

## CHAPTER III

### AMERICAN FORCES RADIO AND TELEVISION IN VIETNAM

#### Armed Forces Radio, Saigon: August, 1962-August, 1964

Prologue.--On July 6, 1962, an American military advisor, in a remote hamlet of South Vietnam, may have turned on his radio to the sounds of an inept jazz band and awaited intently for an announcer to identify the relatively clear signal. To his surprise the voice heard was that of a woman, speaking in English, to him and 6,000 other U. S. servicemen far from home.<sup>1</sup>

On that hot, humid day, in the tradition of Tokyo Rose and Axis Sally of World War II, Radio Hanoi began beaming programs to the men of the recently designated U. S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV).

Forty days later, equally hot and humid, the woman's voice would reach many ears, but they would not understand; and the American military advisor would not listen--American Forces Radio, Saigon had taken to the air.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>By June 30, 1962, there were 5,576 U.S. servicemen in South Vietnam. See, Neil Sheeham, comp., The Pentagon Papers (New York: Bantam Books, Inc., 1971), p. 110. (Hereinafter cited as Sheeham, Pentagon Papers.)

<sup>2</sup>The date and description of programming of a North

First AFRT outlet in Vietnam.--Earlier, in that same year, General Paul D. Harkins, first Commander of MACV, had recognized the need for an information and entertainment medium for his rapidly growing complement of advisors, and directed his Chief of Communications (J-6, Signal) to look into the matter.<sup>3</sup>

Prior to the formal beginning of American Forces Radio and Television (AFRT) service in Vietnam, there is also evidence of an uncoordinated, spontaneous effort underway among American servicemen to provide some form of home-style radio entertainment for themselves. This movement does not appear to have been confined to the Saigon area,

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Vietnamese radio station which began broadcasting in English to U. S. troops in Vietnam is recorded in New York Times, July 7, 1962, p. 2. In the years to follow, Radio Hanoi would attempt to taunt U. S. servicemen with "strictly business" programs, the nature of which would only be recalled for their novelty, fiction, and "fishy fact." See New York Times, April 9, 1965, p. 11; and Stars and Stripes (Pacific), January 6, 1966, p. 2. In interviews with Colonel James E. Adams, USA, former OIC, AFVN, January 25, 1972; Commander James E. Wentz, USN, former Director of Radio, AFVN, January 19, 1972; SSgt Nick Palladino, USA, former newsman, AFVN, January 21, 1972; the writer determined that Radio Hanoi was never in contention for AFVN's audience, once the network located an outlet in an area possibly covered by the North Vietnam-originated signal.

<sup>3</sup>"Narrative of AFRTS, Vietnam," unpublished. (Apparent rough draft, listing of historical events), an enclosure to letter from Lt. Col. Laurence W. Souville, USA, OIC, AFVN, Saigon, Republic of Vietnam, January 22, 1972, p. 1; following page 2 of work, all entries by number. (Hereinafter cited as OIC, AFVN 'Narrative.') Source is presumably historical record of tasks performed, required of U. S. military units depending on size and mission. The author assumes all entries to be factual.

but occurred in many places where troops and advisors were stationed.<sup>4</sup>

Their efforts and that of General Harkins came to fruition at 0600 hours on August 15, 1962, when Armed Forces Radio, Saigon began broadcasting from studios located in the Rex Hotel, 145-147 Nguyen Hue, Saigon, Republic of Vietnam. The General's comments on the formal opening, highlighted the purpose of AFRTS facilities throughout the world:

'When the Armed Forces Radio Service was created in 1942, it was a boon to the morale of our fighting men in World War II. Today, many American servicemen are again far from their homes and families in many locations throughout the world. The need for Armed Forces Radio therefore continues and is perhaps even more important in light of the complexities of today's world.

