

AMERICAN FORCES



VIETNAM NETWORK

— NEWSLETTER —

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MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

In my last message to you I said I would report on the Army OCINFO Armed Forces Radio and Television Conference that was held in Washington, D.C. The main topic under discussion was the automation study, a study to determine the feasibility of using automated programming equipment in the AM Radio outlets and networks within AFRT worldwide. This is not to be confused with the FM stereo automated programming systems currently being installed in Saigon and Da Nang. During the orientation phase of this study which had already taken place (1968), automated commercial AAM radio stations and equipment manufacturers in the U.S. were visited and TDY trips were made to different overseas commands. As a result of these visits and trips the following standards were worked up.

a. AFRTS-LA would furnish 80 hours of 4 track stereo at 1.7/8 ips with one change or addition to the basic 80 hours furnished each week. This would be scheduled locally with full flexibility because of a random select capability being built into the equipment.

b Musical selection would number 1920 selections with a random select ability of any combination of eight tape decks each having 240 songs per tape within four broad categories of music, i.e., Top 100's, Pops, Country and Western and Middle of the Road.

c. The system will also have tape decks to take care of command and local programs and will utilize the standard machines now within AFRT. For command and locally produced spot announcements, three carousel cartridge machines will be employed. Each carousel will accommodate 24 cartridges for a total of 72 with a random select capability for programming use. For a network HQ station the total configuration consist of 18 equipments: 12 special tape decks, three standard tape decks, three carousel cartridge machines and control units. An affiliate station would have one special tape deck and three carousel cartridge machines and be capable of doing local news, weather, special events, and operating unattended.

d. DoD has projected a savings of 402 personnel (all services) worldwide and a saving of four million dollars if the system is implemented, eight of which will be in Vietnam. The system test will be conducted in the American Forces Network, Europe starting next month. (A saving of 79 Army spaces is predicted there.) International Good Music Corporation (IBM) is the only manufacturer that bid to do the test. However, if the test is successful, equipment procurement will be accomplished on a sealed bid basis invitation to hide to offered to other manufacturers of AM automated programming equipment.

During the conference Department of the Army awards were presented by BrigGen. Robert E. Smith, Deputy CINFO, DA, for excellence in local production of radio and television programs. I am pleased to report that AFVN won the award for the outstanding television program for 1968 with a documentary titled "The Counterpart".

This program was prepared to enlighten the average serviceman about the role of the U.S. Army advisor to AFVN forces within the Republic. MSgt. (E-8) Wayne M. Matheson, USMC (former NCOIC of AFVN News and currently serving in the Informational Services Office of the Marine Corps Recruiting Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina, was Executive Producer. Co-writer/ Producer were MSgt (ER-7) Dave McElroy, USAF, and JO1 (E-6) William R. Wilson, USN. The director was SP5 Joe J. Piech. Narration was by SSG (E-6) Ronald L. Nettleson. USA, PH1 (E-6) Tony Antoine, USN, and PH2 (E-5) Bud Hudgins, USN, were photographers and Hudgins also served as film editor. SSG (E-6) Bob Cordell, USA, operated the VTR. SP5 Jeff Russell, USA, and SP4 Mike Soares did lighting. SP4 Bruce Covington, USA, provided the graphics. SP4 Larry Green, USA, is credited with audio effects. SP4 Halperin, USA, was on camera along with SP5 Russell. Audio operator was SP4 Soares. All concerned are to be commended for the role they played in producing this award winner.

General Creighton W. Abrams, COMUSMACV, learned of the award by letter from General Haines, Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Army Pacific. An extract of COMUSMACV's letter to me follows: "Please extend to all your network staff my congratulations on your outstanding achievement and, on behalf of the command, my appreciation for a job well done. Keep up the fine work."

AFVN also had a radio entry in the contest titled "The Flower Children". This documentary received honorable mention.

Another conference agenda topic was color television for AFRT. Mr. Eugene Eldredge, Director of Special Missions, Sacramento Army Depot, talked on this topic and a discussion followed on the feasibility and practicability of color television for AFRT. I think its safe to say that for the next couple of years AFRT will remain monochrome.

So much for the conference. Maintenance continues to be an area that needs the attention of all personnel. Based upon the condition of equipment received for repair and/or turn-in, it is evident that in some detachments

maintenance is not to the standards set forth in the engineering SOP. This matter demands the immediate and continuing supervision by detachment OIC's and NCO's. A good preventive maintenance program starts with cleanliness. This one step alone will reduce the amount of down time on transmitters due to failure of components.

