SOUTH VIETNAM

OFFICIAL STANDARD NAMES

approved by the

UNITED STATES BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

Prepared in the
Geographic Names Division, U.S. Army Topographic Command
Washington, D.C. 20315, May 1971
This gazetteer contains about 24,000 entries for places and features in two lists: South Vietnam, 23,500 entries, and the South China Sea, 500 entries. The entries include standard names approved by the Board on Geographic Names and unapproved variant names, the latter printed in *italics* and cross-referenced to the standard names. *Users of the gazetteer should always refer to main entries for approved names.*

South Vietnam is that part of the Republic of Vietnam south of the “Demarcation Line” at approximately 17° north latitude. The area of the South China Sea for which names are included in this gazetteer is that part between 5° and 21° north latitude, west and north of the territorial limits of the Philippines and Sabah, respectively, and limited on the west by the coasts of Hainan and Vietnam and the 105th meridian of east longitude. This area includes the Paracel Islands, Pratas Island, the Dangerous Ground, and numerous other islands, reefs, and banks.

The names in this gazetteer supersede those in all previous Board lists for the areas concerned.

The map scale of name coverage for South Vietnam is approximately 1:250,000; the scale of coverage for the South China Sea is about 1:1,000,000, with coverage at larger scales for some areas. Entries include the names of first- and second-order administrative divisions, populated places of all sizes, various other cultural entities, and a variety of physical features.

Most of the entities can be identified and located by the approved name or a recognizable variant of the approved name on one or more of the following sources:

3. Navy hydrographic charts, U.S. Naval Oceanographic Office, various dates and scales. (South China Sea and Vietnamese coast)

**Interpretation of entries**

It has been necessary to express in code numbers and letters some of the information in the gazetteer in order to accommodate it to the machine method of tabulation.

**Name.**—Approved standard names and unapproved variant names appear in the first column. The variant names are always cross-referenced to the standard names by use of the word “see.” Where part of a name is underlined, the use of the part not underlined is optional. Where two or more names are approved for a feature the usage of each is indicated in parentheses. Names containing generic elements preceding the specific term (except names of populated places) are alphabetized by the specific part; thus Dak Akoi, the name of a stream, is listed as Akoi, Dak and Dang Bo Long, a mountain, is listed as Bo Long, Dang.

All separate words should be capitalized with the exception of particles such as *di, dên, tù, và, le, la, l’, les, de, d’,* and *â.* In words of French origin the apostrophe should be followed by an uppercase letter, elsewhere by a lowercase letter, for example: *Île de l’Ouest; B’sum Bla.*

In Vietnamese names the barred d (D, d) and the following standard vowel symbols appear:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{i} & \, \text{e} & \, \text{a} & \, \text{ou} & \, \text{y} & \, \text{ê} & \, \text{ă} & \, \text{ô} & \, \text{ư} & \, \text{ă} \\
\text{i} & \, \text{ê} & \, \text{â} & \, \text{û} & \, \text{ê} & \, \text{ă} & \, \text{ô} & \, \text{ư} & \, \text{ă} \\
\text{i} & \, \text{e} & \, \text{â} & \, \text{û} & \, \text{ê} & \, \text{ă} & \, \text{ô} & \, \text{ư} & \, \text{ă} \\
\text{i} & \, \text{ê} & \, \text{â} & \, \text{û} & \, \text{ê} & \, \text{ă} & \, \text{ô} & \, \text{ư} & \, \text{ă} \\
\text{i} & \, \text{e} & \, \text{a} & \, \text{ou} & \, \text{y} & \, \text{ê} & \, \text{ă} & \, \text{ô} & \, \text{ư} & \, \text{ă} \\ \\
\text{i} & \, \text{ê} & \, \text{a} & \, \text{ou} & \, \text{y} & \, \text{ê} & \, \text{ă} & \, \text{ô} & \, \text{ư} & \, \text{ă} \\
\text{i} & \, \text{ê} & \, \text{a} & \, \text{ou} & \, \text{y} & \, \text{ê} & \, \text{ă} & \, \text{ô} & \, \text{ư} & \, \text{ă} \\
\end{align*}
\]

This gazetteer uses the combinations é, â, ô and è, à, ò in standard names throughout. Vietnamese usage also permits the use of ê, â, ô and e, a, o in their stead, respectively.

French words appear as in standard French orthography, and should include where appropriate the standard diacritical marks, acute (¨), circumflex (¨), grave (¨), dieresis (¨),
and cedilla (´), in both uppercase and lowercase print. These diacritical marks, several of those cited in the table above, and the digraph ö, also appear sporadically in words of Cambodian (Khmer), Cham, Lao, and Upland Khmer origin.

