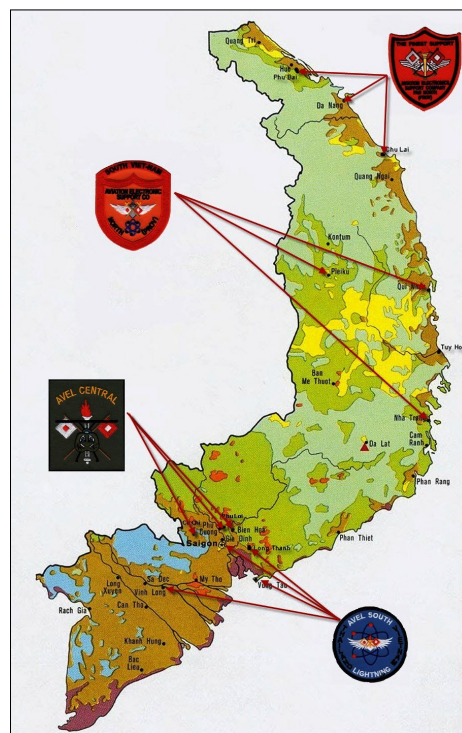


### Update on Tan Son Nhut Airport

I know that many of you remember Tan Son Nhut airport in Saigon. It was mostly controlled and occupied by the Air Force back in our day. It was a bustling military base with the constant roar of aircraft coming and going.

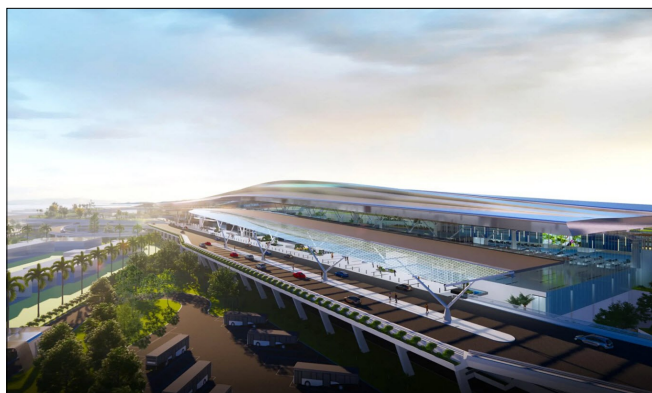


As Bob Dylan said *The Times Today Are A Changing*.

After years of existing on paper, Tân Sơn Nhut's third terminal (T3) has slowly materialized in the form of visual renderings.

On July 14, the Airports Corporation of Vietnam (ACV) confirmed with local media that the assessment council for the T3 project has decided to move forward with a design inspired by áo dài, the national costume.

After greenlighting the blueprint, ACV is currently going through the bidding process to prepare to break ground on the terminal in the third quarter of 2022. According to rendered visuals, the concourse of T3 will feature a curvy roof and a hollow commercial complex for shopping and dining.



Continued on Page 2



---

**Continued from Page 1**

With a designed capacity of 20 million passengers per year, T3's completion is hoped to cushion the massive delays and congestion plaguing T1 and T2, both of which currently operate well above their thresholds. ACV will be the sole investor of the new terminal, shelling out nearly VND11 trillion (US\$469 million). Construction on T3 is expected to finish in 37 months.

The central government recently requested that the military, which oversees the land T3 will be built on, hand over 16.05 hectares of airport ground to ensure that construction can begin this quarter.



In 2022, with domestic tourism in full swing and international tourism steadily picking up, Tân Sơn Nhut International Airport has consistently recorded booming numbers of travelers. This June, it's estimated that over 3.4 million passengers went through Tân Sơn Nhất, a twenty-fold increase compared to last year, which was heavily impacted by the pandemic.

Plans to build T3 have been discussed since 2018 when ACV extrapolated that by 2025, Tân Sơn Nhất will reach an annual passenger load of 45 million a year, while T1 and T2 were already overloaded at 28 million travelers a year in total. The airport's current designed capacity is 25 million passengers per year.



Very interesting. Not a C-130 in sight

---

**Remains of 200,000 Vietnam War soldiers still missing, 300,000 unidentified**

Vietnam has still not found the remains of its 200,000 soldiers from the Vietnam War, while 300,000 remains have yet to be identified, an official said.