NETWORK NEWS BRANCH

Network News is now receiving VTR's the the CBS Evening News plus the afternoon feeds from CBS. Portions of these will be put on VTR's and/or kines and sent to all detachments for use by their news departments. This will allow all stations to increase the scope of their news coverage. The VTR's received from AFRTS-LA are three to four days behind, but sill more timely and complete than the news film.

Weekly newfilm usage reports have started to seep in from the various detachments. These are extremely valuable to us and should be included in each weekly OIC report. If you need more of the report forms, let us know and they will be provided.

One thing that has not made its requested appearance is the twice-monthly newscast air check on either audio or video tape. Da Nang is still the only station that has responded and even they are currently running behind.

Network News Service has been sending out some kines on reels rather than just cores. We need the reels and cans back.

For the remainder of the 1969 baseball season we will be broadcasting a baseball game each Sunday and Monday from 1:05 p.m. until 3:10 p.m. Subject, of course, to cancellation by rain.

Also from Sports, SP5 Preston Cluff, USA, is currently in the States on extension leave for 30 days. While there, he will be mailing back taped interviews with the Boston Red Sox, Yankees, Tigers and possibly the Celtics and Bruins.

Detachment OIC's are requested to submit their 90-daty Projection for photographic supplies. The cover letter and form either should have arrived at each detachment by now or will arrive shortly. This is a must item in order to keep all detachments adequately supplied.

Newest addition to the Network News Branch is Marine LCpl Rick Fredericksen. He arrived at AFVN on March 21 from Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point, N.C. He is a graduate of BSC-8 (April 1968) and is working both radio and TV news.

As a reminder and possible aid to all detachments, the schedule of AFVN Radio Newscasts is as follows:
Weekdays—Five minutes of new every hour on the hour 24 hours a day with the following exceptions: 3 a.m.—10 news, 5 sports 3 p.m.—5 news, 5 sports

NETWORK ADMIN

There are several items of importance to the individual that will be covered in this issue of the newsletter, and they are:

1. Awards and Decorations: On recent occasions, recommendations for awards have arrived at Network Headquarters after the individual concerned had already departed. A lead time of 60 days is needed to ensure that awards are received in sufficient time to permit presentation to the individual prior to departure. In the event an individual is not recommended for an award, a negative report is desired with reasons for non-recommendation.

2. Enlisted Promotions (Army): Recent queries from sections and detachments revealed a lack of information with regard to action taken after an individual appears before a selection board. Depending on an individual's standing, one of three actions are taken. They are (1) promoted against current month quota; (2) held for promotion against subsequent quotas; (3) rejected and this headquarters notified of the weaknesses of the individual with instructions to counsel him in those areas.

3. R&R: a. We are experiencing many disapprovals of R&R requests. In many instances, disapprovals are the direct result of individuals limiting their requests to one choice. An individual that limits his request to one month and the request is disapproved; it is then too late to submit a request for the next month. Therefore, unless there is a definite reason for limiting a request to one area, one month, or one period during the month, the individual should indicate as wide a range of choice as possible. For information purposes, the present time in country requirement for Hawaii is 9 to 10 months and 10 months for Australia. This is subject to change, however.

b. We are also experience many cancellations and resubmissions which indicate a lack of firm planning or lack of true intention of some individuals to take R&R. This causes additional work load on all concerned, particularly the R&R Processing office at MACV, and often jeopardizes the chances of other individuals of being selected for R&R.

4. Personnel Visiting Saigon: Detachment personnel visiting Saigon will check in with admin upon arrival and departure.

5. Mail: Official or personal mail received at detachments that is obviously intended for another detachment will be forwarded direct to the detachment concerned. APO's of detachments are listed below: Detachment 1-96238; Detachment 2-96337; Detachment 3-96278; Detachment 4 (Det Hq & TV)-96240; Detachment 4 (Radio)-906205; Detachment 5-96477; Detachment 6-96316; Detachment 7-96235; and Cat Lo (commonly known as Det 8)-FPO 96622.

NETWORK SUPPLY

The first quarter of 1969 reflected the following status of request covering AFVN activities and our requisitions to higher sources of supply:

Requests received	1128
Requests filled	703
Requests outstanding	425
Requests forwarded	1312
Requisitions filled	467
Requisitions due out	846

"Help us to help you." Do not make any marks or entries on your record copy of the hand receipt. A work copy is provided for your use to make notations on, prior to signing the record copies. When requesting spare parts order only one item per DA form 2765-1, and whenever possible indicate the Sacramento Army Depot stock number, manufacturer's part number, price and the make and model of the equipment of the parts are ordered for. On parts with no Sacramento stock number all possible information should be provided to include catalog, date, and page the item was taken from.