**Designation.**—The second column contains designations or abbreviations of designations, as listed below. Since practically all geographic terms have varied meanings, the senses in which the designator terms are used and the range of features to which they are applied in this gazetteer are stated in the list to reduce ambiguity. The distinctions that can be made in a given gazetteer will vary with the quality of the maps of the area and with the nature of the entities that are named. In South Vietnam some of the features do not fit precisely into the categories used to designate them and others could be designated in two or more ways.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Designation</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ADMD</td>
<td>first-order administrative division (tinh, đô thanh, thành phố, thị xã); second-order administrative division (quận)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANCH</td>
<td>anchorage (place within a harbor or roadstead where ships may anchor)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATOL</td>
<td>atoll (ring of coral islands enclosing a protected lagoon)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BAR</td>
<td>sandbar (deposit of water-borne sand at or below the water level)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BAY</td>
<td>bay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BCH</td>
<td>beach (deposit of sand or other unconsolidated material along a shore)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BGHT</td>
<td>bight (open body of water forming a slight recession in a coastline)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BNKM</td>
<td>marine bank (an elevation of the sea floor located on a continental or island shelf and over which the depth of water is relatively shallow but sufficient for safe surface navigation; includes submerged atolls)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAPE</td>
<td>cape (seaward end of a projection of land of such position and size as to affect the course of ships)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHNM</td>
<td>marine channel (channel between coastal islands, reefs, or shoals; between an offshore feature and the mainland; or through a shallow marine waterbody)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHNS</td>
<td>stream channel (separately named lesser channel around an island or bar in a stream)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CNL</td>
<td>canal (general or undifferentiated purpose)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CNLI</td>
<td>irrigation canal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CNLN</td>
<td>navigation canal (includes some suitable only for small boats)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COVE</td>
<td>cove (small bay)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRKT</td>
<td>tidal creek (watercourse tidal in all or most of its length; usually short, without extensive tributary drainage areas, and located in coastal marsh or other wetland)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CTY</td>
<td>country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DLTA</td>
<td>delta (land formed by the deposition of alluvium at the mouth of a stream, commonly in the form of a triangle or Greek letter delta)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENTR</td>
<td>entrance (opening from the sea into a lagoon, bay, or harbor)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EST</td>
<td>plantation (large commercialized agricultural landholding with associated dwellings and other facilities, having unified ownership and management but requiring more than a one-family labor force, and specializing in a single tropical or subtropical cash crop)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FLL</td>
<td>waterfall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FLTT</td>
<td>tidal flat (coastal area alternately submerged and exposed by tide)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRST</td>
<td>forest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FT</td>
<td>fort (military post with or without fortification; some may be abandoned or no longer have a military function)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GULF</td>
<td>gulf (large, broad waterbody indenting a coast)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLL</td>
<td>hill (landform of moderate relief, moderate elevation, and small summit area)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLLS</td>
<td>hills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISL</td>
<td>island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abbreviation</td>
<td>Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISLP</td>
<td>land-tied island (former island joined to the mainland by natural processes of deposition)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISLS</td>
<td>islands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KNLU</td>
<td>knoll (undersea elevation rising less than 1,000 meters, or 500 fathoms, from the sea floor and of limited extent across the summit)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LGN</td>
<td>lagoon (waterbody along a coast, largely or wholly cut off from the sea by a barrier beach or other depositional feature)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LGNX</td>
<td>section of lagoon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LKI</td>
<td>intermittent lake (seasonal waterbody which becomes a lake during periods of rain but which dries up or becomes a marsh or waterhole during the dry season)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LK</td>
<td>lake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LKS</td>
<td>lakes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MRSH</td>
<td>marsh (wetland characterized by grasses or bush vegetation and few or no trees; may include one or more permanent or intermittent waterbodies surrounded by marsh but not separately named)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MT</td>
<td>mountain (landform of conspicuous relief, moderate to high elevation, and small summit area)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MTS</td>
<td>mountains, mountain range</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PASS</td>
<td>pass (way over or between mountains or other high land)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCLI</td>
<td>independent political entity (republic)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEN</td>
<td>peninsula (area of land projecting into and largely, but not entirely, surrounded by water)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PGDA</td>
<td>pagoda (Buddhist shrine or memorial, usually tower-like and surmounted by a spire; locally identified by the terms chua or waf)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PK</td>
<td>peak (separately named summit on a more extensive elevation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLAT</td>
<td>plateau (extensive elevated area of flat to rolling surface; may exhibit considerable local relief due to dissection or the presence of hills or mountains rising above the general surface level)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLN</td>
<td>plain (landform of low relief, slope, and elevation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PND</td>
<td>pond (small inland waterbody)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PNDI</td>
<td>intermittent pond</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPL</td>
<td>populated place (city, town, village, settlement or dispersed rural community; includes planned or other special settlements and plantation villages). Frequently two or more separate settlements with the same name occur in the same vicinity. The aforementioned map Series L7014 differentiates these by appending to the name an Arabic numeral in parentheses, a Roman numeral, or an uppercase letter. These numerals and letters have been included in the listed names but their use is optional, since they are not actually parts of names.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPLQ</td>
<td>abandoned village</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPLW</td>
<td>destroyed village</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPLX</td>
<td>section of populated place (part of a city or contiguous urbanized area named as an entity but having no known administrative status)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT</td>
<td>point (minor projection of land, or its extremity, into a waterbody)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RDGE</td>
<td>ridge (elongated, relatively narrow relief feature with a more or less continuous crest)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RESF</td>
<td>forest reserve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RF</td>
<td>reef(s) (offshore consolidated rock hazard to navigation with a least depth of twenty meters, or ten fathoms, or less)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RGN</td>
<td>region (large area recognized as an entity by reason of the unity of its history, people, landscape, or other condition or combination of conditions)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RKSW</td>
<td>rocks in water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RKW</td>
<td>rock in water (individual rock of such character and importance as to be identified by name, situated either above or below the surface of a body of water; often associated with reefs but separately named)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RPDS</td>
<td>rapids (may include some waterfalls not distinguished from rapids)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RSTN  railroad station (building used for the transaction of railroad business, located beside a railroad track at a point where trains regularly stop to take on and discharge passengers or freight)