'That Armed Forces Radio, Saigon, is on the air today is a tribute to the fine work and splendid cooperation of many agencies and individuals, both Vietnamese and American. It is tangible evidence of the teamwork which characterizes our joint effort here. My personal thanks and gratitude go to all whose efforts have helped to establish this station.

'It is my sincere wish that AFRS Saigon will uphold and enhance the outstanding reputation which the Armed Forces Radio Service enjoys throughout the world and that it will be a most successful medium of information, education and entertainment.<sup>5</sup>

Description of facilities.--In the beginning, almost all audio, transmitter, and related equipment for the station was informally requisitioned from various U. S. and

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<sup>4</sup>Ibid.

<sup>5</sup>"American Forces Vietnam Network: Fact Sheet," U. S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (USMACV), published for press release, July 1, 1967 p 1. (Hereinafter cited as MACV, "AFVN: Fact Sheet.")

Vietnamese military and civilian agencies.<sup>6</sup> The Philippine Armed Forces Radio Service donated a World War II-vintage tactical transmitter and arrangements with the Government of Vietnam (GVN) permitted it to be located in the Vietnamese Army radio communication complex at Phu Tho, then isolated just outside Saigon. Permission was received from the GVN to utilize 820 kiloHertz in the capitol city and four other frequencies were assigned for use by proposed stations in other areas of the country.<sup>7</sup>

Spare parts and supplies were obtained from various military sources to support the jury-rigged facility. Operating eighteen hours a day, the station broadcast programs shipped from AFRTS-LA via the Philippines and produced local shows for the remainder of programming. The initial five-man crew was chosen on the basis of their dedication in building the station and all were attached to MACV.<sup>8</sup> Army First Lieutenant John R. Paull was placed in

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<sup>6</sup>Ibid.

<sup>7</sup>OIC, AFVN, "Narrative," p. 1.

<sup>8</sup>MACV, "AFVN: Fact Sheet," p. 1; also, discussions with several personnel of the Office of Information for the Armed Forces (IAF), indicated that U. S. Naval personnel dominated the staff of Radio Saigon; and interview with Major Ronald J. Carnahan, USA, assigned to IAF, December 8, 1971. (Hereinafter cited as Interview with Major Carnahan.) The writer's personal knowledge and experience with U. S. Navy operations in Vietnam would also hold this to be true. Early in America's involvement, the U. S. Naval Support Activity was responsible for messing and berthing of troops in the Saigon area. The head of the activity was affectionately known as the American Mayor of Saigon. The activity

charge of the permanent staff which was supplemented by several military and civilian volunteer announcers and newsmen.<sup>9</sup>

News programming.--The initial news offering on the station was restricted to that originating from AFRTS-LA and unfortunate propagation problems prevented the California-based Voice of America (VOA) shortwave signal from reaching Vietnam with anything approaching reliable reception. Again, facilities in the Philippines pitched in to help the fledgling station. The VOA station there dedicated transmitters between 3:00 P.M. and 5:00 P.M., Saigon time, to relay the AFRTS-LA news and feature programming.<sup>10</sup>

Plans for expansion.--As the U. S. presence in South Vietnam grew, so did Radio Saigon. In cooperation with the United States Operations Mission (USOM: State Department economic aid apparatus in Vietnam) an arrangement was made to exchange a 10 kilowatt transmitter for twenty-two "Provincial Radio Station" kits which USOM was preparing to

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later requested television for the city. All in-country U. S. forces are assigned to MACV.

<sup>9</sup>Stars and Stripes (Pacific), August 29, 1962, p. 6; also in, Ovid L. Bayless, "The American Forces Vietnam Network," Journal of Broadcasting, XIII (Spring, 1969), 145. (Hereinafter cited as Bayless, "AFVN.")

