

BANGKOK

1969



**R
AND
R**

UNITED STATES ARMY SUPPORT THAILAND
R & R CENTER
APO San Francisco 96346

Welcome to Bangkok, capital of Thailand. Called Siam until 1939, Thailand is one of the most progressive and beautiful countries in the Orient. Bangkok, with a population of over three million, is a modern city and has the fast pace of any American metropolitan area. However, evidence of the city's age can still be seen in the ancient Orient architecture of over four hundred temples.

The R & R Liaison Detachment hopes that your stay here in Bangkok will be most enjoyable. The Detachment is located at the R & R Office, Suriyothai Building, 258 Phaholyothin Road, Bangkok. Tel. 73261. We are here to assist you during your stay in Bangkok. Please call us if you have any problems.

STATUS

Personnel in Bangkok on R & R are guests of the Government of Thailand. As guests, all must insure that their actions do not bring discredit to our nations or jeopardize Thai hospitality. Misbehavior may cause the Thai Government to withdraw its invitation for servicemen to visit Bangkok, preventing travel to Thailand for the many who would otherwise come later from Vietnam.

THAI CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS

There are a number of customs and traditions of which the visitor should be aware in order to avoid giving offense unknowingly. The Thai, like people everywhere, are favorably impressed when a visitor knows and follows their customs. The comments below are for convenience and guidance.

Stand at attention when the King's Anthem is played. This occurs at the end of every movie performance.

The Thai greeting, called the "Wai", is done by putting the hands together in a praying position before the face and slightly nodding the head. Many Thai will "Wai" in addition to shaking hands with you. It is considered polite to "Wai" in return. The gesture has no religious meaning.

Be sure to remove the shoes when entering a temple, or in any other place where Thai do so. Thai will appreciate their customs being followed in this way.

Ask for advice on habits and customs if a question arises. The Thai are anxious to be helpful. They want visitors to understand their culture.

Bargain before purchasing an item. This is part of Thai life and custom. It is expected of the visitor in Thailand. Additional comments on bargaining can be found in "Shopping Information."

Be patient in dealing with the Thai. Remember that understanding and comprehension is often extremely difficult if slang is being used. Use simple words and speak slowly.

Speak in moderate tones. Loud tones are offensive to Thais.

Don't stamp your foot, point your finger or your toe at a Thai.

A Thai considers the top of the head to be the most sacred part of his body. The bottom of the foot is the lowest. One's foot should never be raised above the foot of a Thai.

Do not display emotion or affection in public. Thai customs prohibit embracing, kissing and other displays of affection in public places.

Touching a Thai on the head or shoulders is considered improper and offensive.

Standing over a seated Thai while speaking may cause him to take offense. When possible, sit with him.

Show respect toward the orange-robed monks. They are highly respected by the Thai.

Maintain a sense of humor, be pleasant and show courtesy always.

SOME THOUGHTS ON BARGAINING

The visitor to Bangkok will soon discover that he must bargain for nearly everything. Things not bargained for are entertainment tickets, bus fares, meals and drinks. Taxi fare should always be negotiated in advance and be sure the driver understands your desired destination.

Have a sense of humor. A witty disposition and a smile are highly prized by Thai people.

Never lose your temper. It will gain nothing.

Strike up a conversation about them and yourself. Thai are interested in foreigners.

If you know the current rate of the item for which you are bargaining, start as far below that price as they start over and try to meet at the middle.

In bargaining for an expensive item, return a second time. If the price is not satisfactory on this occasion, it probably never will be.

Bargain in dollars and pay in Baht (1 baht - approx 5 cents, 20 Baht - approx 1 dollar).

Do not advertise that you intend to purchase several items. Select one item and bargain a little. Then appear to lose interest and go on to the next. Return later to the original item and attempt to do better. Repeat the process for each item. Calculate the price and offer to take a "package sale" at a slightly lower price. A better bargain can often be reached in a "package deal" than in separate purchases. Of course, all prices are dependent upon the quality of the subject item.

MOTOR VEHICLES

R & R Personnel may not drive any motor vehicle, including motorcycles and scooters. While in Thailand, United States Military or civilian drivers' licenses are not valid.

