

Some of the AFRS staff in 1965



Above: Airman Adrian (Ade) Cronauer.

This is the only photo I have of Ade and I took it when we worked together on a brief, 10 minute special program on the history of Veterans Day. Ade and I shared the narration and writing. He helped select the music and did almost all of the editing. Ade is very talented and especially good at editing.

When the program aired on the "11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month", the station received a phone call from one of General Westmoreland's Aides. He said the General heard the program, really liked it, and requested that we broadcast it again later in the day. Needless to say, the General got his wish.

Ade came to Vietnam directly from an Air Force radio/TV station in Iraklion, Crete. He took over the "Dawnbuster" program but was always involved with additional projects.

In the 1990's, after retiring from the Army, I lived in the Washington, D.C. area and we reconnected. By that time the "Good Morning Vietnam" movie had given him some fame and he was an attorney, specializing in Communications law and FCC related cases. He and his wife joined Scooter and me for dinner on several occasions and we caught up on our lives in the years since '65.

He had some really funny stories about how his original script for the movie changed so much during the process from outline to finished film. He said that Robin Williams was so funny and such a good "ad libber" some of his original script was just left out to make time for Robin's flights of fantasy. Ade is a practical type and made a smart choice when he took the money he received for the movie and used it to pay his tuition through law school. Ade worked for a number years at a radio/TV station in Southern, Virginia – I think the Roanoke area. Although we have lost contact again, I believe that Ade retired to that area.