

Plush Officers' Club in S. Vietnam

By Jack Anderson

The private contractors who are building the huge U.S. military complex in South Vietnam are adding a few extra touches that the taxpayers haven't been told about.

At Camranh Bay, for example, Vietnam Builders, a subsidiary of Morrison-Knudsen, Inc., has fashioned a former French villa into the fanciest officers' club in the Far East. The cost was merely added to the military construction charges at Camranh Bay.

The Neptune Officers' Club, as it is called, overlooks the sea. Vietnam Builders has rewired the whole villa, installed air conditioners, replaced the plumbing, added a sophisticated drainage and seepage system, refurbished the kitchen, installed showers for bathers, built a stairwell, and opened up a roof garden for dancing.

A portion of the former servants' quarters has been turned over, rent free, to the company's construction chief, who put his crews to work creating a plush apartment for himself.

The labor was charged to the Navy, the materials taken

from those programmed for military construction.

Note: The long brass rail on which the officers prop their feet at the Cockpit Club in Nhatrang was also donated by Vietnam Builders. Incidentally, M/Sgt. Donald Duncan, who sounded off against the Special Forces in Ramparts Magazine, has revealed that several officers and GIs, who can get out of the Army, are signing up with Morrison-Knudsen at inflated salaries.



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