<sup>10</sup>OIC, AFVN, "Narrative," p. 1; also see, Chapter II, p. 14 and n. 17, p. 17, regarding VOA transmitters.

turn over to the Vietnamese. The small, 50-watt transmitters in the kits could be utilized to rebroadcast the Saigon-based programs throughout the Republic.<sup>11</sup> MACV, J-6 ordered the high power transmitter complete with antenna and all accessories which would subsequently be utilized by the GVN in Can Tho of the Delta region. By strategic placement of the repeating stations, the AFRT signal could be received by the majority of American troops.<sup>12</sup>

The Vietnamese audience.--While Armed Forces Radio, Saigon was busy programming to its primary and only intended audience, it unwittingly began to acquire a large, secondary audience among the Vietnamese. Evidence that this secondary audience was substantial came in the midst of the "twist" craze which was shaking the western world in the popular music of the young. In April, 1963, the Government of Vietnam, under Premier Ngo Dinh Diem--which had already suggested that Americans should observe the "morality laws," banning all dancing and singing of sad songs--apparently

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<sup>11</sup>OIC, AFVN, "Narrative," p. 1.

<sup>12</sup>Ibid., pp. 1-2.

<sup>13</sup>New York Times, April 2, 1963, p. 6.

however, in late 1968, a Vietnamese English newspaper article, in commenting tongue-in-cheek over a government official's consternation concerning an AFVN program, brought out a little known law, still in effect (if not in force) which forbade local nationals to listen to American radio broadcasts.<sup>14</sup>

By October, 1963, the number of American troops in South Vietnam had increased to 16,000.<sup>15</sup>

Two assassinations.--Air Force First Lieutenant Donald R. Kirtiky was in charge of Radio Saigon at the time of the Diem assassination on November 1, 1963.<sup>16</sup> An early listener recalled the Armed Forces radio station unintentionally publicized the military coup. The station broadcast instructions warning American personnel to stay in their quarters. The net effect of the mysterious announcements produced an outpouring of curious military and civilian personnel.<sup>17</sup>

Three weeks later, news of another Chief of State's assassination would stun the world. Perhaps nowhere outside the United States would the shock be more acute than

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<sup>14</sup>Interview with Randall J. Moody, former News Director, AFVN, January 19, 1972.

<sup>15</sup>Sheeham, Pentagon Papers, p. 81.

<sup>16</sup>Stars and Stripes (Pacific), September 8, 1963, p. 7.

<sup>17</sup>Interview with Marc Huet, Washington News Bureau Chief, Stars and Stripes (Pacific), January 18, 1972.

in south Vietnam. Due to the time difference, news of president John F. Kennedy's violent death and the immediate transfer of power to the new Commander-in-Chief would not reach most American servicemen in Vietnam until they awoke to the morning of November 23, 1963. Without Armed Forces Radio, Saigon, word that Lyndon B. Johnson was suddenly their President might have been disseminated much later.<sup>18</sup>

Improved facilities.--Problems in maintaining the station's "borrowed" equipment and the confined, make-shift studio in the Rex Hotel necessitated plans for the improvement of facilities in the Saigon area. Early in 1964, a more conventional (Bauer Manufacturing Co.) 1,000-watt transmitter was ordered to replace the antiquated installation at Phu Tho. On June 5, 1964, the Commander of the U. S. Naval Support Activity in Saigon formally requested a television outlet for U. S. servicemen in the city.<sup>19</sup>

On June 20, 1964, General William C. Westmoreland replaced General Harkins as Commander, U. S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV).<sup>20</sup>

By mid-August the new transmitter, acquired through appropriate procurement channels, had been installed,

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<sup>18</sup>Material acquired, regrettably, does not cover this important event and the role of AFVN is one of implication.

<sup>19</sup>Bayless, <sup>11</sup>"AFVN," pp. 145-146.

