

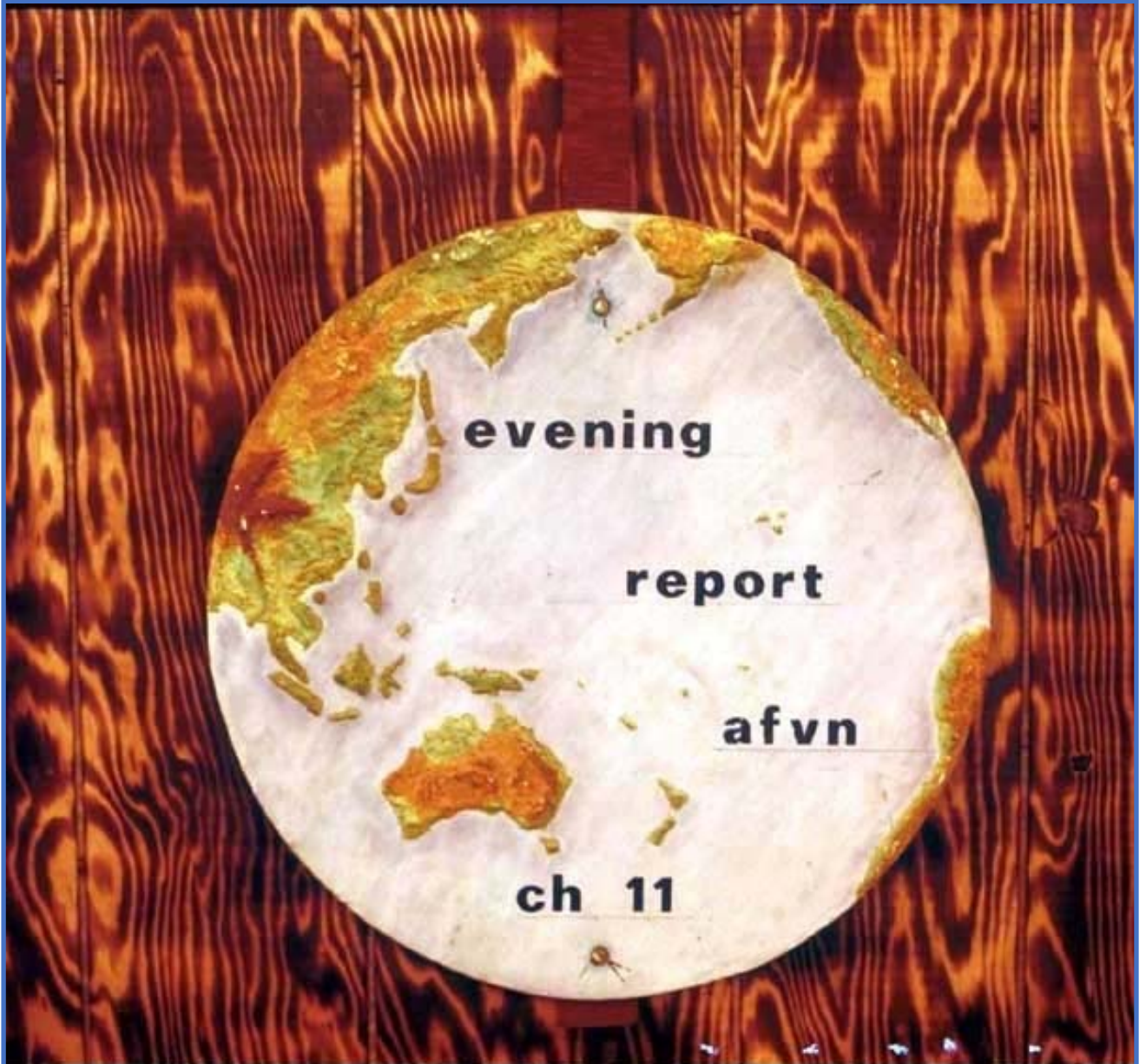
# AFVN Photos

*TV Production, etc.*

Louis A. "Lou" Waters, SP5, USA  
Saigon / Pleiku 1968-69



SP5 Richard Brooks, USA, was from New York and a member of the news team. Here he is getting ready to go on the air.



This was the evening news backdrop. The stylish wood finish was created by scorching it with a blow torch and then adding a coat of varnish.



The TV antenna was approximately 110 feet tall and had a big red light on it. Both the pilots and the VC appreciated it. The VC used it as a point of reference for shooting rockets and mortars, a “comforting thought” for those who lived near its base.



The twin FM antennas at the Base Camp were set outside the perimeter and these, like the TV antenna, had a lot of lights on them. Whenever the VC attacked the base camp they got shot up pretty bad. We also had to shut down the station while they reset the mines. All the wiring for the mines had to be run in conduit because the power from the station would cause them to go off. It was said that these towers generated the strongest signal in S.E. Asia from our 50,000 watt AM station. We also had a 10,000 watt we used as a backup.



When Lou wasn't running the control board for the news he would help out by running one of the cameras.



The TV  
Control Room  
in the TV  
Van.

To the left was a small announcer's booth and to the right was the film chain, including a slide projector and two 16mm projectors. Further to the right was the transmitter.



The outside of the “homemade” Detachment workshop.  
Note sandbag wall next to it.





This is the little workshop the engineers used to fix whatever happened to break. The equipment was very reliable and most of the maintenance was actually more preventative than remedial.

The Detachment had two 100 KW generators and they were always going down for some reason or another.

The AM site had 3,500 KW generators which were really huge.



These are the tape recorders in the AM radio station. You can see the red "ON AIR" sign and door to the control room on the right.



This was the TV van on Dragon Mountain as it appeared from the time it was installed until the Detachment was ordered to paint it white. The story goes that the original specifications called for the van to be white to reduce heat buildup. The Detachment fought this logic as long as possible but it was ordered to paint it white anyway. As a result we had a big white van right under the big red lights on the TV tower. Most of the men were not pleased with this situation.

*The End*