Nguyen Ba Hoan, Deputy Minister of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs, said 1.2 million Vietnamese soldiers died during the Vietnam War that ended in 1975. The remains of around 200,000 soldiers have yet to be found, while 300,000 found remains have yet to be identified, he added.

The labor ministry has cooperated with the Ministry of National Defense, the Ministry of Public Security, the Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology and other relevant entities to look into different measures to find and identify more remains, including the decipherment of army unit symbols to figure out the locations where soldiers died, Hoan said.

**Continued on Page 3**



---

## Continued from Page 2

Vietnam has also received help from the Argentinian government regarding anthropological and forensic issues, and signed a memorandum with U.S. agencies to bolster remains identification capabilities.

From 2011 to 2021, forensic departments have received over 41,100 samples, including 34,700 belonging to soldiers' remains and over 6,400 belonging to their family members. Through DNA analysis, 1,400 remains have been identified and families informed. A total 4,100 other remains have also been identified through other methods.

Hoan said the process of finding and identifying remains has been difficult due to numerous factors, including changes to provincial borders after the war, disbanded military units and geographical features. While some DNA samples were collected from 40-50 years ago, many have been severely degraded and cannot be further analyzed.



Deputy Minister of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs Nguyen Ba Hoan pays respect to the tombstones of unidentified soldiers who died during the Vietnam War in Nghe An, central Vietnam.

---

## Four Seasons Hoi An

Remember back in the day. This rural, third world country. Well, times have changed. Four Seasons opened a world star resort in Quang Nam. The cost per night? A mere \$675 per night. How much did we make in Vietnam? Certainly a whole lot less than \$675 a month. So, when you decide to make that trip back to Vietnam you can budget for the Four Seasons!



---

## Why did the Vietnam War end so Miserably?

Bui Tin, who has died aged 90, fought against French and US forces before turning into a thorn in the side of the Vietnamese government. Usually described as a war hero, he was a participant in key episodes of Vietnam's wars as a soldier, journalist and official historian who was familiar with his country's leading figures.

But after the euphoria of victory in Vietnam came disenchantment with communist rule. The revolutionary turned renegade in 1990. Having been invited to France by L'Humanité, the French communist newspaper, for its annual conference, Tin decided to stay. Instead of settling for a quiet life of exile, he turned into a vocal gadfly.

After only a few months in Paris, Tin rounded on his former comrades in a series of interviews with the Vietnamese section of the BBC World Service, which sent a journalist out especially to record him.

Continued on Page 4

---

### Continued from Page 3

Giang Nguyen, news editor for the Vietnamese service, said the broadcasts were so popular that the streets in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, formerly Saigon, became virtually empty as people clustered their shortwave radios.

Tin questioned the party's right to govern, its rigid ideology, accused it of corruption and blamed it for the country's decline over the 20 years following reunification.

Tin was denounced as a traitor by the newspaper Nhan Dan – the “voice of the party, state and people” – where he was once editor.

Before he passed he expressed his thoughts on why we didn't prevail in Vietnam.

*“All quotes are from former NVA Colonel Bui Tin\* who served on their general staff and received the unconditional surrender of South Vietnam on April 30, 1975.”*



Bui Tin, center, a colonel with the North Vietnamese army, shakes hands with one of the last US servicemen to leave Saigon with the final withdrawal of American forces in March 1973.

