 3d/13th Artillery Rgts | | | |
| | 2d/77th Artillery Rgts | | | |
| | 6th/77th Artillery Rgts | | | |
| | | | | |
| | 1st/5th (Mech) Inf Rgts | | | |
| | 2d/12th Inf Rgts | | | |
| | 3d/22d Inf Rgts | | | |
| | 1st/27th Inf Rgts | | | |
| | 1st/8th Artillery Rgts | | | |
| | F Trp 4th Air Cav | | | |
| | F Co 75th Inf Rangers | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | 1st/505th Inf Rgts | | | |
| | 2d/505th Inf Rgts | | | |
| | 1st/508th Inf Rgts | | | |
| | 2d/321st Artillery | | | |
| | A Co 82d Avn Bn | | | |
| | | | Fort Campbell (?) | http://www.campbell.army.mil/units/101st/Pages/default.aspx |
| | 3d/187th Inf Rgts | | | |

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|--|--|--|--------------------------------|---|
| | 1st/327th Inf Rgts | | | |
| | 2d/327th Inf Rgts | | | |
| | 1/501st Inf Rgts | | | |
| | 2d/501st Inf Rgts | | | |
| | 1st/502d Inf Rgts | | | |
| | 2d/502d Inf Rgts | | | |
| | 1st/506th Inf Rgts | | | |
| | 2d/506th Inf Rgts | | | |
| | 3d/506th Inf Rgts | | | |
| | F Co 58th Inf (LRP) | | | |
| | L Co 75th Inf Rangers | | | |
| | 2d Sqdn/17th Air Cav | | | |
| | 2d/11th Artillery Rgts | | | |
| | 1st/39th Artillery Rgts | | | |
| | 4th/77th Artillery Rgts | | | |
| | 2d /319th Artillery Rgts | | | |
| | 2d/320th Artillery Rgts | | | |
| | 1st/321st Artillery Rgts | | | |
| | A BTY 377th Artillery Rgts | | | |
| | 101st Avn Grp (formerly 106th Avn Grp) | | | |
| | 101st Avn Bn | | | |
| | 158th Avn Bn | | | |
| | 159th Avn Bn | | | |
| | 163d Avn Co | | | |
| | 478th Avn Co. | | | |
| | | | Fort Campbell, Kentucky | http://www.campbell.army.mil/units/101st/Pages/default.aspx |
| | 1st/327th Inf Rgts | | | |
| | 2d/327th Inf Rgts | | | |
| | 2d/502d Inf Rgts | | | |

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|--|--------------------------|--|------------------------|------|
| | A Trp 4th Sqdn/12th Cav | | | |
| | 2d Sqdn/17th Armored Cav | | | |
| | 2d Bn 320th Arty | | | |
| | | | | |
| | 1st/503d Inf Rgts | | | |
| | 2d/503d Inf Rgts | | | |
| | 3d/503d Inf Rgts | | | |
| | 4th/503d Inf Rgts | | | |
| | D Co 16th Armor | | | |
| | E Trp 17th Armored Cav | | | |
| | 3d Bn 319th Arty | | | |
| | 335th Avn Co | | | |
| | | | | |
| | 2d/1st Inf Rgts | | | |
| | 1st/46th Inf Rgts | | | |
| | 5th/46th Inf Rgts | | | |
| | 1st/52d Inf Rgts | | | |
| | F Trp 8th Air Cav | | | |
| | F Trp 17th Armored Cav | | | |
| | 3d Bn 82 Artillery | | | |
| | | | | |
| | 1st/6th Inf Rgts | | | |
| | 1st/46th Inf Rgts | | | |
| | 5th/46th Inf Rgts | | | |
| | 1st 52d Inf Rgts | | | |
| | H Trp 17th Armored Cav | | | |
| | 1st/14th Arty | | | |
| | | | Fort Lewis, Washington | Wiki |

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|--|---------------------------------|--|------------------------------|---|
| | 2d/3d Inf Rgts | | | |
| | 3d/7th Inf Rgts | | | |
| | 4th/12th Inf Rgts | | | |
| | 5th/12th Inf Rgts | | | |
| | D Trp 17th Armored Cav | | | |
| | F Co 51st Inf (LRP) | | | |
| | M Co 75th Inf Ranger | | | |
| | 3d Sqdn/11th Armored Cav | | | |
| | 2d/40th Arty | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | 2d Bde US 9th Inf Div | | | |
| | US Navy Task Forces 115 | | | |
| | US Navy Task Forces 116 | | | |
| | US Navy Task Forces 117 | | | |
| | Navy Seal Teams | | | |
| | SVN Marines | | | |
| | 7th ARVN Div/River Assault Grps | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | Task Force 73 | | | |
| | Task Force 76 | | | |
| | Task Force 77 | | | |
| | Task Force Oregon | | | |
| | Task Force South | | | |
| | Task Force Walker | | | |
| | U.S. Navy Seabees | | Davisville, Rhode Island (?) | http://www.seabeesmuseum.com/History.html |

| Element/Command Designation | Major Elements | Minor Elements | Home at the time of Vietnam War | Comments/Notes of Interest |
|---|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| 1st Aviation Brigade | | | | |
| <p>NOTE: the following list was compiled from <i>The Air Force in the Vietnam War</i>⁴⁹² by John T. Correll</p> | | | | |
| 7th Air Force | | | Korea (?) | Wiki |
| | 834th Air Division | | England AFB, Louisiana | http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/834th_Airlift_Division |
| | 3rd Tactical Fighter Wing | | Moving around as the Cold War progressed | http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/3d_Wing#Vietnam_War |
| | 12th Tactical Fighter Wing | | | |
| | 14th Special Ops Wing | | | |
| | 31st Tactical Fighter Wing | | | |
| | 35th Tactical Fighter Wing | | | http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/35th_Fighter_Wing#Vietnam_War |
| | | 390th Tactical Fighter | Deployed from 49th TFW, Holloman AFB, New Mexico | http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/35th_Fighter_Wing#Vietnam_War |
| | | 480th Tactical Fighter | Deployed from 49th TFW, Holloman AFB, New Mexico | http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/35th_Fighter_Wing#Vietnam_War |
| | | 8th Bombardment Squadron | Deployed from 405th TFW, Cark AB, Philippines | http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/35th_Fighter_Wing#Vietnam_War |
| | | 13th Bombardment Squadron | Deployed from 405th TFW, Cark AB, Philippines | http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/35th_Fighter_Wing#Vietnam_War |
| | | 64th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron | Deployed from Paine Field, Washington (Air Defense Command) | http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/35th_Fighter_Wing#Vietnam_War |
| | | 352d Tactical Fighter Squadron | Deployed from 354th TFW, Myrtle Beach AFB, South Carolina | http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/35th_Fighter_Wing#Vietnam_War |
| | | 614th Tactical Fighter Squadron | Deployed from 401st TFW, England AFB, Louisiana | http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/35th_Fighter_Wing#Vietnam_War |
| | | 615th Tactical Fighter Squadron | Deployed from 401st TFW, England AFB, Louisiana | http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/35th_Fighter_Wing#Vietnam_War |
| | | 120th Tactical Fighter Squadron | Deployed from 401st TFW, England AFB, Louisiana | http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/35th_Fighter_Wing#Vietnam_War |

