

Tan Son Nhut, A Beehive-Freeway

SAIGON (7thAF) — If the current average of 1,600 daily take-offs and landings at Saigon's Tan Son Nhut AB continues, the total figure will reach over 545,000 by the end of the year, according to Maj. James C. Duzan, the flight facilities officer.

Duzan, 37, of Kansas, Ill., said the expected year's total will be higher than last year's traffic load at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport.

Air Force air traffic controllers under Duzan work with Republic of Vietnam counterparts in the jointly-operated air traffic control facility at the sprawling air base.

"Through June of this year," Duzan continued, "we had more than 250,000 flights and for the past two months have averaged more than 1,600 daily arrivals and departures."

The traffic controllers handle only fixed-wing aircraft. Helicopter traffic is not counted in the total.

In addition to the volume of aircraft using the air base, vehicle traffic servicing the base is also controlled while crossing the runways. A reported 133,000 vehicles of all types were regulated by Air Force and Vietnamese tower workers during July alone.

One civilian airline pilot, coming into the big base, said the maze of activity on the flightline, "Looked like a combination of O'Hare and the Santa Anna Freeway."

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