

# **AFVN**

## **Trip to Da Nang**

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**1967-69**

Some time ago it was suggested by Dick Downes that I post some pictures of Da Nang taken during our research trip to support the radio documentary AFVN: THE GI'S COMPANION. To my disappointment no evidence of the AFVN compound remains on Monkey Mountain. What I believed to be the correct location is completely over grown with trees and from the taxi we could not even see down for a view of Danang. Not all is lost however; here are some pictures that may spark some memories or not.

# Da Nang in 2015 – Photos by Harry Simmons

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From the 20th floor of the new Diamond Sea Hotel  
[<http://diamondseahotel.com>] this is a picture of Monkey Mountain  
approximately north I think. Noteworthy are the radar domes (top left) that are  
still in use. Access to that facility is blocked off. The beautiful sandy beach is of  
course China Beach. Groomed and cleaned often China Beach is now a primary  
civilian international R&R location in Vietnam. The construction is another hotel  
that you can reach out and touch. By now it's probably blocking this view.

# Da Nang in 2015 – Photos by Harry Simmons

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A closer view of one of the two new towers.

# Da Nang in 2015 – Photos by Harry Simmons

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At the top of the poorly paved and still winding road a view of Da Nang Bay.

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Take a left before the arch and welcome to Camp Tien Shaw on the left.  
Camp Tien Shaw is now a small industrial park with warehouse buildings.  
Take a right and travel the road up Monkey Mountain.

# Da Nang in 2015 – Photos by Harry Simmons

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Turn around 180 degrees and the tip top of the Monkey Mountain houses the radar and communication domes.

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I admit that I got lost during the taxi ride traveling around the back side of the radar domes and further up the mountain. At some point we got out of the taxi and hiked up a small trail to an overlook. That was the first and last time I attempted to climb anything.

# Da Nang in 2015 – Photos by Harry Simmons

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Also different are two new communication and broadcast towers that have been erected on the back side of the mountain. I have no information what service they provide but an educated guess is TV and FM radio. Other small towers (two or three) have been erected on the front side of Monkey Mountain closer to the old AFVN location.



# Da Nang in 2015 – Photos by Harry Simmons

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A closer view of one of the two new towers.

# Da Nang in 2015 – Photos by Harry Simmons

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**A statue of the Bhuddist Goddess of Mercy at the top of Monkey Mountain.  
See the messages just before this slide show for more information.  
There appears to be a temple of some sorts in the background.**

# Da Nang in 2015 – Photos by Harry Simmons

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Part of Da Nang City looking west from the top floor pool and bar.

# Da Nang in 2015 – Photos by Harry Simmons

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The top floor pool and bar.  
(Must have been a rough tour of duty!)

*The End*