

MACV/DAO Headquarters - Tan Son Nhut

Aerial photos over the years.
[Most of the received from Mike McNally.]

Mike wrote the following when he submitted them: "In 1965, General Westmoreland asked Premier Ky to permit MACV to build a new headquarters in the open field east of the Tan Son Nhut civilian air terminal. Ky said he told Westmoreland that he needed the space for the recreational use of the Vietnamese Air Force. Westmoreland recalled that Ky told him that the space needed to be kept clear for post-war development. Ky eventually gave permission for the MACV construction. Ky said that Westmoreland gave Ky two new Huey helicopters to seal the deal. MACV HQs opened circa August 1967. The building was imploded on 30 April 1975 at the request of MG Homer Smith, the last CO of the Defense Attaché Office.



Construction underway in 1966. (Unfortunately rather out of focus.)



Another photo from the same angle but taken in 1969.

Mike commented: These two shots zoom in on the white building outside the southeast corner of the MACV property. You can make out the short access drive in front of the white building. This building provides a reference point between MACV under construction and MACV completed.

The construction site in 1966.



You can see the small white building in the first two pictures near the bottom left.



The completed buildings in 1967.

As I recall the supply area where I received my equipment and turned in my M-16 was one of the three buildings in the foreground. [JimW]



The same buildings from the opposite angle in 1969.

More Photos from Mike McNally

Mike's comments:

I've attached a photo which supposedly shows Tan Son Nhut in 1952. It may have been taken by Col. A. Crosnier. I think the photo was taken from a location above the field which would become the MACV/DAO complex. The view is looking in a westerly direction.

For comparison, I've attached Mitch Alvins' photo taken from approximately the same location, circa 1968. I've also attached a screenshot which zooms in on the Alvins photo to concentrate on some of the features shown in the Crosnier 1952 shot.

I think the civilian air terminal can be seen in these photos. If you look at the nearby roads and runways, and some of the buildings, I think you can see the similarities. Missing in 1952 was the Air America complex which would extend into the field at the lower left of the Crosnier photo.



Tan Son Nhut supposedly in 1952. Possibly taken by COL A. Crosnier.



Tan Son Nhut in 1968 taken by Mitch Alvins



A close-up of the above picture concentrating on what is shown in the 1952 photo.