⁴⁹² See Bibliography for full information on this publication.

| Element/Command Designation | Major Elements | Minor Elements | Home at the time of Vietnam War | Comments/Notes of Interest |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--|--|---|
| | | 612th Tactical Fighter Squadron | Deployed from Misawa AB Japan | http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/35th_Fighter_Wing#Vietnam_War |
| | | 8th Tactical Bombardment Squadron | | |
| | | 13th Tactical Bombardment Squadron | | |
| | | No. 2 Squadron, Royal Australian Air Force | | |
| | | 8th Special Operations Squadron | Reassigned from 3d TFW, Bien Hoa AB | http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/35th_Fighter_Wing#Vietnam_War |
| | 37th Tactical Fighter Wing | | Phu Cat Air Base, South Vietnam | |
| | | 416th Tactical Fighter Squadron | Deployed from 3d TFW, Bien Hoa AB | http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/37th_Training_Wing |
| | | Det 1, 612th Tactical Fighter Squadron | Deployed from 35thTFW, Phan Rang AB | http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/37th_Training_Wing |
| | | 174th Tactical Fighter Squadron | Deployed from 185th Tactical Fighter Group, Iowa ANG at Sioux City MAP | http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/37th_Training_Wing |
| | | 355th Tactical Fighter Squadron | Deployed from 354th TFW, Myrtle Beach AFB, South Carolina | http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/37th_Training_Wing |
| | | 480th Tactical Fighter Squadron | Holloman AFB, New Mexico | http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/480th_Tactical_Fighter_Squadron |
| | | 389th Tactical Fighter Squadron | Holloman AFB, New Mexico | http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/389th_Tactical_Fighter_Squadron |
| | 366th Tactical Fighter Wing | | Holloman AFB, New Mexico | http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/366th_Fighter_Wing |
| | | 352d Tactical Fighter Squadron | Deployed from 354th TFW, Myrtle Beach AFB, South Carolina | http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/352d_Tactical_Fighter_Squadron |
| | | 389th Tactical Fighter Squadron | Holloman AFB, New Mexico | http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/389th_Tactical_Fighter_Squadron |
| | | 614th Tactical Fighter | Deployed from 401st TFW, England AFB, Louisiana | http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/35th_Fighter_Wing#Vietnam_War |

| Element/Command Designation | Major Elements | Minor Elements | Home at the time of Vietnam War | Comments/Notes of Interest |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|---|---|---|
| | | Squadron | | |
| | | 615th Tactical Fighter Squadron | Deployed from 401st TFW, England AFB, Louisiana | http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/35th_Fighter_Wing#Vietnam_War |
| | 460th Tactical Recon Wing | | Tan Son Nhut AB, South Vietnam | http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/460th_Space_Wing |
| | | 12th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron | Mountain Home AFB, Idaho | http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/12th_Tactical_Reconnaissance_Squadron#Assignments |
| | | 16th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron | | |
| | | 20th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron | | |
| | | 41st Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron | Shaw AFB, SC to Takhli RTAFB, Thailand | http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/41st_Tactical_Reconnaissance_Squadron |
| | | 45th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron | Misawa --> Tan Son Nhut Airfield | http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/45th_Tactical_Reconnaissance_Squadron |
| | | 360th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron | Tan Son Nhut Airfield ? | |
| | | 361st Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron | Tan Son Nhut Airfield (Activated at) | http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/361st_Tactical_Electronic_Warfare_Squadron |
| | | 362d Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron | Tan Son Nhut Airfield (Activated at) | http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/362d_Tactical_Electronic_Warfare_Squadron |
| | | 6460th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron | | |
| | | 6461st Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron | | |
| | 377th Combat Support Group | | | |
| | 504th Tactical Air Support Group | | | http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/504th_Expeditionary_Air_Support_Operations_Group |
| | | 19th Tactical Air Support Squadron | Bien Hao, Vietnam (Activated at) | http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/19th_Tactical_Air_Support_Squadron |

| Element/Command Designation | Major Elements | Minor Elements | Home at the time of Vietnam War | Comments/Notes of Interest |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|---|
| | | 20th Tactical Air Support Squadron | Da Nang, Vietnam (Activated at) | http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/20th_Tactical_Air_Support_Squadron#Combat_Operations_in_Vietnam_1965_to_1973 |
| | | 21st Tactical Air Support Squadron | Pleiku Air Base --> Tan Son Nhut Airport --> Nha Trang AB | http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/21st_Tactical_Air_Support_Squadron |
| | | 22nd Tactical Air Support Squadron | Binh Thuy Air Base, South Vietnam (Activated at) | http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/22d_Tactical_Air_Support_Training_Squadron#Vietnam_War |
| | | 23rd Tactical Air Support Squadron | Udon RTAFB, Thailand | http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/23d_Tactical_Air_Support_Squadron#World_War_II |
| | 505th Tactical Control Group | | Tan Son Nhut AB, South Vietnam | http://www.squawk-flash.org/ |
| | 632nd Combat Support Group | | Binh Thuy Air Base, South Vietnam (Activated at) | http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Binh_Thuy_Air_Base |
| | 196th Communications Group | | | |
| | 633rd Special Ops Wing | | Pleiku Air Base (Activated at) | http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/633d_Air_Base_Wing |
| | 3rd Aerial Rescue & Recover Group | | | |
| | 1st Weather Group | | Tan Son Nhut AB, South Vietnam (Reactivated at) | http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1st_Weather_Group |
| 13th Air Force | | | Clark Air Base, Luzon, Philippines | |
| | | | | Locations given are the home bases or site of activation for the units during the Vietnam War. However, it doesn't seem like training was conducted at these bases. |
| | 8th Tactical Fighter Wing | | George AFB, California | http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/8th_Fighter_Wing#Vietnam_War |
| | 355th Tactical Fighter Wing | | George AFB, California + McConnell AFB, Kansas | http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/355th_Fighter_Wing#Vietnam_era |
| | 388th Tactical Fighter Wing | | McConnell AFB, Kansas | http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/388th_Fighter_Wing |
| | 432nd Tactical Recon Wing | | Udon RTAFB, Thailand | http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/432d_Wing#Vietnam_War |
| | 553rd Tactical Recon Wing | | Otis AFB, Massachusetts | http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/553rd_Reconnaissance_Squadron#Assignments |
| | 631st Combat Support Group | | Nakon Phanom Royal Thai AFB, Thailand | http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/56th_Fighter_Wing#Vietnam_War |
| | 635th Combat Support Group | | | |
| | 56th Special Ops Wing | | Nakon Phanom Royal Thai AFB, Thailand | http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/56th_Fighter_Wing#Vietnam_War |