RSTP  railroad stop (place without a station building where trains stop for passengers or freight)

RSTQ  abandoned railroad station

RSV  reservoir (large artificially impounded body of water)

SEA  sea

SEAX  section of sea (i.e., Dangerous Ground in the South China Sea)

SHOL  shoal(s) (offshore hazard to navigation with a least depth of twenty meters, or ten fathoms, or less, composed of unconsolidated material)

SMT  seamount (elevation rising 1,000 meters, or 500 fathoms, or more from the sea floor, and of limited extent across the summit)

SPUR  spur (short sloping ridge extending laterally from a mountain or other elevation)

STM  stream (river or other running fresh waterbody, perennial in all or a part of its course)

STMA  anabranch (lesser stream that leaves the main stream and rejoins it after following a separate course for a considerable distance)

STMD  distributary (secondary watercourse carrying part of the drainage of a larger stream into another waterbody; characteristic of deltas)

STMI  intermittent stream (stream, no part of which is indicated as perennial)

STMM  stream mouth

STMX  section of stream (separately named part of a stream, not delimited by significant confluences)

TMPL  temple

TMT  tablemount (seamount having a comparatively smooth flat top)

TNLR  railroad tunnel

TRGU  trough (long depression of the sea floor, normally wider and shallower than a trench)

WTCD  deltaic watercourse (lesser watercourse connecting distributaries or other drainage features on a delta)

Latitude and longitude.—Coordinates, in the third and fourth columns, are for finding purposes only. They were generally read to the nearest minute. For precise location, large-scale maps should be used. Coordinates were read at the map symbol for populated places and other entities occupying limited sites, at the mouths or lower ends of streams, at the summits of mountains and hills, at the extremities of capes and points, near the center of areas, and at the midpoints of most other features.

Coordinates on some maps are expressed in grads with longitude based on Paris rather than on degrees and minutes with longitude based on Greenwich. To convert grads into degrees and minutes, multiply by .9 and convert hundredths of degrees to minutes. Add 2°20' to convert Paris longitude to Greenwich longitude. To convert degrees and minutes into grads, change minutes to hundredths of degrees and multiply by 1.11. In the case of longitude based on Greenwich, first convert to the meridian of Paris by subtracting 2°20'.

Area number.—The number in the fifth column indicates the first-order administrative unit in which the place or feature is located, as listed below.

South Vietnam is divided into 55 first-order administrative divisions, eleven of which (Cam Ranh, Cần Thơ, Đà Lạt, Đà Nẵng, Huế, Mỹ Tho, Nha Trang, Qui Nhơn, Rach Giá, Sài Gòn, and Vũng Tàu) are essentially urban in character. For convenience of reference, the eleven urban divisions are combined with the rural divisions in which they are geographically located (see numbers 465.42, 465.05, 465.32, 465.46, 465.47, 465.11, 465.42, 465.44, 465.04, 465.14, and 465.16, respectively). The general number for South Vietnam (465.00) is used for international features and for features common to two or more subordinate units. The number 913.60 identifies features located in the South China Sea.

