

Guide to the Vietnam Military Assistance Advisory Group Team 58 photograph collection, 1955-1965

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1955-1965

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History

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Title Statement

Guide to the Vietnam Military Assistance Advisory Group Team 58 photograph collection, 1955-1965

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Descriptive Summary

Collection number

C0196

Date

1955-1965

Language

English

Abstract

The collection contains 104 black and white photographs measuring 3.75 x 2.5 inches, of MAAG Advisory Team 58. The images in this collection document the camp life of MAAG Advisory team 58. Photographs in the collection show the day-to-day life in the camp with no images of combat. The majority of photographs feature portraits of MAAG Team 58.

Creator

George Mason University. Special Collections and Archives.

Physical Characteristics

0.25 Linear feet (1 box)

Repository

George Mason University. Special Collections and Archives.

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Collection is open to research.

Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Acquisition Information

The collection of photographs was purchased from Between the Covers in August of 2011.

Processing Information

Processed by Kristen Korfitzen in November 2011. EAD created by Kristen Korfitzen in November 2011.

Preferred Citation

Vietnam Military Assistance Advisory Group Team 58 photograph collection, Collection #C0196, Special Collections and Archives, George Mason University.

Adjunct Descriptive Data

Related Material

Special Collections and Archives also hold the [Oliver F. Atkins photograph collection](#) which includes photographs related to the Vietnam War. [The French Communist Party poster collection](#) and the [Edwin W. Lynch Vietnam War protest collection](#) both contain anti-Vietnam War materials.

Historical Information

MAAG (Military Assistance Advisory Group), Vietnam, was an organization of military personnel, sent to train and assist South Vietnamese armed forces. Originally, the delegation was sent to support the French military in the First Indochina War and named MAAG Indochina. With the withdrawal of French troops from Vietnam, MAAG shifted its focus to the training of South Vietnamese forces in an effort to stem the rising influence of Communism. MAAG Vietnam was in operation from 1955-1964. At the time the photographs in this collection were taken, Team 58 was stationed in Vi Thanh in the former Chuong Thien province. Throughout its inception MAAG Vietnam was under the control of three generals; Lieutenant General Samuel T. Williams, November 1955-September 1960, Lieutenant General Lionel C. McGarr, September 1960-July 1962, and Major General Charles J. Timmes, July 1962-May 1964. In 1964 MAAG was placed under U.S. Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV) and had grown from a few hundred advisors to over 3,000.

Scope and Content

The collection contains 104 black and white photographs measuring 3.75 x 2.5 inches, of MAAG Advisory Team 58. Photographs in the collection show the day-to-day life in the camp with no images of combat. The majority of photographs feature portraits of MAAG Team 58. Photographs of advisors include personnel working in offices, eating meals and enjoying down time, and preparing for a USO show. Several photographs document an assembly with Vietnamese speakers attended by both military advisors and local residents. Photographs also include scenes of the town of Vi Thanh, and several photographs taken from an airplane.

Series 1 contains photographs taken from an assembly in Vi Thanh. The photographs show one main speaker addressing the crowd from a platform with several other persons sitting behind him. Photographs of the crowd show both soldiers and civilians in attendance. Though the purpose and issues discussed at the assembly remain undocumented, soldiers in the audience carry banners with Vietnamese slogans printed on them which could provide further insight.

Series 2 contains photographs of the MAAG Team-58 camp. Photographs document the interiors and exteriors of the camp, showing soldier common areas and images of several buildings that make up the

camp complex. Interior shots show the living quarters of MAAG Team 58 including bedrooms and common areas used for meals and recreation. Interiors also depicted include rooms used for meetings and office space. Exterior views of the camp include several shots of different kinds of buildings. Large multipurpose buildings as well as small living quarters are shown. Images of several roofs show that buildings were marked with MAAG Team 58, Vi Thanh.

Series 3 includes Aerial views of Vietnam and images of the camp's runway and pilots. Four images in this series are shot from the back of a cargo or transport aircraft. The other four images in the series show planes taking off from the camp's makeshift runway and aviation crew members.

Series 4 contains images of Vi Thanh, the capital of what was then called Chuong-Thien Province. Photographs of Vi Thanh include the main town area and areas of local recreation. Several photographs show a local tennis court being used by both civilians and possibly soldiers. Images of Vi Thanh town center include shop fronts with local residents, and a main street populated with cars and residents.

Series 5 contains portraits of MAAG Team 58. Portraits in the series contain individual as well as group portraits. Only one of the portraits in the series is labeled, documenting place and date. None of the figures in the portraits are identified. Images show the soldiers working at their desks, sitting in common areas, eat meals, congregating outside and solitary against a non-descript background.

Index Terms

Corporate Names:

United States. Army--Photographs.

Geographical Names:

Vietnam--Photographs.

Vi Thanh (Vietnam)--Photographs.

Subjects:

Military camps--Photographs.

Vietnam War, 1961-1975--Photographs.

Document Types:

Portraits.

Group portraits.

Aerial photographs.

Photographic prints.

Arrangement

The photographs in this collection are arranged by subject.