| Element/Command Designation | Major Elements | Minor Elements | Home at the time of Vietnam War | Comments/Notes of Interest |
|---|------------------------------|----------------|--|---|
| | Task Force Alpha | | Nakon Phanom Royal Thai AFB, Thailand | |
| The following information compiled from <i>U.S. Marines in Vietnam: The Landing and the Buildup 1965</i> ⁴⁹³ | | | | |
| Marine unit Vietnam (CTU 79.3.5) (aka Operation SHUFLY) | | | | |
| | Sub-Unit 2, MABS-16 | | | |
| | HMM-365 | | Marine Corps Air Facility Santa Ana, California | http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/VMM-365 |
| | HMM-163 | | | |
| | 1st LAAM Battalion | | 29 Palms/Port Hueneme, CA --> Okinawa | http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/3rd_Low_Altitude_Air_Defense_Battalion#Ground_Based_Air_Defense_in_Vietnam |
| | Co L, 3/9 | | | |
| | Co D, 1/3 | | | |
| | Co C, 7th Engineer Battalion | | | |
| 9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade | | | | |
| | 9th MEB Headquarters | | | |
| | G-1 | | | |
| | G-2 | | | |
| | G-3 | | | |
| | G-4 | | | |
| | MAG-16 | | Marine Corps Air Facility Santa Ana, California (Activated at) --> Japan 00> Da Nang | http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marine_Aviation_Logistics_Squadron_16 |
| | H&MS-16 | | Marine Corps Air Facility Santa Ana, California (Activated at) --> Japan 00> Da Nang | http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marine_Aviation_Logistics_Squadron_16 |
| | HMM-163 | | | |
| | HMM-162 | | | |
| | VMFA-531 | | | |

⁴⁹³ Jack Shulimson and Major Charles M. Johnson (USMC). *U.S. Marines in Vietnam: The Landing and the Buildup 1965*, (Washington, DC: History and Museums Division, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, 1978). Also online at: <http://ehistory.osu.edu/vietnam/books/buildup/0227.cfm>.

| Element/Command Designation | Major Elements | Minor Elements | Home at the time of Vietnam War | Comments/Notes of Interest |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|--|--|
| | VMCJ-1 | | | |
| | VMO-2 | | | |
| | Sub-Unit 2, MABS-16 | | | |
| | MASS-2 | | | |
| | 1st LAAM Battalion | | 29 Palms/Port Hueneme, CA --> Okinawa | http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/3rd Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion#Ground Based Air Defense in Vietnam |
| | 3d Marines | | Okinawa, Japan | http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/3rd Marine Division (United States)#Vietnam War |
| | 1/3 | | Camp Pendleton | |
| | 2/3 | | At the end, relocated to MCB Camp Pendleton | http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2nd Battalion 3rd Marines |
| | 3/9 | | Activated at Camp Elliot, San Diego for WWII | http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2nd Battalion 3rd Marines |
| | 3/4 | | Activated at Cavite, Philippine Island in 1941 for WWII, then Japan, then Vietnam | http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/3rd Battalion 4th Marines |
| | Brigade Logistic Support Group | | ? | |
| | Brigade Artillery Group | | ? | |
| | 1/12 | | Activated at Camp Pendleton --> Camp McNair, Japan ---> South Camp Fuji --> Vietnam Phu Bai, Da Nang, Cam Lo, Khe Sanh, and Camp Carroll | http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1st Battalion 12th Marines |
| | Brigade Engineer Group | | ? | |
| III Marine Amphibious Force | | | Reactivated in the Republic of Vietnam | http://www.marines.mil/unit/iiimef/Pages/history.aspx The amphibious force was reactivated as the III Marine Expeditionary Force in the Republic of Vietnam on May 7, 1965, and consisted of the 3d Marine Division and the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing. III MEF was later re-designated as III Marine Amphibious Force. On March 15, 1966, Force Logistics Command was formed at Da Nang and joined the III MEF. Expansion of Marine Forces in Vietnam continued in 1966 with the arrival of the 1st Marine Division. |
| | G-1 | | | |
| | G-2 | | | |
| | G-3 | | | |
| | G-4 | | | |
| | G-5 | | | |

| Element/Command Designation | Major Elements | Minor Elements | Home at the time of Vietnam War | Comments/Notes of Interest |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|----------------|---|---|
| | G-6 | | | |
| 3d Marine Division | | | Okinawa, Japan | http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/agency/usmc/3mardiv.htm |
| | G-1 | | | |
| | G-2 | | | |
| | G-3 | | | |
| | G-4 | | | |
| | G-5 | | | |
| | Headquarters Battalion | | | |
| | 3d Marines | | Trained in Hawaii and Japan before deployment to Vietnam | http://www.mcbh.usmc.mil/3mar/History.htm |
| | 4th Marines | | Kaneohe, Hawaii | http://www.marines.mil/unit/3rdmardiv/4thregiment/Pages/History.aspx |
| | 7th Marines | | | |
| | 9th Marines | | | |
| | 12th Marines | | Reactivated at Camp Pendleton --> Camp McNair, Japan --> Okinawa ---> Vietnam | http://www.marines.mil/unit/3rdmardiv/12thRegiment/Pages/12thMarinesLineage.aspx |
| | 1/1 | | Reactivated at New River, North Carolina --> many places in the Pacific --> Vietnam | http://www.i-mef.usmc.mil/external/1stmardiv/1stmarregt/1-1/history/history.jsp |
| | 2/1 | | Relocated to Camp Pendleton Apr 1955 --> Vietnam 1965 | http://www.i-mef.usmc.mil/external/1stmardiv/1stmarregt/2-1/history/history_lineage.jsp |
| | 1/3 | | Camp Pendleton --> Okinawa --> Vietnam | http://www.mcbh.usmc.mil/3mar/1dbn/1-3History.htm#history |
| | 2/3 | | Activated 1942 at New River, North Carolina --> Samoa ---> New Zealand---Guadalcanal ---> deployed to Da Nang Vietnam | http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2nd_Battalion_3rd_Marines |
| | 3/3 | | Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton ---> Japan --> Vietnam | http://www.mcbh.usmc.mil/3mar/3dbn/lineage.htm |
| | 1/4 | | Kaneohe Bay, HI --> Vietnam | http://www.i-mef.usmc.mil/external/1stmardiv/1stmarregt/1-4/history/history_lineage.jsp |
| | 2/4 | | Transferred to Hawaii --> Vietnam | http://www.i-mef.usmc.mil/external/1stmardiv/5thmarregt/2-4/history/history.jsp |
| | 3/4 | | | http://www.i-mef.usmc.mil/external/1stmardiv/7thmarregt/3-4/history/history_lineage.jsp |