The following are approved names for certain of the above named first-order administrative divisions which
were created so recently as to preclude inclusion in the body of this gazetteer:

Cần Thơ, Thị Xã ........................ ADMD 10°02'N 105°47'E 465.05
Mỹ Tho, Thị Xã ........................ ADMD 10°21'N 106°21'E 465.11
Nha Trang, Thị Xã ....................... ADMD 12°15'N 109°11'E 465.42
Qui Nhơn, Thị Xã ........................ ADMD 13°46'N 109°14'E 465.44
Rạch Giá, Thị Xã ........................ ADMD 10°01'N 105°05'E 465.04

465.00 Vietnam (General)
465.01 Bạc Liêu
465.02 An Xuyên
465.03 Ba Xuyên
465.04 Kiên Giang (includes
    Đảo Phú Quốc)
        and Rach Giá
    465.05 Phong Dinh and
        Cần Thơ
465.06 Vĩnh Bình
465.07 An Giang
465.08 Vĩnh Long
465.09 Kiến Hòa
465.10 Kiến Phong
465.11 Định Trường and
        Mỹ Tho
465.12 Kiến Trường
465.13 Long An
465.14 Gia Định and Sài
    Gòn (includes
    Côn Sơn)
465.15 Biên Hòa
465.16 Phước Tuy and
        Vũng Tàu
465.17 Tây Ninh
465.18 Bình Dương
465.19 Chuong Hiện
465.20 Long Khánh
465.21 Bình Tuy
465.22 Bình Long
465.23 Phước Long
465.24 Sa Đéc
465.25 Châu Đốc
465.26 Gò Công

Glossary of generic terms.—The following terms occur in
the standard names listed in the gazetteer. The meanings
given include those supported by application to features
named in the gazetteer, whether or not these meanings are
given in dictionaries. Entries marked Cam, Ch, Fr, L, M,
and UKh are of Cambodian, Cham, French, Lao, Malay,
and Upland Khmer origin, respectively. The terms Cham,
Lao, and Upland Khmer refer to related groups of languages
and dialects, rather than to single languages. Terms not
identified are Vietnamese.

ao ....................... bay
bái ........................ beach, floodplain
baie (Fr) ................... bay
banc (Fr) .............. shoal, marine bank
bán đảo .............. peninsula
barre (Fr) ............ sandbar
bài ......................... pond, intermittent pond, lagoon,
        marsh, lake(s)
bến ....................... bay
benom (UKh) ........ mountain
biên ........................ lake
b'nom, b'nom,
    b'nöm (UKh) .... mountain(s), hill, peak, lake
bol (UKh) .............. mountain, ridge, peak
bonom (UKh) ........ mountain
bung (Cam) ............. lake, stream
cao nguyên ............. plateau, mountain
cap (Fr) ............... cape, mountain
chaine (Fr) .......... mountain range
chi (Ch) ............ mountain, hill, spur
chợp ................... hill
chùa (Ch) ............... pagoda
chur (Ch) ............. marsh
co, coc (UKh) ........ mountain, peak
col (Fr) .............. pass
côn ..................... island
c vợ (Ch) mountain, hill, peak, spur
c International stream mouth, entrance, marine channel, bay
c núi (UKh) island
da (UKh) stream, intermittent stream
dã mountain, peak
dã, dak, dak (UKh) stream, intermittent stream, stream section
dầm cove, bay, section of a lagoon, lagoon, lake
dãn (UKh) mountain, ridge
dạng, dạng, dàng (UKh) hill, mountain
dảo island
dar (UKh) stream
dày, dãi núi hills, mountains, mountain range
dẹo pass
dien temple
dinh dien agricultural station, agricultural estate
dồn fort, military post
dồn dien plantation
dông, dòng, dòng (UKh) hill, mountain, peak, ridge
dông marsh, plain
dòng bang plain
dỡ thành first-order administrative division
dường stream
ea (Ch) stream, intermittent stream, stream section, anabranch, lake, intermittent lake
gà point, cape, rock in water, mountain
guông irrigation canal, stream
ngã irrigation canal, stream
ngọc, ngok (UKh) peak, mountain, hill, ridge
ngông tròng agricultural village
nơ (UKh) mountain
nội hill, mountain, peak, ridge
nước stream
o (Cam) stream
passe (Fr) marine channel
phá lagoon
phnom (Cam) hill, mountain
phou (L) mountain
pointe (Fr) point
poulo (M) island(s)
prék (Cam) stream, intermittent stream
prey (Cam) forest
Reporting of errors

It is requested that all who use this gazetteer aid in its correction for future printings by reporting errors to the Board on Geographic Names, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240. A statement of the source of the correct information will be helpful.

Geographic names or their spellings do not necessarily reflect recognition of the political status of an area by the United States Government.