1. We didn't blockade Haiphong at the onset (where even British vessels could be found).
2. We didn't knock out the railroad lines between China and North Vietnam.
3. U.S. ground forces were not allowed to interdict the Ho Chi Minh Trail. If they had, “Hanoi could never have won the war;”
  - 3a. Though North Vietnam clearly violated Cambodian and Laotian sovereignty, U.S. forces were not allowed to continue chasing (hot pursuit) the NVA/VC when they retreated back across these same borders.
4. The anti-war movement “was essential to our strategy.” The senior leadership followed the anti-war movement in the U.S. and “were elated” when Jane Fonda, Ramsey Clark and others visited. “America lost because of its democracy; through dissent and protest it lost the ability to mobilize a will to win.”
5. South Vietnam's generals were “inept” and political.
6. The bombing of North Vietnam, if it had been concentrated (as in the Christmas bombing), “would have hurt our efforts.” Piecemeal bombing gave the North time to reshuffle and rebuild.
7. The NLF (National Liberation Front) was controlled by Hanoi – it was never independent (it was always run by a communist party commissar), despite efforts to convince the American public and politicians otherwise.
8. Regional and Popular Forces (Ruff/Puff) were in control of 90% of the populace countryside by 1972. The often-forgotten Peoples Self-Defense Force (PSDF) were there in the rural hamlets, too.
9. Fighting in 1968 had decimated communist forces in the South. Years of rebuilding compelled them to use NVA troops to fill out the VC ranks. “If American forces had not begun to withdraw under Nixon in 1969, they could have punished us severely.”
10. When President Ford failed to respond to the attack of Phuoc Long in January 1975, the North knew that their overall victory was at hand.
11. “We had the impression that American commanders had their hands tied by political factors. Your generals could never deploy a maximum force for greatest military effort.”
12. The North only had to win over the American media in order to eventually be victorious because they swayed politicians (who love to be loved and, of course, reelected) and the feeble-minded university professors who love to pontificate and sell their books). Because fewer people read books today, let's not forget the pseudo-documentarians and Hollywood-types who insist on stating or insinuating how bad the military was in Vietnam and how the communist forces were the good guys or merely misunderstood.



---

## 8 Men Who Earned the Most Purple Hearts



The Purple Heart is bestowed upon those individuals who have been wounded in action with the enemy. It is specifically a combat decoration.”

Two million Purple Hearts have been awarded since it was created. The men below earned more of them per individual than any others.

### 1. Staff Sgt. Albert L. Ireland – Marine Corps

Staff Sergeant Albert Ireland has the distinction of being awarded the most Purple Hearts of any individual across all branches of service. During his 12 years of service – spanning two wars from 1941 to 1953 – Ireland was wounded a total of nine times. Albert fought in the Pacific during World War II, where he was wounded five times. During the Korean War, he was wounded four more times, and the last one was severe enough that he was medically discharged.

### 2. Lt. Col. Richard J. Buck – Army

During his service in the Korean War, Buck was wounded a total of four times. After the Korean War, Buck stayed in the Army and eventually joined Special Forces before being deployed to Vietnam. There, Buck was again wounded four times, bringing his Purple Heart total to eight.

### 3. Maj. Gen. Robert T. Frederick – Army

Major General Frederick began World War II as a Lieutenant Colonel tasked with raising the 1st Special Service Force. During his time with 1st Special Service Force, he was wounded numerous times. At Anzio he was wounded twice in the same day. Frederick took command of the 45th Infantry Division until the end of the war. Major General Frederick ended WWII with eight Purple Hearts.

### 4. Col. David H. Hackworth – Army

Colonel Hackworth was awarded eight purple hearts over the course of the Korean and Vietnam wars. During the Korean War, Hackworth served with several elite units earning a battlefield commission and volunteering to serve another tour. During his time in Korea he was awarded three Purple Hearts. During the Vietnam War, Hackworth served multiple tours and received another five Purple Hearts. Col. Hackworth also holds the record for the most Silver Stars with ten awards.

### 5. Capt. Joe Hooper – Army

Joe Hooper enlisted in the U.S. Army as an Airborne Infantryman in 1960. He was assigned to D Co., 2nd Battalion, 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment just prior to that unit’s deployment to Vietnam. On February 21, 1968, Hooper’s actions outside of Hue earned him the Medal of Honor as well as one of his Purple Hearts. Hooper would serve a second tour in Vietnam from 1970-71, during which time he received a direct commission to 2nd Lieutenant. During his tours, Lt. Cooper received eight Purple Hearts and, the Medal of Honor.

### 6. Col. Robert L. Howard – Army

Robert Howard enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1956 and by 1967 found himself assigned to Military Assistance Command, Vietnam. Howard served a total of 54 months in Vietnam.

During one thirteen-month tour, he was recommended for the Medal of Honor on three separate occasions. He was awarded the Medal of Honor and a Purple Heart for actions in December 1968. In the remainder of his time in Vietnam, Howard was given a commission to 2nd Lieutenant and wounded a further seven times giving him a total of eight Purple Hearts.