| Element/Command Designation | Major Elements | Minor Elements | Home at the time of Vietnam War | Comments/Notes of Interest |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|---|---|
| | 1/7 | | Camp Pendleton and Okinawa --> Vietnam | http://www.i-mef.usmc.mil/external/1stmardiv/7thmarregt/1-7/history/history.jsp |
| | 2/7 | | Relocated to Camp Pendleton Mar 1955 -->Okinawa --> Vietnam 1965 | http://www.i-mef.usmc.mil/external/1stmardiv/7thmarregt/2-7/history/history.jsp |
| | 3/7 | | Relocated to Camp Pendleton Mar 1955 ---> Camp Schwab, Okinawa ---> Vietnam | http://www.i-mef.usmc.mil/external/1stmardiv/7thmarregt/3-7/history/history.jsp |
| | 1/9 | | Reactivated at Camp Pendleton Mar 1952 ---> Camp Gifu, Japan --> Camp Shinodayama, Japan --> Camp Napunja, Okinawa ---> Camp Sukiran Okinawa ---> Udorn, Thailand ---> Da Nang, Vietnam | http://www.1stbattalion9thmarines.com/History/lineage.htm |
| | 2/9 | | Okinawa --> Vietnam | http://www.marines.mil/unit/2ndmardiv/6thmarreg/2-9/Pages/History/default.aspx |
| | 3/9 | | Reactivate at Camp Pendleton --> Camp Otsu, Japan --> Camp Fuji, Japan ---> Udorn, Thailand -> Da Nang, Vietnam | http://www.marines.mil/unit/2ndmardiv/2ndmarreg/3bn9Mar/Pages/History/default.aspx |
| | 3/11 | | Relocated to Camp Pendleton Feb 1955 --> Vietnam | http://www.i-mef.usmc.mil/external/1stmardiv/11thmarregt/3-11/history/history.jsp |
| | 1/12 | | Reactivated at Camp Pendleton --> Camp McNair, Japan --> Camp Fuji, Japan ---> Vietnam | http://www.mcbh.usmc.mil/1-12/112history.shtm |
| | 2/12 | | | |
| | 3/12 | | Reactivated at Camp Pendleton Jan 1952 --> Camp Gifu, Japan --> Camp Courtney, Okinawa --> Vietnam | http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/3rd_Battalion_12th_Marines#Reactivation_and_the_Vietnam_War |
| | 4/12 | | | |
| | 1st Amphibian Tractor Battalion | | Reactivated at Camp Pendleton, Ca May 1946 ---> Korean War ---> Camp McGill, Japan ---> Camp Hansen, Okinawa ---> Da Nang, Vietnam | http://www.amtrac.org/1atbn/Chronicles/AShortHistory.asp |
| | 3d Anti-Tank Battalion | | | |
| | 3d Engineer Battalion | | Reactivated at Camp Pendleton ---> Kobe, Japan ---> Tengan, Okinawa --> Camp Kawasaki, Okinawa ---> Camp Koza, Okinawa --> Camp Hansen, | http://www.i-mef.usmc.mil/external/1stmardiv/3dceb/history/history.jsp |

| Element/Command Designation | Major Elements | Minor Elements | Home at the time of Vietnam War | Comments/Notes of Interest |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|---|---|
| | | | Okinawa ---> Da Nang, Vietnam | |
| | 3d Medical Battalion | | | |
| | 3d Motor Transport Battalion | | | |
| | 3d Reconnaissance Battalion | | | |
| | 3d Shore Party Battalion | | | |
| | 3d Tank Battalion | | Japan --> Da Nang, Vietnam | http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/3rd_Tank_Battalion |
| | 5th Communication Battalion | | | |
| | 7th Engineer Battalion | | Activated on 109 Feb 1962 at Fort Carson | http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/agency/army/7eng.htm |
| | 9th Motor Transport Battalion | | | |
| 1st Marine Aircraft Wing | | | | |
| | G-1 | | | |
| | G-2 | | | |
| | G-3 | | | |
| | G-4 | | | |
| | G-5 | | | |
| | MWHG-1 | | | |
| | MAG-11 | | Joined 2d MAW at Cherry Point, NC March 1946 ---> Auxiliary Landing Field, Edenton NC -->Atsugi, Japan -->Taiwan---> Da Nang, Vietnam | http://www.3maw.usmc.mil/external/3dmaw/mag11/history/history.jsp |
| | MAG-12 | | Activated at Camp Kearney, California --> Pacific (Japan, Korea then Vietnam) | |
| | MAG-16 | | Marine Corps Air Facility Santa Ana, CA | http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marine_Aircraft_Group_16 |
| | MAG-36 | | Marine Corps Air Station El Toro | http://www.marines.mil/unit/1stairwing/mag36/Pages/history.aspx |
| | H&HS-1 | | | |
| | H&MS-11 | | Marine Corps Air Station El Toro | http://www.3maw.usmc.mil/external/3dmaw/mag11/mals11/history/history.jsp |
| | H&MS-12 | | MCAS Iwakuni, Japan | http://www.marines.mil/unit/1stairwing/mag12/mals12/Pages/history.aspx |