SECURITY OF VALUABLES

Expensive jewelry and large sums of money should be left in the hotel safe. All R & R hotels have a

safety deposit envelope system where you place your valuables in a sealed envelope and draw them out when you want. Do NOT leave valuables in your hotel rooms or carry a large sum of money with you.

TAXI CABS

Taxis are plentiful and can be expensive. Meters are required by law though rarely used. Determine before entering a cab if a meter is to be used; if not then you must bargain to establish trip cost. Minimum fare is 3 baht (taxi). The samlor is dangerous and is not recommended transportation. No trip within the city should cost more than 16 baht. Average fare for most trips is 8-10 baht. Use of taxi cabs or rental cars on shopping trips will result in higher cost to you as the driver receives from 20-40% of your total purchase price from the store. Obviously you pay for the service.

HOTELS

A hotel booking agency will meet you upon arrival at the briefing area. The hotels listed by the booking agency are highly recommended and offer reduced rates for R & R Personnel.

The charge for bus transportation from the airport to your hotel and return is \$ 1.25.

After selection of a hotel you will be given a reservation slip by the booking agency. This must be provided to the registration desk upon arrival at the hotel. Hotel accommodations should be paid for in advance.

Check with your hotel desk for their policy regarding checking out. Some hotels require a one or two day advance notice should you desire to change hotels. In addition, you must notify the R & R office if you change hotels.

One-day laundry and dry cleaning service are available in most hotels. Tipping for this service should be very modest since a service charge is included in your laundry bill. One or two baht each time is sufficient.

Tap water in Thailand is generally unsafe for drinking. Hotels and major restaurants serve bottled water which is safer.

CURRENCY EXCHANGE

Baht may be purchased from all military finance offices, the Chase Manhattan Bank, Bank of America, Thai commercial banks, and authorized money changers. The rate of exchange may vary slightly according to source, however, the Military Finance Office at JUSMAY and the American Bank are recommended as offering the most consistently favorable rate. The current rates vary from 20.00 to 20.67 Baht for one U.S. Dollar.

It is prohibited to permit dollars to enter illegal money channels through improper conversion of U.S. dollar instruments. Under no circumstances should U.S. Treasury checks or personal checks be cashed with money changers. Baht may be purchased from authorized money changers by using U.S. dollars or Travelers checks. All authorized money changers display the following sign.

Tommie's Tourist Agency (TTA), where you will be processed upon arrival, is an authorized money changer and will provide this service as a convenience. The agency provides this service for you seven days a week, (0700-2200), hence money changing can be accomplished there regardless of the time of your arrival or departure.

U.S. dollars will be used as a medium of exchange at APOs, Clubs, PXs, etc. Local currency, Baht, will be used for all other financial transactions. U.S. dollars, personal checks or travelers checks will not be used for purchases on the local economy.

CHECK CASHING FACILITIES

At all check cashing facilities, the following are required for cashing Personal Checks. (1) Copy of R & R orders, (2) ID Card, and (3) Personal Checks with account number in magnetic ink.

Bank of America, Main Office

297 Suriwongse Road, Phone 30931

Hours of operation:

Monday-Friday-0830-1530

Sat-Sun-Holidays-Closed

Chase Manhattan Bank, Phone 38934

New Road (Opposite the Thai General Post Office)

Hours of operation:

Monday-Friday-0830-1530

Sat-Sun-Holidays-Closed

Military Finance Facility, Phone 37020 XT 2784 JUSMAG Compound

U.S. Military Assistance Command, Hq. Thailand

Monday-Friday-0900-1500

Saturday-0900-1200

Sun-Holidays-Closed

Officers-04-up - \$ 300.00

Officers-03 - \$ 200.00

Officers-01-02 - \$ 150.00

Enlisted-E7-8-9 - \$ 200.00

Enlisted-E5-6 - \$ 100.00

Enlisted-E3-4 - \$ 50.00

Main PX Cashier.

Hours of operation: Same hours as the PX.

All military personnel \$ 100.00 max.

NOTE: U.S. Dollars will be used at all U.S. military facilities.