### 7. Col. William L. Russell – Army

William Russell first enlisted in the 153rd Infantry Regiment of the Arkansas National Guard during World War II, seeing action in the Aleutian Islands before being given a direct commission. After Advanced Infantry Officer Training, he was assigned to the 83rd Infantry Division. During his time with the 83rd Infantry Division, he earned a Silver Star, was nominated for the Medal of Honor, and was wounded seven times, earning

Continued on Page 6

---

**Continued from Page 5**

him the nickname ‘The King of the Purple Hearts.’ After WWII, Russell he was called up to participate in the Korean War. Russell retired from the military in 1965 having been awarded eight Purple Hearts.

**8. Sgt. Maj. William Waugh – Army**

William Waugh enlisted in the Army in 1948 and was briefly assigned to the 187th Parachute Regimental Combat Team in Korea before earning his Green Beret in 1954. Waugh deployed to Vietnam with Special Forces in 1961. During the Battle of Bong Son, Waugh was grievously wounded and was later awarded the Silver Star and his sixth Purple Heart. By the time Sgt. Maj. Waugh retired in 1972, he had been wounded two more times for a total of eight Purple Hearts.

---

**Orange Heart Memorial**

The Orange Heart Memorial is located in Springfield, Tennessee at the Springfield Memorial Gardens. The Memorial will serves as a tribute to the more than 2.7 million Vietnam Veterans who served from 1955 – 1975, the men and women who served and later died as a result of their service, the more than 2.6 million who were exposed to herbicidal warfare and the more than 3.4 million who served in Southeast Asia.

The effects of Agent Orange exposure include more than 20 types of cancer, heart disease and the occurrence of genetic abnormalities.

There is room to expand the monument and more names will be added to it in the future.



---

**NEW AVEL, AVIONICS AND VIETNAM VETERANS REGISTERED**

None reported

---

**TAPS**

None reported

---

**PHOTOS**

None submitted

---

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS/EMAIL/PHONE**

None Submitted

---

---

## **LAST CALL for the All AVEL & Veteran Reunion 2022**

Register on the website: [www.avelvietnam.com](http://www.avelvietnam.com)

**Huntersville (Charlotte), North Carolina  
October 19 - 23, 2022**

### ***CEREMONY AT THE TRAVELING WALL!***

Country Inn & Suites  
16617 Statesville Rd.  
Huntersville, NC 28078  
704-895-6565

You can also reserve your room following the link below:

<http://Avel Vietnam Veteran Reunion Booking Link>

Room Rates are \$119.00/night plus fees and taxes

This special room rate is good for three days prior and after the event

To make your reservation call the hotel at the above number and specify the Avel Vietnam Veteran Reunion.

If you have any problems call the hotel and ask for Bobby

No mask restrictions

**As of right now we have 41 vets and 34 guests registered.**

### **Early Bird, Wednesday, 19 October 2022**

Early birds explore the Charlotte area on your own.

Casual dinner at the McCabe house.

### **Thursday, 20 October 2022**

The Hospitality Room will be open and well stocked with snacks and adult beverages.  
Possible Carpool Events but none engraved in stone yet.

### **Friday, 21 October 2022**

The Hospitality Room will be open and well stocked with snacks and adult beverages.

There will be a ladies luncheon at Duckworths next door to the hotel

John Veers Martini Golf Outing at Birkdale Golf Club

A carpool group dinner will be held if I can find a restaurant that can accommodate 75 people

### **Saturday, 22 October 2022**

Busses will transport us to Charlotte Motor Speedway.

We will visit The Wall That Heals for our wreath laying and ceremony.

The Moving Wall is hosted by Duke Energy and Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF).

The final dinner will be at the hotel in the Hospitality Room.

Guest speaker: Grace Galloway, widow of renowned author Joe Galloway

The Hospitality Room will be open until 23:30

### **Sunday, 23 October 2022**

Last goodbyes!

**This will probably be our last formal reunion so please register, reserve your room and come.**

**All veterans and friends are invited.**

**If you know anyone who would like to join us please ask them.**





---

## Planning on Visiting Vietnam?

If you are going to visit Vietnam here are a few things you can do to pass the time.



Visit the shooting range at Cu Chi. Might be fun to hear an AK-47 fire and not be on the receiving end.



Visit Danang without the rockets!



Take a dinner cruise in Nha Trang



Go shopping at a Vietnamese surplus store. Maybe you will find my engraved Zippo that was stolen just before I left.



# AVEL VIETNAM



## September/October 2022