| Element/Command Designation | Major Elements | Minor Elements | Home at the time of Vietnam War | Comments/Notes of Interest |
|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------|--|---|
| | H&MS-16 | | Naval Air Facility, Oppama, Japan | http://www.3maw.usmc.mil/external/3dmaw/mag16/mals16/history/history.jsp |
| | H&MS-36 | | | |
| | MABS-11 | | | |
| | MABS-12 | | | |
| | MABS-36 | | | |
| | MASS-2 | | Okinawa, Japan | http://www.marines.mil/unit/1stairwing/macg18/mass2/Pages/history.aspx |
| | HMM-161 | | Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii | http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/agency/usmc/hmm-161.htm |
| | HMM-162 | | Marine Corps Air Facility, New River NC | http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/agency/usmc/hmm-162.htm |
| | HMM-163 | | | |
| | HMM-261 | | Marine Corps Air Facility, New River NC | http://www.marines.mil/unit/2ndMAW/mag26/vmm261/Pages/history.aspx |
| | HMM-263 | | Marine Corps Air Facility Santa Ana, CA | http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/agency/usmc/hmm-263.htm |
| | HMM-361 | | Marine Corps Air Facility, New River NC | http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMH-361 |
| | HMM-362 | | | |
| | HMM-363 | | Marine Corps Air Facility Santa Ana, CA | http://www.marines.mil/unit/1stairwing/mag24/hmh363/Pages/HMH363History.aspx |
| | HMM-364 | | Marine Corps Air Station El Toro | http://www.3maw.usmc.mil/external/3dmaw/mag39/hmm364/history/history.jsp |
| | HMM-365 | | Marine Corps Air Facility Santa Ana, CA | http://www.marines.mil/unit/2ndMAW/mag26/vmm365/Pages/history.aspx |
| | VMA-211 | | Marine Corps Air Station El Toro > Japan-- | http://www.3maw.usmc.mil/external/3dmaw/mag13/vma211/history/history.jsp |
| | VMA-214 | | MCAS Iwakuni, Japan | http://www.3maw.usmc.mil/external/3dmaw/mag13/vma214/history/history.jsp |
| | VMA-223 | | Okinawa, Japan | http://www.marines.mil/unit/2ndMAW/mag14/vma223/Pages/history.aspx |
| | VMA-225 | | Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, NC (interim basing at MCAAS Mojave, CA; MCAS Santa Ana, CA; MCAS Edenton, NC) | http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/VMFA(AW)-225 |
| | VMA-311 | | | http://www.3maw.usmc.mil/external/3dmaw/mag13/vma311/history/history.jsp |
| | VMCJ-1 | | Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii | http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/VMAQ-1 |

| Element/Command Designation | Major Elements | Minor Elements | Home at the time of Vietnam War | Comments/Notes of Interest |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|---|---|
| | VMFA-115 | | Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, NC | http://www.marines.mil/unit/2ndMAW/mag31/vmfa115/Pages/history.aspx |
| | VMFA-323 | | Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, NC | http://www.3maw.usmc.mil/external/3dmaw/mag11/vmfa323/history/history.jsp |
| | VMFA-513 | | Marine Corps Air Station El Toro / NAS Miramar | http://www.3maw.usmc.mil/external/3dmaw/mag13/vma513/history/history.jsp |
| | VMFA-531 | | Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, NC | http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/VMFA-531#History |
| | VMFA-542 | | Marine Corps Air Station El Toro | http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/agency/usmc/vma-542.htm |
| | VMF(AW)-312 | | Marine Corps Air Station El Toro | http://www.marines.mil/unit/2ndMAW/mag31/vmfa312/Pages/history.aspx |
| | VMO-2 | | Okinawa, Japan | http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/VMO-2 |
| | VMO-6 | | Camp Pendleton | http://www.valorremembered.org/SWP_VMO6History.htm |
| | 1ST LAAM Battalion | | | |
| | 2d LAAM Battalion | | | |
| | Force Logistic Support Group | | | |
| | Force Engineer Group | | | |
| | Naval Construction Regiment-3 | | Port Hueneme | http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naval_Construction_Battalion_Center_Port_Hueneme |
| | Naval Construction Battalion-4 | | US Naval Yards and Docks, Norfolk, Virginia, home ported Davisville, RI / Port Hueneme, CA for second deployment to Vietnam | http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naval_Mobile_Construction_Battalion_4 |
| | Naval Construction Battalion-5 | | Port Hueneme | |
| | Naval Construction Battalion-8 | | Port Hueneme | http://www.history.navy.mil/museums/seabee/UnitListPages/nmcb/NMCB%20008.pdf |
| | Naval Construction Battalion-9 | | Port Hueneme | http://www.history.navy.mil/museums/seabee/UnitListPages/NCB/009%20NCB.pdf |
| | Naval Construction Battalion-10 | | Port Hueneme | http://www.history.navy.mil/museums/seabee/UnitListPages/nmcb/NMCB%20010.pdf |
| | | | (Training Exercise SILVER LANCE at Camp Pendleton) | |

| Element/Command Designation | Major Elements | Minor Elements | Home at the time of Vietnam War | Comments/Notes of Interest |
|--|----------------------------------|----------------|---|--|
| <p>The following information compiled from <i>U.S. Marines in Vietnam: The Landing and the Buildup 1965</i>⁴⁹⁴ by Jack Shulimson and Charles M. Johnson, USMC. Also available online: http://ehistory.osu.edu/vietnam/books/buildup/0227.cfm</p> | | | | |
| III MAF Headquarters | | | | |
| 1st Marine Division | | | Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton | <p>During the Korean War, \$20 million helped expand and upgrade existing facilities, including the construction of Camp Horno. When Camp Pendleton trained the country's fighting force for the Korean and Vietnam Wars, approximately 200,000 Marines passed through the base on their way to the Far East. In 1975 Camp Pendleton was the first military base in the U.S. to provide accommodations for Vietnamese evacuees in Operation New Arrivals; over 50,000 refugees came to the base in the largest humanitarian airlift in history.[7][8]Camp Pendleton has continued to grow through renovations, replacing its original tent camps with more than 2,626 buildings and over 500 miles of roads. Efforts today continue to preserve the heritage of Camp Pendleton's founders and the Marine Corps' history. The original ranch house has been declared a National Historic Site. (Wiki)</p> |
| | 1st Marine Division Headquarters | | | |
| | Headquarters Battalion | | | |
| | Task Force X-Ray | | | |
| | 1st Marines | | Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton | |
| | | 1/1 | Reactivated at New River, North Carolina --> many places in the Pacific --> Vietnam | http://www.i-mef.usmc.mil/external/1stmardiv/1stmarregt/1-1/history/history.jsp |
| | | 2/1 | Relocated to Camp Pendleton Apr 1955 --> Vietnam 1965 | http://www.i-mef.usmc.mil/external/1stmardiv/1stmarregt/2-1/history/history_lineage.jsp |
| | | 3/1 | Relocated to Camp Pendleton April 1955 --> Camp Schwab, Okinawa --> Vietnam | http://www.i-mef.usmc.mil/external/1stmardiv/1stmarregt/3-1/history/history_lineage.jsp |
| | 5th Marines | | Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton | |

⁴⁹⁴ Shumlinson and Johnson (see previous footnote).

| Element/Command Designation | Major Elements | Minor Elements | Home at the time of Vietnam War | Comments/Notes of Interest |
|-----------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|---|---|
| | | 1/5 | Camp Pendleton | http://www.i-mef.usmc.mil/external/1stmardiv/5thmarregt/1-5/history/history.jsp |
| | | 2/5 | Relocated to Camp Pendleton March 1955 --> Camp Schwab, Okinawa --> Vietnam | http://www.i-mef.usmc.mil/external/1stmardiv/5thmarregt/2-5/ |
| | | 3/5 | Relocated to Camp Pendleton March 1955 --> Camp Schwab, Okinawa --> Vietnam | http://www.i-mef.usmc.mil/external/1stmardiv/5thmarregt/3-5/history/history_lineage.jsp |
| | 7th Marines | | Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton | |
| | | 1/7 | Camp Pendleton and Okinawa --> Vietnam | http://www.i-mef.usmc.mil/external/1stmardiv/7thmarregt/1-7/history/history.jsp |
| | | 2/7 | Relocated to Camp Pendleton Mar 1955 -->Okinawa --> Vietnam 1965 | http://www.i-mef.usmc.mil/external/1stmardiv/7thmarregt/2-7/history/history.jsp |
| | | 3/7 | Relocated to Camp Pendleton Mar 1955 ----> Camp Schwab, Okinawa ----> Vietnam | http://www.i-mef.usmc.mil/external/1stmardiv/7thmarregt/3-7/history/history.jsp |
| | 11th Marines | | | |
| | | 1st Field Artillery Group | | |
| | | 1/11 | | |
| | | 2/11 | | |
| | | 3/11 | | |
| | | 4/11 | | |
| | | 1st Reconnaissance Battalion | | |
| | | 1st Anti-Tank Battalion | | |
| | | 1st Tank Battalion | | |
| | | 1st Motor Transport Battalion | | |
| | | 1st Engineer Battalion | | |
| | | 1st Medical Battalion | | |

| Element/Command Designation | Major Elements | Minor Elements | Home at the time of Vietnam War | Comments/Notes of Interest |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| | | 1st Shore Party Battalion | | |
| | | 1st Amphibian Tractor Battalion | | |
| | | 7th Motor Transport Battalion | | |
| | | 7th Communication Battalion | | |
| | | 11th Motor Transport Battalion | | |
| 3d Marine Division | | | | |
| | 3d Marine Division Headquarters | | | |
| | Headquarters Battalion | | | |
| | 3d Marines | | | |
| | | 1/3 | | |
| | | 2/3 | | |
| | | 3/3 | | |
| | 4th Marines | | | |
| | | 1/4 | | |
| | | 2/4 | | |
| | | 3/4 | | |
| | 9th Marines | | | |
| | | 1/9 | | |
| | | 2/9 | | |
| | | 3/9 | | |
| | 12th Marines | | | |
| | | 1/12 | | |
| | | 2/12 | | |
| | | 3/12 | | |

| Element/Command Designation | Major Elements | Minor Elements | Home at the time of Vietnam War | Comments/Notes of Interest |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| | | 4/12 | | |
| | 3d Reconnaissance Battalion | | | |
| | 3d Anti-Tank Battalion | | | |
| | 3d Tank Battalion | | | |
| | 3d Motor Transport Battalion | | | |
| | 3d Engineer Battalion | | | |
| | 3d Medical Battalion | | | |
| | 3d Shore Party Battalion | | | |
| | 3d Amphibian Tractor Battalion | | | |
| | 9th Motor Transport Battalion | | | |
| | 11th Engineer Battalion | | | |
| 5th Marine Division | | | | |
| | 1/26 | | | |
| | 2/26 | | | |
| | 3/26 | | | |
| | 1st Marine Aircraft Wing | | | |
| | MWHG-1 | | | |
| | MAG-11 | | | |
| | MAG-12 | | | |
| | MAG-13 | | | |
| | MAG-16 | | | |
| | MAG-36 | | | |
| | MWSG-17 | | | |
| | H&HS-1 | | | |
| | H&MS-11 | | | |
| | H&MS-12 | | | |
| | H&MS-13 | | | |
| | H&MS-16 | | | |

| Element/Command Designation | Major Elements | Minor Elements | Home at the time of Vietnam War | Comments/Notes of Interest |
|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| | H&MS-36 | | | |
| | HMM-161 | | | |
| | HMM-163 | | | |
| | HMM-164 | | | |
| | HMM-165 | | | |
| | HMM-261 | | | |
| | HMM-262 | | | |
| | HMM-263 | | | |
| | HMM-265 | | | |
| | HMM-361 | | | |
| | HMM-362 | | | |
| | HMM-363 | | | |
| | HMM-364 | | | |
| | MACS-7 | | | |
| | MASS-2 | | | |
| | MASS-3 | | | |
| | MABS-11 | | | |
| | MABS-12 | | | |
| | MABS-13 | | | |
| | MABS-16 | | | |
| | MABS-36 | | | |
| | VMFA-115 | | | |
| | VMA-121 | | | |
| | VMA-211 | | | |
| | VMA-214 | | | |
| | VMA-223 | | | |
| | VMA-224 | | | |
| | VMF-(AW)-232 | | | |
| | VMF-(AW)-235 | | | |
| | VMA-(AW)-242 | | | |
| | VMA-311 | | | |

| Element/Command Designation | Major Elements | Minor Elements | Home at the time of Vietnam War | Comments/Notes of Interest |
|---|-------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| | VMF-(AW)-312 | | | |
| | VMFA-314 | | | |
| | VMFA-323 | | | |
| | VMFA-542 | | | |
| | VMCJ-1 | | | |
| | VMO-2 | | | |
| | VMO-3 | | | |
| | VMO-6 | | | |
| | 1st LAAM Bn | | | |
| | 2d LAAM Bn | | | |
| Force Logistic Command | | | | |
| | Force Logistic Command Headquarters | | | |
| | Force Logistic Support Group A | | | |
| | Force Logistic Group B | | | |
| | Force Logistic Support Unit-2 | | | |
| | 5th Communication Bn | | | |
| Separate Units under II MAF | | | | |
| | 1st MP Battalion | | | |
| | 7th Engineer Bn | | | |
| | 9th Engineer Bn | | | |
| Marine Operating Forces, Western Pacific | | | | |
| | 1st MAW (Rear)/ TG 79.3 | | | |
| | MAG-13 | | | |
| | H&MS-13 | | | |
| | MABS-13 | | | |
| | VMA-311 | | | |
| | VMFA-314 | | | |