- Series 1: Vi Thanh Assembly, 1955-1965 (Box 1)
- Series 2: MAAG Team 58 Camp, 1955-1965 (Box 1)
- Series 3: Aviation and Aerial Photography, 1955-1965 (Box 1)
- Series 4: Vi Thanh, 1955-1965 (Box 1)
- Series 5: Portraits, 1955-1965 (Box 1)

Contents List

Series 1: Vi Thanh Assembly,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Scope and Content

Images in this series depict an assembly held in Vi Thanh.

Assembly speaker,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Scope and Content

Man delivering a speech, viewed from behind.

Assembly speaker,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Scope and Content

Man giving a speech, viewed from right.

Assembly speaker,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Scope and Content

Man giving a speech, viewed from right.

Assembly stage,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Scope and Content

Man delivering a speech, viewed from the point of view of the crowd behind him.

Assembly stage,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 2 (Folder)

Scope and Content

Man delivering a speech, viewed from the point of view of the crowd behind him.

Assembly crowd,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 2 (Folder)

Scope and Content

View of the crowd at the assembly including military personnel and civilians.

Assembly crowd,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 2 (Folder)

Scope and Content

Alternate view of the crowd at the assembly.

Assembly crowd,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 2 (Folder)

Scope and Content

Crowd at assembly with banners displaying Vietnamese slogans.

Assembly soldiers,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 3 (Folder)

Scope and Content

Soldiers at assembly with Vietnamese banner.

Assembly soldiers,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 3 (Folder)

Scope and Content

Soldiers at assembly with Vietnamese banner.

Series 2: MAAG Team 58 Camp,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Scope and Content

Images in this series show buildings and areas of the MAAG Team 58 camp in Vi Thanh.

Weapons,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 3 (Folder)

Scope and Content

Weapons hanging on the wall.

Camp Bedroom,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 4 (Folder)

Scope and Content

Wall of a camp bedroom with dresser and clothing hanging on wall.

Camp Bedroom,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 4 (Folder)

Scope and Content

Camp bedroom with a bed, table and chairs, dresser and nightstand.

Camp common area,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 4 (Folder)

Scope and Content

Two images of an assembly area of camp with maps on a easel.

Camp building,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 5 (Folder)

Scope and Content

Camp building made of corrugated metal.

Entrance gate,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 5 (Folder)

Scope and Content

View of the entrance gate to MAAG Team 58 Camp.

Camp building,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 5 (Folder)

Scope and Content

Building in the camp seen from the side.

Camp buildings,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 5 (Folder)

Scope and Content

Aerial view of the camp including several different complexes of buildings.

Camp and jeep,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 6 (Folder)

Scope and Content

Army jeep parked in the camp behind reinforcements made of sandbags.

Camp buildings,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 6 (Folder)

Scope and Content

View of buildings in the camp shot from an army jeep.

Camp building,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 6 (Folder)

Scope and Content

Large building in the camp.

Camp building,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 6 (Folder)

Scope and Content

Two images of a building in the camp seen from the side.

Camp building,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 7 (Folder)

Scope and Content

Same building as previous photo shot from a different angle.

Camp building,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 7 (Folder)

Scope and Content

Building in the camp with corrugated roof.

Shed and military advisor,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 7 (Folder)

Scope and Content

Small building in the camp with army personnel inside.

Repairing camp building,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 8 (Folder)

Scope and Content

Building in the camp with corrugated roof. A military advisor on a ladder makes repairs to the building.

Camp buildings,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 8 (Folder)

Scope and Content

Three military personnel stand outside several buildings in the camp.

Entrance gate,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 8 (Folder)

Scope and Content

View of the entrance gate to MAAG Team 58 Camp.

Camp roofs,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 8 (Folder)

Scope and Content

Overhead shot of corrugated roofs with camp name and location printed on it.

Meeting,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 9 (Folder)

Scope and Content

Four images of a meeting in the MAAG Team 58 Camp.

USO show,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 10 (Folder)

Scope and Content

Three images of USO preparations.

Camp hall,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 10 (Folder)

Scope and Content

Military personnel in a large hall.

Camp shed and jeep,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 11 (Folder)

Scope and Content

Small building in the camp with army personnel inside and army jeep.

Repairing jeeps in courtyard,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 11 (Folder)

Scope and Content

Military personnel outside buildings working on automobiles.

Camp hall,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 11 (Folder)

Scope and Content

Military personnel working at desks in hall.

Camp building with military,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 11 (Folder)

Scope and Content

Military personnel in uniform outside camp building.

Series 3: Aviation and Aerial Photography,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Scope and Content

Photographs in contain aerial views of Vietnam and images of aviation.

Aerial views of Vietnam,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 12 (Folder)

Scope and Content

4 images of land, taken from an aircraft.

Camp runway,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 13 (Folder)

Scope and Content

3 Images of camp runways and aircraft.

Military advisors with aircraft,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 13 (Folder)

Scope and Content

Three military personnel standing at the back of an aircraft.

Series 4: Vi Thanh,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Scope and Content

Photographs in series 4 contain images of village life in Vi Thanh.

