

STATEMENT OF GUNNERY SERGEANT FRANK H. ALMEIDA, 604968, USMC

On 25 February 1968, Sergeant Robert G. Neely, and myself, departed Danang for Hue. The purpose of this trip was to recover and relocate Detachment #5, as per network instructions, from Hue to the Phu Bai area.

Arriving in Hue on the afternoon of 26 Feb 1968, we immediately proceeded to the MACV compound where we contacted Capt. Russell and CWO Howard, of advisory team #3. Accompanied by CWO Howard, we proceeded to the site of Det. #5 and the GVN station.

Upon our arrival there, we discovered that the television van was still intact and locked as was the case during Sgt. Neely and GySgt. Dylewsky's previous visit. However, the CONEX had been broken into since he had secured it on the first trip and those articles of equipment both he and Sgt. Neely had attempted to salvage were missing, as were other items of GVN equipment previously there.

The PRU's assigned the responsibility of security have made themselves at home within the confines of the GVN building. From all appearances, they have helped themselves to whatever items of equipment, both that belonging to GVN and to that belonging to Det. #5, that was easily transportable.

Commencing 27 Feb 1968, with the help of CWO Howard, we started recovering all of the remaining equipment belonging to Det. #5. All of the film was placed inside the van, along with all Electrical Transcriptions, a television camera, an oscilloscope, a signal generator and a field intensity meter, plus various other items found in their working space which were still serviceable. A considerable number of tubes and component parts were destroyed or made unusable by parties unknown.

After completing our recovery of Det. #5 equipment, we attempted to salvage what we could of the GVN gear and made an effort to secure it in the GVN building. We gathered all the gear we could and put it in an upstairs bedroom and bathroom area. We secured these areas as best we could. There is, of course, no guarantee they'll be safe. By the next morning we discov-



ered that the area had already been pillaged overnight.

On the morning of 28 Feb 1968, I was told by the OIC, Detachment #2, that a Vietnamese major was enroute to Hue to assume the responsibility for all GVN gear. Prior to our departure the next day, we did not see any such individual. Furthermore, I contacted CORDS officials at Hue and informed them of the current state of the GVN station and associated equipment. Little interest was shown by them.

During my conversation with OIC, Detachment #2, I requested assistance from Danang insofar as to where we could obtain a tractor and 6X6 after all resources in the Hue area had been exhausted. He suggested I contact a Colonel Donahoe at MACV-Forward at Phu Bai.

This was accomplished. On the morning of 29 Feb 1968, a tractor and 6X6 arrived on the morning convoy and we commenced backloading the gear. We were able to obtain a forklift from the USN LCU ramp at Hue to load the CONEX aboard the truck. We were unable to remove the three sections of antenna still located on the ground at Hue due to space limitations.

Prior to departing the area, I revisited the living quarters of the Det. #5 personnel. There I discovered Sgt. Young's health records, his shot card, and a check payable to SFC Anderson. These were turned over to OIC, Detachment #2, upon my return.

Upon our arrival at Phu Bai, I turned over the equipment, consisting of the television van, a 45KW portable generator and the CONEX, to SK1 Jones and SSgt. Miller. They were to inventory what we had been able to salvage.

Sgt. Neely and I departed for Danang on the afternoon of 29 Feb 1968.

It is worthy to note, without the able assistance of CWO Howard and the personnel dispatched from Phu Bai to transport the equipment south, we could not have been successful.

Respectfully submitted,

*Frank H. Almeida*  
FRANK H. ALMEIDA  
GySgt. USMC