| Element/Command Designation | Major Elements | Minor Elements | Home at the time of Vietnam War | Comments/Notes of Interest |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| | VMFA-542 | | | |
| | VMFA-115 | | | |
| | VMA-214 | | | |
| | VMFA-323 | | | |
| | HMM-161 | | | |
| | HMM-361 | | | |
| | VMGR-152 | | | |
| 9th MAB/TF 79 | | | | |
| | 9th MAB Headquarters | | | |
| SLF 7th Fleet/TF 79.5 | | | | |
| SLF Battalion Landing Teams | | | | |
| | BLT 2/3 | | | |
| | BLT 1/5 | | | |
| | BLT 3/5 | | | |
| | BLT 1/26 | | | |
| | BLT 1/9 | | | |
| SLF Helicopter Squadrons | | | | |
| | HMM-261 | | | |
| | HMM-362 | | | |
| | HMM-362 | | | |
| RLT 5/79.2 | | | | |
| | BLT 2/5 | | | |
| | BLT 3/5 | | | |
| RLT 26 | | | | |
| | BLT 3/3 | | | |
| | BLT 1/9 | | | |
| | BLT 2/4 | | | |
| | BLT 1/4 | | | |
| | 1st Battalion, 13th marines | | | |
| TG 79.2 | | | | |

| Element/Command Designation | Major Elements | Minor Elements | Home at the time of Vietnam War | Comments/Notes of Interest |
|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| | BLT 3/3 | | | |
| | HMM-163 | | | |
| MAG-13/TG 79.3 | | | | |
| | H&MS-13 | | | |
| | MABS-13 | | | |
| | VMA-214 | | | |
| | VMFA 323 | | | |
| | VMFA-314 | | | |
| | VMA-224 | | | |
| | VMA-211 | | | |
| | VMFA-542 | | | |
| | HMM-361 | | | |
| | HMM-263 | | | |
| | HMM-163 | | | |
| | MACS-6 | | | |
| | VMGR-152 | | | |
| MAG-15/TG 79.3 | | | | |
| | H&MS-15 | | | |
| | MABS-15 | | | |
| | VMA-121 | | | |
| | VMF(AW)-232 | | | |
| | VMF(AW)-235 | | | |
| | VMA-223 | | | |
| | VMFA-542 | | | |
| | HMM-163 | | | |
| | HMM-161 | | | |
| | HMM-361 | | | |
| | HMM-361 | | | |
| | MACS-6 | | | |
| | VMGR-152 | | | |

| Element/Command Designation | Major Elements | Minor Elements | Home at the time of Vietnam War | Comments/Notes of Interest |
|---|----------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| The following information compiled from <i>U.S. Marines in Vietnam: Fighting the North Vietnamese 1967</i> ⁴⁹⁵ | | | | |
| | | | | |
| III MAF Headquarters | | | | |
| | | | | |
| 1st Marine Division | | | | |
| | 1st Marine Division Headquarters | | | |
| | Headquarters Battalion | | | |
| | Task Force X-Ray | | | |
| | 1st Marines | | | |
| | | 1/1 | | |
| | | 2/1 | | |
| | | 3/1 | | |
| | 5th Marines | | | |
| | | 1/5 | | |
| | | 2/5 | | |
| | | 3/5 | | |
| | 7th Marines | | | |
| | | 1/7 | | |
| | | 2/7 | | |
| | | 3/7 | | |
| | 11th Marines | | | |
| | | 1/11 | | |
| | | 2/11 | | |
| | | 3/11 | | |
| | | 4/11 | | |
| | | 1st Reconnaissance Battalion | | |

⁴⁹⁵ See Bibliography for full publication details. Also available online: <http://www.marines.mil/news/Pages/OrdersAndDirectivesSearch.aspx>.

| Element/Command Designation | Major Elements | Minor Elements | Home at the time of Vietnam War | Comments/Notes of Interest |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| | | 1st Anti-Tank Battalion | | |
| | | 1st Tank Battalion | | |
| | | 1st Motor Transport Battalion | | |
| | | 1st Engineer Battalion | | |
| | | 1st Medical Battalion | | |
| | | 1st Shore Party Battalion | | |
| | | 3d Amphibian Tractor Battalion | | |
| | | 1st Military Police Battalion | | |
| | | 7th Motor Transport Battalion | | |
| | | 7th Communication Battalion | | |
| | | 11th Motor Transport Battalion | | |
| | | 1st Field Artillery Group | | |
| | | 7th Engineer Battalion | | |
| | | 9th Engineer Battalion | | |
| 3d Marine Division | | | | |
| | 3d Marine Division Headquarters | | | |
| | Headquarters Battalion | | | |

| Element/Command Designation | Major Elements | Minor Elements | Home at the time of Vietnam War | Comments/Notes of Interest |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| | 3d Marines | | | |
| | | 1/3 | | |
| | | 2/3 | | |
| | | 3/3 | | |
| | 4th Marines | | | |
| | | 1/4 | | |
| | | 2/4 | | |
| | | 3/4 | | |
| | 9th Marines | | | |
| | | 1/9 | | |
| | | 2/9 | | |
| | | 3/9 | | |
| | 12th Marines | | | |
| | | 1/12 | | |
| | | 2/12 | | |
| | | 3/12 | | |
| | | 4/12 | | |
| | 3d Reconnaissance Battalion | | | |
| | 3d Anti-Tank Battalion | | | |
| | 3d Tank Battalion | | | |
| | 3d Motor Transport Battalion | | | |
| | 3d Engineer Battalion | | | |
| | 3d Medical Battalion | | | |
| | 3d Shore Party Battalion | | | |
| | 1st Amphibian Tractor Battalion | | | |
| | 9th Motor Transport Battalion | | | |
| | 11th Engineer Battalion | | | |