Beach,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 14 (Folder)

Scope and Content

The names of MAAG Team 58 written in the sand.

Tennis courts,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 14 (Folder)

Scope and Content

3 Images of a tennis court in Vi Thanh with local children and military personnel playing tennis.

River bank,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 15 (Folder)

Scope and Content

A river bank in Vi Thanh.

Store fronts,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 15 (Folder)

Scope and Content

3 images of store fronts in Vi Thanh with local residents and military personnel.

Main street,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 16 (Folder)

Scope and Content

Street scene of Vi Thanh features local residents and military personnel.

Series 5: Portraits

Unit Date 1955-1965

Scope and Content

Photographs in series 5 include individual and group portraits of members of MAAG Team 58.

Army Personnel,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 16 (Folder)

Scope and Content

Two army personnel posed in uniform in the camp.

Self portrait,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 16 (Folder)

Scope and Content

Military personnel taking a picture in the mirror.

Guard on lookout,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 16 (Folder)

Scope and Content

Military personnel on look out tower.

Guard on lookout,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 17 (Folder)

Scope and Content

2 images of a military advisor on a lookout tower.

Man sitting down,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 17 (Folder)

Scope and Content

A man sitting in the camp.

Two men at camp,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 17 (Folder)

Scope and Content

Two men sitting behind sandbags in the camp.

Man at desk,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 18 (Folder)

Scope and Content

Army personnel sitting at his desk behind a type writer.

Group portrait,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 18 (Folder)

Scope and Content

Several army personnel sitting in a camp common area.

Man at desk,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 18 (Folder)

Scope and Content

Man sitting at a desk or table.

Man at desk,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 18 (Folder)

Scope and Content

Man sitting at a desk with a map of Vietnam behind him.

Man in courtyard,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 19 (Folder)

Scope and Content

A man standing in a court yard in the army camp.

Portrait,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 19 (Folder)

Scope and Content

Photograph of a man in a stripped shirt.

Two men at camp,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 19 (Folder)

Scope and Content

Two men sitting outside in the camp.

Man in bed,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 19 (Folder)

Scope and Content

Man reading something in bed.

Man in jeep,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 20 (Folder)

Scope and Content

Man driving a jeep stopping to have his picture taken.

Group portrait at meal time,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 20 (Folder)

Scope and Content

Group portrait of army personnel eating a meal.

Two men at camp,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 20 (Folder)

Scope and Content

Two men sitting in camp in uniform. One man in the foreground faces away from the camera.

Man getting a haircut,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 20 (Folder)

Scope and Content

A man getting his haircut in the camp.

Man at desk,

Unit Date August 1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 21 (Folder)

Scope and Content

Man at his desk in the camp.

Portrait,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 21 (Folder)

Scope and Content

Photograph of a man in a white tee-shirt.

Man with shovel,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 21 (Folder)

Scope and Content

Man working with a shovel in the camp courtyard.

Two men at camp,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 21 (Folder)

Scope and Content

Two men at there desks in the camp.

Group portrait volleyball,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 22 (Folder)

Scope and Content

Group portrait of army personnel playing volleyball in the camp.

Two men at camp,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 22 (Folder)

Scope and Content

Two men sitting in the camp behind sandbags.

Army Personnel in office,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 22 (Folder)

Scope and Content

Two army personnel in uniform sitting at a desk in the camp.

Man with cars,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 22 (Folder)

Scope and Content

Young man posing with several cars.

Group portrait,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 23 (Folder)

Scope and Content

Three men sitting around a table in a bedroom.

Man with snake,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 23 (Folder)

Scope and Content

Man posing with a Boa constrictor.

Guard on lookout,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 23 (Folder)

Scope and Content

Military advisor on look out tower.

Two men with cars,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 23 (Folder)

Scope and Content

Two men posed with military jeeps.

Portrait,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 24 (Folder)

Scope and Content

Photograph of a man in a white shirt in front of a building.

Group portrait,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 24 (Folder)

Scope and Content

Group portrait of military advisors at a party.

Men at camp,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 24 (Folder)

Scope and Content

Two men in a camp common area. One reading and one at a desk.

Men in front of a building,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 24 (Folder)

Scope and Content

Two men, one seated and one standing, in front of a camp building.

Man in courtyard,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 25 (Folder)

Scope and Content

Man in uniform posed in a courtyard.

Man outside,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 25 (Folder)

Scope and Content

Man outside in the camp posed in front of sandbags.

Man making coffee,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 25 (Folder)

Scope and Content

Photograph of a man making coffee in the army camp.

Man at desk,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 25 (Folder)

Scope and Content

A man sitting at his desk with a map of Vietnam behind him.

Group portrait,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 26 (Folder)

Scope and Content

Group portrait of several military advisors sitting outside.

Group Portrait,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 26 (Folder)

Scope and Content

Four military advisors sitting outside the camp.

Two men at desk,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 26 (Folder)

Scope and Content

Two men in uniform sitting at a desk.

Men outside,

Unit Date 1955-1965

Container 1 (box)

Container 26 (Folder)

Scope and Content

Two men standing in a courtyard talking.