

From: "HELM, GLENN NAVHISTCEN" <glenn.helm@navy.mil>  
[REDACTED]

Date: Mon, 29 Sep 2003 10:05:14 -0400

Subject: Belanger - flight from Okinawa to Bangkok

During the Vietnam War Tan Son Nhut was the busiest airport in the world, and thousands of aircraft landed to refuel, and deliver or pick up personnel and cargo. Shuttle flights stopping at a series of airports in the region were very common. Our library only has the reference book titled "Distances Between Ports" which gives sea mileage, which is significantly different (longer) than air mileage. Looking at a world atlas, it appears that a flight along the path Okinawa-Philippines-South Vietnam-Thailand would be roughly 1500 miles. A direct-line flight between Okinawa and Bangkok would not have been authorized because it would have crossed into hostile airspace over [Communist] Democratic Republic of [North] Vietnam and perhaps over the Peoples Republic of [Communist] China.

Best wishes,  
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-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Posted At: Wednesday, September 24, 2003 21:44  
Posted To: NavyLibrary  
Conversation: Information Needed  
Subject: Information Needed

Hello,  
I am helping a widow of a Vietnam veteran. Her husband was stationed in Thailand 1966 to 1970. He was flown in and out out Thailand. His flight picked him up at Okinawa, and enroute to Bangkok, landed in Clark AFB, then on to Tonsonnhut (Saigon) then finally to Bangkok. Was it common practice for pilots to land in Saigon on such trips or any other part of Vietnam, maybe to refuel?

How many air miles were there between Okinawa and Bangkok?

Thank you in advance,

Susan  
Wife of US Navy Vietnam Veteran  
Helping  
Widow of Vietnam Veteran