| Element/Command Designation | Major Elements | Minor Elements | Home at the time of Vietnam War | Comments/Notes of Interest |
|-----------------------------|--|----------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 5th Marine Division | | | | |
| | 26th Marines | | | |
| | | 1/26 | | |
| | | 2/26 | | |
| | | 3/26 | | |
| | 1/13 | | | |
| | Headquarters, Force Logistic Command | | | |
| | Force Logistic Command Subordinate Units | | | |
| | Force Logistic Support Group Alpha | | | |
| | Force Logistic Support Group Bravo | | | |
| | Force Logistic Support Unit 2 | | | |
| | Headquarters and Service Battalion, 1st Force Service Regiment | | | |
| | Supply Battalion, 1st Force Service Regiment | | | |
| | Maintenance Battalion, 1st Force Service Regiment | | | |
| | 3d Service Battalion, Force Logistic Support Group Alpha | | | |
| | 1st Service Battalion, Force Logistic Support Group Bravo | | | |
| | United Attached to Force Logistic Command | | | |
| | 5th Communications Battalion | | | |
| | 1st Marine Aircraft | | | |

| Element/Command Designation | Major Elements | Minor Elements | Home at the time of Vietnam War | Comments/Notes of Interest |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| | Wing Headquarters | | | |
| | MWHG-1 | | | |
| | H&HS-1 | | | |
| | MWCS-1 | | | |
| | MWFS-1 | | | |
| | WERS-17 | | | |
| | MAG-11 | | | |
| | MACG-18 | | | |
| | MABS-11 | | | |
| | MAG-12 | | | |
| | MAG-13 | | | |
| | MAG-16 | | | |
| | MAG-36 | | | |
| | MWSG-17 | | | |
| | H&HS-18 | | | |
| | H&HS-36 | | | |
| | H&MS-11 | | | |
| | H&MS-12 | | | |
| | H&MS-13 | | | |
| | H&MS-16 | | | |
| | H&MS-17 | | | |
| | HMH-463 | | | |
| | HMM-161 | | | |
| | HMM-163 | | | |
| | HMM-164 | | | |
| | HMM-165 | | | |
| | HMM-262 | | | |
| | HMM-263 | | | |
| | HMM-265 | | | |
| | HMM-361 | | | |
| | HMM-362 | | | |

| Element/Command Designation | Major Elements | Minor Elements | Home at the time of Vietnam War | Comments/Notes of Interest |
|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| | HMM-363 | | | |
| | HMM-364 | | | |
| | MACS-4 | | | |
| | MACS-7 | | | |
| | MASS-2 | | | |
| | MASS-3 | | | |
| | MABS-11 | | | |
| | MABS-12 | | | |
| | MABS-13 | | | |
| | MABS-16 | | | |
| | MABS-36 | | | |
| | VMFA-115 | | | |
| | VMA-121 | | | |
| | VMA-211 | | | |
| | VMA-214 | | | |
| | VMA-223 | | | |
| | VMA-311 | | | |
| | VMA-(AW)-533 | | | |
| | VMF-(AW)-232 | | | |
| | VMF-(AW)-235 | | | |
| | VMA-(AW)-242 | | | |
| | VMFA-314 | | | |
| | VMFA-323 | | | |
| | VMFA-542 | | | |
| | VMCJ-1 | | | |
| | VMO-2 | | | |
| | VMO-3 | | | |
| | VMO-6 | | | |
| | 1st LAAM Bn | | | |
| | 2d LAAM Bn | | | |

| Element/Command Designation | Major Elements | Minor Elements | Home at the time of Vietnam War | Comments/Notes of Interest |
|--|-------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade Headquarters | | | | |
| RLT-26/Task Force 79.2 | | | | |
| RLT-26 (Rear) | | | | |
| | 1/13 | | | |
| | 1/4 | | | |
| | BLT 3/9 | | | |
| | BLT 1/9 | | | |
| | BLT 1/3 | | | |
| | BLT 2/3 | | | |
| | BLT 3/4 | | | |
| | MAG-15 | | | |
| | H&MS-15 | | | |
| | MABS-115 | | | |
| | VMGR-152 | | | |
| | MACS-6 | | | |
| | VMF-(AW)-235 | | | |
| | VMA-223 | | | |
| | HMM-361 | | | |
| | VMFA-115 | | | |
| | HMM-263 | | | |
| | VMA-311 | | | |
| | VMA-323 | | | |
| | VMA-121 | | | |
| | VMFA-314 | | | |
| | VMA-211 | | | |
| | VMFA-542 | | | |
| | SLF Alpha/TG 79.4 | | | |
| Special Landing Force Alpha Battalion Landing Team | | | | |
| | BLT 1/3 | | | |

| Element/Command Designation | Major Elements | Minor Elements | Home at the time of Vietnam War | Comments/Notes of Interest |
|--|-------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| | HMM-263 | | | |
| | HMM362 | | | |
| | HMM-163 | | | |
| | HMM-361 | | | |
| | SLF Bravo/TG 79.5 | | | |
| Special Landing Force Bravo Battalion Landing Team | | | | |
| | BLT 1/9 | | | |
| | BLT 1/4 | | | |
| | BLT 2/3 | | | |
| | BLT 3/1 | | | |
| Special Landing Force Bravo Helicopter Squadrons | | | | |
| | HMM-362 | | | |
| | HMM-363 | | | |
| | HMM-164 | | | |
| | HMM-265 | | | |
| | HMM-262 | | | |
| | HMM-262 | | | |
| Marine Advisory Unit, Naval Advisory Group | | | | |
| <p>The following information compiled from <i>U.S. Marines in Vietnam: Fighting the North Vietnamese 1973–1975</i>⁴⁹⁶</p> | | | | |
| III MAF Headquarter | | | | |
| 1st Marine Aircraft Wing | | | | |
| 3d Marine Division (Rein) | | | | |

⁴⁹⁶ Major George R. Dunham (USMC) and Colonel David A. Quinlan (USMC), *U.S. Marines in Vietnam: The Bitter End 1973–1975* (Washington, DC: History and Museums Division, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, 1990).

| Element/Command Designation | Major Elements | Minor Elements | Home at the time of Vietnam War | Comments/Notes of Interest |
|--|---|----------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade Headquarters | | | | |
| 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade Subordinate Commands | | | | |
| | 31 Marine Amphibious Unit | | | |
| | 33d Marine Amphibious Unit | | | |
| | 35th Marine Amphibious Unit | | | |
| | Amphibious Evacuation RVN Support Group | | | |
| | RLT-4 | | | |
| | MAG-39 | | | |
| | Brigade Logistic Support Group | | | |
| | Communications Company (Rein) | | | |
| | AESF | | | |

REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE

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