The Network Supply officer is presently visiting each detachment and instructing each in the procedures to be followed in establishing a standard spare parts supply system. This spare parts system will be the only accepted procedure to be used by all AFVN detachments. This system is established by Section VI, AR735-35, as changed.

"THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH"--PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE IS EVERYONES JOB

DETACHMENT 3

A historic first for the central highlands of Vietnam came as Det 3 premiered their new FM radio facility on April 1. It seems that one day in late February, the detachment OIC, 1stLt. H.S. Cutlip looked to the sky and said, "Let there be FM." Not waiting for heavenly miracles, though, Lt. Cutlip met a five-week deadline for having the first FM signal on the air. April 1 was the day he set, and after five weeks of overcoming supply problems, late hour, and blisters, there suddenly appeared, out of the great mound of the notorious Pleiku dust, a completed, modern, FM radio facility. And, out of seemingly nowhere, a tower appeared and was erected (after midnight) by the men of Det 3. True to his word, Lt. Cutlip met the deadline. LtCol. Rolya, commanding officer of the 124th Signal Battalion, 4th Infantry Division, at the stroke of non, April 1, cut the ribbon that officially opened the FM studios, and pushed the button that sent out the first FM signal. Det 3 presently offers an 18-hour-a-day FM format.

Soon to join the FM facility on Dragon Mountain is the AM radio facility. Construction is underway for new quarters to house the AM announcer, and the AM studios are almost completed. The projected date for the AM move from their present site at 4th Division to Dragon Mountain is April 25.

AFVN Det 3 hosted the 4th Infantry Division assistant commanding general, BrigGen. Fredereick Schaefer III to a briefing and tour of the

Dragon Mountain radio and Television site recently. Generally (no pun intended) impressed by the modern facilities of the detachment, General Schaefer was thrilled at watching himself on VTR. Without his knowledge, he had been taped during an information coffee-social in the station's studios.

Along toward midnight one night one of the Dragon Mountain's sentries approached a paint-smearred, grubby figure working on the Det 3 studios, and said "Man, your OIC must be a real S.O.B., making you work after dark like this" The paint-covered man thought better of painting the face of the sentry along with the wall, and merely grunted an acknowledgement. Little did the sentry know he was addressing the OIC himself.

To enhance its already good standing with area commands, Det 3 will set aside one day each month for Open House to invited guests. Invitations will be sent to commanding officers, sergeants major, and first sergeants of all company-sized and larger organizations. This program will be set up on a rotating basis, until all units have been invited. Activities included in the Open House will include a briefing on operations, a tour of the facilities, and an informal coffee-klatch discussion with the production staff.

DETACHMENT 4

There's a new sound in the afternoon airwaves over Nha Trang and Cam Ranh Bay. It's the up tempo easy listening of "Sound Stage Four" on FM radio. The dhow's host, Air Forces SSG Ed Hemnes is also the new program director for the FM station.

Speaking of program directors, we take his opportunity to welcome Army SSG Pat Daigle to Det 4 and Hon Tre Island. As the new TV PD he'll be taking charge of the production team and we'll all be looking forward to big things from that department, especially when the new studio is completed.

RADIO ENGINNERING

Another radio station came under the control and management of AFVN. It being the 250 watts at Chu Lai. AFVN technicians are now on site, and have assumed responsibilities. Future plans are to replace the 250 watts with a one kilowatt which is no being rehabilitated. No data has been set for this action.

An attempt was made to replace the ground system at Cat Lo. There were 120 radials laid which greatly improved the effectiveness of the 50 kilowatt transmitter. Unfortunately the area isn't secure against theft and therefore we continue to operate with a partial ground system.

Our automated stereo system is continuing to progress at a normal pace. All equipment, excluding tapes are on hand and continue to be testes. Implementation of this system will depend upon the arrival of pre-packaged stereo tapes from AFRS in Los Angeles.

For months the Saigon station has been experienced a little creature known as R.F. in all production studios. The R.F. comes from the 100,000 watts of FM power being radiated in Saigon. To alleviate this problem, Studio A was completely revamped. Both manufacturer's and in-house modifications were used to snuff it out. Remaining studios are scheduled to undergo the same operation in the near future.

There has been a slight change on the operations check-in-time for the KWM2. It is requested that all stations enter the net at 9:30 a.m. daily. Maximum traffic should follow immediately after all stations have established contact with net control.

Click on your browser's "Back Arrow" to return to the Web page.