SHOPPING INFORMATION

Tommie's Tourist Agency offers R&R personnel a Shopping Tour. This tour will take you to three reputable jewelry stores. You can save as much as 25%-35% on the merchandise you buy because taxi drivers collect high commissions if they take you to the stores.

The following are rough guide lines for popular items bought by R & R troops:

Suggested Price per Size of Stone

	1 Carat	3 Carats	6 Carats
Black Star Sapphire	\$ 2.00	\$ /16.00	\$ 30.00
Dark Blue Sapphire	\$ 20.00	\$ 80.00	\$ 260.00
Light Blue Sapphire	\$ 10.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 85.00
Cut Ruby	\$ 40.00	\$ 180.00	\$ 240.00
Opal	\$ 2.00	\$ 12.00	\$ 40.00
Tigers Eye	\$ 1.00	\$ 3.00	\$ 5.00
Lotus Ring	\$ 9.00 to	\$ 15.00	
	(depending on stones used)		
Princess Ring	\$ 9.00 to	\$ 18.00	
	(depending on stones used)		
Bronzeware (144 pieces)		\$ 37.00 to	\$ 40.00
Jade Stones	\$ 10.00 to	\$ 100.00	
	(sold by stone, not carat)		
Thai silk (per yd)	\$ 2.50 to	\$ 4.00	

Prices on all above listed items are based on average quality merchandise and the prices therefore will vary as quality increases or decreases. Keep in mind that the top quality stones/merchandise will be considerably higher than the prices listed above. For instance, really good bronzeware will be as high as \$70.00 and an excellent Dark Blue Sapphire (6 carats) might sell for as much as \$600.00.

BUDDHAS

Under Thai law, certain articles such as Buddha images are classed as objects d'art and may not be exported from Thailand without permission of the Fine Arts Department. Only licensed shops are au-

authorized to sell these images. Arranging for export permission from the Fine Arts Department must be handled personally.

ENTERTAINMENT

THEATERS: The larger theaters in Bangkok are modern, air-conditioned, and usually show English dialogue films with Thai sub-titles. Current attractions can be found in one of the English language daily newspapers.

RESTAURANTS

Some of the restaurants frequented by members of the American community are listed for your convenience. This does not imply official endorsement.

Embassador Room

Erawan Hotel, Tel. 59780

Dancing/Floor show

Fireside Grill

President Hotel, Tel. 59890

Gaysorn Road

Ramayana Restaurant

Rama Hotel, Tel. 31010

European food

Le Chalet

Erawan Hotel, Tel. 59780

European food

Nipa Hut

Sukumvit Road, Tel. 912611

Mexican food

Domino

Gaysorn Road, Dine/Dance, Tel. 55370

Chez Susanne

Silom Road, French food, Tel. 38076

Carlton Cafe

Silom Road, Tel. 37994

European/Chinese food/Dancing

Floating Restaurant

Lumpini Park, Tel. 55982

Chinese/Thai food

Golden Dragon

Sukumvit Road Tel. 56433

Chinese food

Nick No. 1

Sathorn Road, near JUSMAG, Tel. 30258

Hungarian food/Kobe beef

Normandie Grill

Oriental Hotel, Tel. 34941

View of Bangkok and river

Baan Thai

Sukumvit Road, Tel. 913013

Thai food/Classical dance

Emerald Room

Imperial Hotel, Tel. 54011

Music/dining/good steak

NIGHT CLUBS

Most of the night clubs have bands or combos in an American or European atmosphere. Many have dance floor shows. A number also serve food. Drinks of all sorts are available but very expensive. A number of popular night clubs are listed for your convenience. Again, this does not constitute official endorsement.

Bamboo Bar

Oriental Hotel, Tel. 39491

Dance/entertainment

Lolita

27 Rajdamnern Avenue, Tel. 812191

Dance/drinks

Balcony

New Road

Honey Night Club

Suriwong Road, Tel. 35725

Dancing/floor show

Sani Chateau

133 Gaysorn Road, Tel. 56884

Dance/floor show

Lido Club

67/70 Rajdamri Road, Tel. 58441

Dance/floor show

Tropicana

Rama Hotel, Tel. 31010

Dance/drinks/supper

99 Club

Silom Road, Tel. 38491

Naturist

Sathorn Road, Tel. 863656

Dance/floor show

Cafe De Paris

Suriwong Road, Tel. 33638

Dance/floor show

MILITARY CLUBS

Officer's Club.Chao Phya Hotel (See Map).

