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Robert E. Copner

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Robert E. Copner, Major USAF Retired
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To Whom it May Concern:

My name is Robert E. Copner, Major, USAF, Retired. I have a Master Navigator aeronautical rating and over 5,000 hours of accident free flying, including 110 combat missions in the AC-130 gunship.

I personally flew in and out of Vietnam and Thailand from 1964 through 1968, and also in 1972 and 1973. I landed at Tan Son Nhut AB on numerous occasions. I was the Military Airlift Command, Route Briefing Officer in 1966 and 1967 for the MAC Command Post stationed at Kadena AB, Okinawa. It was my job and that of my office staff, to brief all MAC flights departing Kadena AB for Vietnam and Thailand destinations, seven days a week, 24 hours a day. The briefing covered enroute procedures and especially potential hazards at the destination Airbases.

I have been asked to comment on whether or not military flights to and from Thailand usually landed at Tan Son Nhut AB, Vietnam in the December 1967 timeframe. Based on my experience, it was common for military aircraft flying to and from airbases in Thailand to land at Tan Son Nhut AB and other Vietnam airbases.

In 1972 I was stationed at Ubon RTAB, Thailand. I flew combat missions over South Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. It was common practice when going on R&R to Hawaii to process through Camp Alpha at Tan Son Nhut AB. I personally did this in September 1972.

If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at the above address or by phone at (707) 864-0442.

Sincerely,



Robert E. Copner, Major
USAF Retired

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