

Article from the Stars and Stripes

Discussing the Top 40 lists used by AFVN

Featuring Garry Lyon, SFC, USA 1970-71

AFVN NCO: We Abide by FCC Rule

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SAIGON — A Federal Communications Commission (FCC) ruling that broadcasters can be held responsible for playing records which "promote or glorify the use of illegal drugs" does not directly affect the Armed Forces Vietnam Network, said Sgt. 1.C. Garry Lyon, program director in **SAIGON**.

"Our policy is to abide by the FCC rulings even though they do not have jurisdiction over us since we broadcast outside the United States," Lyon said.

(Meanwhile, in Washington, John C. Broger, director of the Office of Information for the Armed Forces, said the new FCC ruling should have no effect on the Armed Forces Radio and Television Service. They have been exercising "extreme care" on the music that goes on the air for years.

(Records which have a double meaning and could be construed to favor or promote illegal drug use are not among the most popular in the broadcast industry, he and other AFRTS officials said.

(AFRTS has 361 radio and 44 television stations world-wide.)

Lyon said, "We haven't done much screening of the records we play and I doubt that we'll do much more now."

AFVN receives its recorded music from the Armed Forces Radio and Television Service in Los Angeles. AFRTS, which is monitored by the Department of Defense, does all the negotiating and procuring of material used by **AFVN**, Lyon said.

"We get almost everything that is available in the states," he said, "concentrating on material which is most popular."

"Our AM radio programming is primarily from the **top 40 chart** so the music we play on the air is dictated by what's a the **top** back home," he said.

"Most of the songs the FCC was concerned about are underground music," Lyon said, "which we have no access to."

"I don't know if AFRTS tries to interpret the lyrics of the songs it procures or not," he said. "I would think they might, especially considering the ruling.

"If we receive a song from Los Angeles and it's popular and in good taste," he said, "we'll play it."

Lyon said **AFVN** subscribes to the National Association of Broadcasters code of good conduct.

"We're not prudes down here," Lyon said. "We play music with some profanity in it. But we eliminate those with an excessive amount. It's a matter of good taste, not so much of censorship."