477 Sri Ayuthaya Road

Phone: 56380, 56810, 56866, 56093, 56974

Hours of operation:

Dining Room: Breakfast/Dinner/Supper

Monday-Sat-0700-1000/1130-1400/1800-2200

Coffee Shop: Daily 0530-0100

Happy Hour: Tue, Fri 1700-1900

Bar-Cocktail Lounge:

Sun-Thur 1000-0100

Fri-Sat 1000-0200

Ball room floor show 5 days a week

Reservations required Fri & Sat.

Bingo Wed 1900

Class VI store: Mon-Sat 1000-1900; Sun 1000-1500

Barber shop & massage parlor 0900-2200 daily

Hair dresser 0900-1800 daily

Check cashing \$50.00 max.

NCO OPEN MESS. WINDSOR HOTEL

(Open to all enlisted grades).

Soi 20, Sukumvit Road, Phone: 915300

Hours of operation:

Dining room: (1st floor) 0600-2200 (open all to grades)

EM Lounge: (Basement) 0900-0100

Cocktail lounge: (8th floor) 1100-0100 - weekends 0230 (E5 and above)

Ball Room: (8th floor) 1100-2400 - weekends 0200 (E5 and above)

Stag Bar: (1st floor) 0800- (open to all grades)

Branch No. 2 - Capital Hotel (Open to all grades)

Soi 11 and Patiphat Road on Phaholyothin Road

in Bangsue Area. Phone: 70070

Hours of operation:

Dining room: 0600-2300

Bar, Lounge and Game Room:

Sun, Mon, Wed & Thu: 1100-2300

Tue: 1100-2400

Fri 1100-0130 Sat: 0900-0200

Happy Hour: Mon, Thu: 1730-1830

Branch No. 3 - Prince Hotel (open to all grades)

1537/1 New Petchburi Road, Phone: 55836

Hours of operation:

Bar, Lounge and Game Room:

Mon-Fri: 1100-2300

Sat: 0900-2400

Sun: 0900-2300

Happy Hour: Mon, Thu: 1730-1830

R & R TROOPS NEED A COPY OF R & R ORDERS AND ID CARD FOR ADMISSION TO NCO CLUB FACILITIES' NO CHECK CASHING FACILITIES.

SIGHTSEEING INFORMATION

Thailand is rich in physical and cultural beauty. It has attractions for all visitors. The quaint, ancient oriental life is pleasantly complimented by the influx of Western culture. The combination of old and new is a sight-seer's paradise. Tommie's Tourist Agency offers reduced rates on all tours and offers some tours

not offered by any other tour agency in Bangkok.

In the event you desire to cancel a tour, Tommie's Tourist Agency must be notified 24 hours in advance to obtain a refund. Refunds are not available on day of departure.

SOME OF THE TOURS AVAILABLE ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Grand Palace and Temple of the Emerald Buddha

Hours (Tue and Thurs 0900 and 1300;

Beautiful carvings, murals and mosaics are a reminder of the ancient art and culture. No movie cameras are allowed and gentlemen must wear coats and ties.

Temple

Hours (0900-1300) Marble Temple - Wat Traimitr and the 5½ ton solid gold buddha are to be seen on this tour.

Floating Market

Hours (0700-0730 daily) You visit the Floating Market, silk weaving factories, the Royal Barges, and Temple of Dawn.

Thai Boxing

Hours (Mon-Sat 1730, Sun 1630) For sport lovers, this is the most thrilling event you can witness. Hands, feet and knees are used against the opponent.

Ayudhya (All-day trip 0700-0730 Wed & Sun)

Ayudhya has some very interesting ancient buildings and historical ruins. There is also a museum with large collections of ancient relics and works of art.

River Kwai

(all day trip 0700-0730 Wed, Sat & Sun)

You will visit the place of the famous "Bridge over the River Kwai" and on the way you can see the Allied War Cemetery which is located nearby.

Tim Land (1430 daily)

Thailand In Miniature. Thai dancing, boxing, sword fighting, cock fighting, weaving-handicrafts, etc., are seen in 3 hours.

