

Tourane



Photos from David Boltz via Warren Thompson

This exchange of aircraft took place at a time when most Americans would have been hard-pressed to find French Indochina on a globe. In late 1953, 3d Bomb Wing B-26s, rendered surplus by the Korean War armistice, were stripped of their USAF markings and flown to a small airfield at Tourane (seen in aerial view at top), in the Anam region of French Indochina. The French military accepted the aircraft
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at this austere airstrip. A very different base at this site would become familiar to hundreds of thousands of US servicemen as Da Nang AB, South Vietnam, during the long conflict that followed.