

AREA AND FACILITIES

The Soc Trang installation is located two miles southwest of the city of Soc Trang within the province of Ba Xuyen (pronounced "ba swin") in the Southeast portion of the Delta. (See Annex A, The Mekong Delta). The Soc Trang airfield and compound cover an area of approximately 150 acres. The compound housed Company A, 101st Aviation Battalion, the 121st Aviation Company (Air Mobile Light), the 221st Aviation Company (Fixed Wing Light), the 1st platoon 134th Aviation Company (Medium Transport) the 82nd Medical Detachment (Helicopter Ambulance) and numerous other units attached to these major units for support. Originally, the installation housed only the 121st Aviation Company. As a result of the arrival of the "Warriors" in May 1965, followed by the other units, the Soc Trang Facilities were doubled in 1965 and continued to expand in 1966. By August 1966 there were 175 permanent and temporary buildings in use on the compound. Also a number of the original buildings were remodeled and expanded to meet the increasing number of personnel and equipment.

In addition, the construction of a very large hangar for the "Warriors" began in the spring of 1966 to augment the maintenance hangars in use.

Soc Trang had a swimming pool, church, post exchange, library, movie theatre, hobby shop, weight lifting room, fire house, NCO and enlisted men's club, officers club, tailor shop, gift shop, photo processing shop, two barber shops and a MARS radio station.

The airfield had a three-thousand foot macadam runway, ample aircraft parking areas on the flight line and facilities for POL, ammunition storage and a motor pool.

Heavy construction work at the Soc Trang installation was done by the R.M.K. Construction Company, a civilian firm contracted by the US government. Lighter construction was handled by the Repair and Utilities Department. The R&U Department as well as the airfield fire department were handled by Pacific Architects and Engineers (PA&E).

The compound was inclosed by a twelve foot barbed wire fence augmented with floodlights. Concrete bunkers were situated on the inner perimeter of the installation for security.

The primary responsibility for the defense of Soc Trang Airfield was vested in the Vietnamese Ba Xuyen Province Chief. The outer defensive perimeter is manned by Vietnamese Army units.

The Soc Trang installation was considered to be one of the best installations of its type in Vietnam. The facilities here allowed the men to accomplish their tasks in the best and most workable manner possible.