EXCHANGE

Exchange facilities are at the locations listed below. They operate during the hours indicated. ID Card and the ration slip issued upon arrival will authorize admission to the outlets. Each person is entitled to the purchases indicated on the ration slip. The following is a schedule of sales hours for the Main Exchange and the commissary.

MAIN PX & COMMISSARY

Klong Toey area, off Rama IV Road (See map).
R & R troops need Temporary Buying Permit and ID card for admission to the exchange.

Hours of operation of PX and commissary.

Monday and Holiday: Closed

Tuesday: 0800-1630

Wednesday: 1100-1930

Thursday: 0800-1630

Friday: 1100-1930

Saturday: 0800-1630

Sunday: 1200-1600 Commissary closed.

Class VI Package Store

PX - Same hours as PX

Villa Club, Soi 33, Sukumvit Road

Mon-Sat 0900-1900

Sunday 0800-1800

Delicatessen (Villa Club)

Mon-Sat 0900-1900

Sunday 0800-1800

Branch Exchanges:

Jusmag (See Map) Mon-Fri 0800-1700
Saturday 0800-1200
Sun & Holidays: Closed

Chao Phya Hotel: Mon-Sat 0800-1900
Sunday 1000-1500

Windsor Hotel: Soi 20, Sukumvit Road
Mon-Sat 1030-1830
Sun & Holidays: Closed

Capital Hotel: Mon-Sat 0800-1900
Sunday 1000-1500

Prince Hotel: 1537/1 New Petchburi Road
Tue-Fri 1030-1900
Saturday 0900-1500
Sunday 1030-1900
Monday: Closed

P.X. Cafeterias

Golden Teak House – JUSMAG Compound
Hours of operation: Mon-Fri 0600-2000
Saturday 0600-1700
Sunday 0800-1700

Prince Hotel: 0600-2200 hrs daily

Main PX: Same hours as the PX.

TELEPHONE CALLS TO THE UNITED STATES

RATE: \$ 12.00 for the first 3 minutes.

\$ 4.00 per minute thereafter.

PAID AND COLLECT CALLS: Go to the Thai General Post Office, New Road and Suriwong Road. Enter the door on the right side of the building and go to the 3rd floor. Sound proof booths are available. Preferable hours to call: Mon-Sat: 0800-1300 and 1630-2030.

APO FACILITIES

APO 96346 KLONG TOEY

Mon Thur Fri - 0800-1545

Saturday - 0600-1100 Sunday: Closed

UNIT 1 JUSMAG Compound

Mon Thru Fri - 0730-1630

Saturday - 0730-1200 Sunday: Closed

UNIT 2 CHAO PHYA HOTEL

Monday: Closed

Tue Thru Sat - 1000-1630

Sunday - 1200-1600

ALL POSTAL FACILITIES WILL BE CLOSED ON AMERICAN HOLIDAYS.

DISPENSARY

The U.S. Medical Unit at 161/1 Petchburi Road (Tel: 911896/910644) is an outpatient dispensary staffed by military and civilian doctors. Hospitalized patients and serious emergencies are cared for at the 5th Field Hospital (Tel: 910577) located between Soi 63 and Soi 65, Sukumvit Road.

You are eligible for care and treatment at the U.S. Medical Unit, just as you are at the Military Dispensary at your duty station. Active duty personnel are seen at Sick Call from 0730 to 1100, Mon Thru Fri, emergencies Saturday until 1200.

In the event of a serious emergency or an injury which requires immediate attention, go directly to the 5th Field Hospital at any hour.

In the event of a minor emergency or after-hours illness, call the 5th Field Hospital (Tel: 910577) which maintains a 24-hour watch.

