

Report Crewman Stabbed

GI Held in Skyjack Attempt On Viet Airliner in Saigon

By SPEC. 4 SETH LIPSKY
S&S Staff Correspondent

SAIGON — A 20-year-old Army private allegedly held an Air Vietnam DC4 pilot hostage for two and a half hours Wednesday afternoon at Tan Son Nhut Air Base demanding to be taken to Hong Kong, according to airline and U.S. Air Force officials.

Dressed in civilian clothes, a man identified as Pvt. George M. Hardin, a perimeter guard at the 71st Evacuation Hospital in Pleiku, allegedly invaded the cockpit of an airplane bound for

Saigon from Pleiku just as the flight's stewardess, identified by authorities only as Miss Long, announced the arrival here, the officials said.

After a gruelling two and a half hours on the ground at the international ramp at the civilian air terminal, Hardin finally emerged from the aircraft and surrendered.

Informed sources said the pilot Floyd R. Derieux, an American, convinced Hardin that the DC4 could not make it to Hong Kong.

The incident was believed to

be the first hijack attempt of a Vietnamese airplane.

Airline officials said the hijacker held flight engineer Woo Man Jun, a Korean, at knife-point as the craft taxied to the terminal.

Sometime later, the engineer plunged from the aircraft before scores of onlookers waiting for international flights delayed because of the incident. The engineer was rushed from the scene in an ambulance.

(The flight engineer suffered a
(Continued on Back Page, Col. 3)

GI Held in Saigon Skyjack Try

(Continued From Page 1)
cut throat, the Associated Press reported.)

Vietnamese military police surrounded the aircraft and its tires were deflated after Derieux explained to the air control tower his plight. When the hijacker surrendered and identified himself as an American GI, the Vietnamese turned him over to American Air Force police.

Later Wednesday evening, the Air Force turned Hardin over to Army authorities who were holding him until an investigation into the matter was complete.

Air Force spokesmen said Hardin carried two knives, one a sheath knife that he carried in his belt and a smaller knife he carried in his hand.

All 65 passengers and crew members, except the engineer and pilot, were released immediately after the plane landed, according to witnesses.

The tall, slim suspect, dressed in a green print shirt and blue trousers, passed by cameramen and reporters as he was trans-

ferred to custody of the U.S. Army.

"Hey, what's all this," he said. "Take a nice picture."

He covered his face with his handcuffed hands and acted sullenly as the military officials hustled him past the newsmen into an Army paddy wagon.

Pacific Stars and Stripes
July 24, 1970 (page 1)