WORSHIP SERVICES AVAILABLE— BANGKOK AREA

1. Catholic:

a. MILITARY:

- (1) Sunday Masses: 0800 Seri Court, 1000 Don Muang Chapel, 1200 Prince Hotel.
- (2) Daily Masses: 1130 Don Muang Chapel, 1200 Prince Hotel.

b. ASSUMPTION CATHEDRAL. Oriental Lane: Sunday Masses - 0500, 0530, 0730, 0830, 1000, 1700. Tel: 33556

c. HOLY REDEEMER CHURCH. Ruam Rudi Lane: Sunday Masses - 0830, 0945, 1100, 1730. Weekday Masses - 0630, 0700, 0800. Tel: 59318

2. Jewish:

Jewish Association of Thailand, 121 Soi 22 off Sukumvit Friday at 1900 and Saturday at 0900

3. Protestant:

a. MILITARY: Sunday Worship: 0900 Seri Court; 1015 Prince Hotel; 1100 Don Muang Chapel.

b. BANGKOK CHURCH OF CHRIST: 26 Soi Somprasong 4, Petchburi Road, Tel: 58184 Sunday: 0800 Worship Service; 0900 Sunday School; 1800 Worship

- c. BANGKOK LUTHERAN: Mater Dei School, Ploenchit Road (Next door to Design Thai): Tel: 914285 Sunday: 0900 Sunday School; 1100 Worship Service.
- d. CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH: Soi 2 off Sukumvit: Tel: 56378 Sundays: 0900 Sunday School; 1015 Worship Services; 1800 Training Union; 1900 Worship Service; 1900 Wednesday - Worship Service.
- e. CHRIST CHURCH (Episcopalian): Convent and Sathorn Roads: Tel: 31634 Sundays: 0800 Holy Communion; 1000 Matins; 1000 1st Sunday each month, Choral Communion; 1800 Evening Prayer.
- f. CHRISTIAN SCIENCE SOCIETY: YMCA, 27 Sathorn Road: Tel; 31542 Sundays: 0930 Sunday School; 1100 Worship Service; 2000 Wednesday - Worship Service.
- g. EVANGELICAL CHURCH (Christian & Missionary Alliance) No. 2 Pramuan Road: Tel: 32594/911798 Sundays: 0930 Worship Service; 1100 Sunday School at Rama Hotel. 1930 Thursdays - Worship Service at No 2, Pramuan Road.
- h. INTERNATIONAL CHURCH (Interdenominational). 67 Soi 19 off Sukumvit: Tel: 30380 Sundays: 0800 Worship Service and Sunday

Sundays: 0800 Worship Service and Sunday School; 1700 Worship Service at Fourth Thai Church, Srivieng Road.

- i. SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH. Larn Luang Road: Tel: 811422 Saturday: 0830 Worship Service; Wednesday: 1930 Worship Service.
- j. CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS. Grand Hotel, 6th floor: Sundays: 0830 Priesthood Meeting; 0930 Sunday School; 2000 Sacrament Meeting; 1930 Tuesday MIA at Rajah Hotel.

MILITARY CHAPLAINS

USARSUPTHAI CHAPLAIN – Prince Hotel Tel: 59560

USMAGTHAI/JUSMAGTHAI CHAPLAIN – 37020 ext 2288

29th Signal Group Chaplain – 916900 ext 4530

Don Muang Chaplain – 70010 ext 2111

UNIFORM

R & R Personnel are not authorized to wear uniforms in Thailand. Change into civilian clothing as soon as possible.

RECREATION

BOWLING: All lanes are open until 2400 hours. Leagues play during the week at all except the Gaysorn. Average cost is 12 Baht (Tcs) per line.

Crown – 1484 Petchburi Road

Bel-Air – Rajvithi Road

Asoke – Soi 21, off Sukumvit

Gaysorn – Gaysorn Road (Near President Hotel)

Siam – Patumwan Square, Rama I Road

Dusit Bowl – Phaholyothin Road

HORSE RACING: Nang Learng and Royal Sports Club on Saturdays and Sundays.

ZOO: (Sri Ayuthya Road). Cost 3 baht. Hours are 0800-1700. The Royal White Elephant is exhibited.

BANGKOK SERVICEMAN'S CENTER (63 Wireless Road). Wholesome activities weekdays 1000-2000 hours. Sundays 1300-2200 hours. Ping Pong, Badminton, Tennis, Music, Reading and letter writing available in a pleasant atmosphere.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES V.F.W. POST 9951, 1231 Sukumvit, Tel: 914787, Dining Room, Bar, Game Room open 24 hours daily.