<sup>20</sup>Sheeham, Pentagon Papers, p. 63.



resulting in the significant improvement in both quality and signal strength; and Armed Forces Radio Saigon acquired a *more* country-wide character.<sup>21</sup>

Armed Forces Radio Service, Vietnam:  
September, 1964-January, 1966

New studios.--Coincident with the transmitter replacement, Armed Forces Radio Service (AFRS), Vietnam acquired new studio facilities in the Brink Bachelor Officers' Quarters (BOQ at 101 Hai Ba Trung, Saigon. The improved operating space could easily accommodate the increase in full-time personnel to eleven U. S. military and six Vietnamese civilian employees.<sup>22</sup>

FM transmitter acquired.--In September, a 50-watt Gates FM transmitter, complete with a two-bay FM antenna was acquired. The origin of this addition is somewhat of a mystery, and, in requesting a frequency assignment, AFRS, Vietnam was obliged to offer a suggestion. Since the crystals and antenna system were frequency sensitive, the obvious choice of the locked-in 99.9 megaHertz was mandatory if use were to be made of the equipment. The request was approved and FM programming in Vietnam began in October,

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<sup>21</sup>OIC, AFVN, "Narrative," p. 1.

<sup>22</sup>Ibid., p. 2.

providing limited, nonduplicating service four to six hours each evening.<sup>23</sup>

Coverage deficiencies.--On December 20, 1964, a small liaison team from AFRTS-LA arrived in the country to inspect the Vietnam facilities and to offer assistance as required. The forthcoming report to the Director of Armed Forces Information and Education, Department of Defense (DoD), gave the indication that the repeating stations were falling short of their intended utility:

AFRT broadcasts in Vietnam emanate from studio facilities in Saigon, and are rebroadcast by eleven relay outlets throughout the country. According to MACV estimates, 94% of the assigned and deployed U. S. military personnel in Vietnam are within range of radio broadcasts. The DoD team made personal observation at four of these outlets and found the coverage to be inadequate due to the technical impairment by equipment.

Overall mission accomplishment and effectiveness in support of the Commander's Information, Education and Entertainment program are excellent in the Saigon area. AFRT Saigon is an essential command tool in reaching personnel. The effectiveness of AFRT radio broadcasts to personnel stationed outside of the Saigon coverage area is greatly reduced by technical deficiencies of the equipment available.<sup>24</sup>

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The enemy strikes.--Christmas Eve of that year marked the first of many times the enemy would strike AFRTS facilities in Vietnam. Around 6:00 P.M. the Saigon streets were crowded with both American and Vietnamese shoppers and the

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<sup>23</sup>MACV, "AFVN: Fact Sheet," p. 2.

<sup>24</sup>Ibid.

American radio station was airing familiar Christmas carols. Suddenly, the Christmas music was silenced as a dull concussion rumbled across the city, followed by unnatural stillness. Viet Cong (VC) terrorists had set off 250 pounds of plastic explosives, a few yards from the station's studios in the modern Brink Hotel.<sup>25</sup> A brown cloud of debris mushroomed several hundred feet above the BOQ, and the intense thunder accompanying the blast shattered glass windows for a mile. Amid the wreckage, which claimed the lives of two and injured scores of Americans in the hotel, the shaken staff returned to the air in twenty minutes. Regular programming was resumed, although subdued, within two hours.<sup>26</sup> The Christmas carols continued, now, however, they were interspersed with calls for blood donations for those injured in the explosion.<sup>27</sup>

Programming adjustments.--At the end of 1964, the U. S. military force in-country numbered 23,000,<sup>28</sup> and MACV had estimated that radio coverage, although occasionally very weak, was reaching the majority of personnel stationed throughout South Vietnam.<sup>29</sup>

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<sup>25</sup>New York Times, December 25, 1964, p. 1.

<sup>26</sup>Air Force Times, January 27, 1965, sec. E, p. 4.

<sup>27</sup>"The AFVN Story," audio tape, recorded for broadcast, August 15, 1969.

<sup>28</sup>New York Times, November 13, 1971, p. 1.

<sup>29</sup>See quote, supra, p. 31.

During the year AFRS, Vietnam had adjusted its programming to produce half of all air time locally through the music libraries supplied by AFRTS-LA, and through special features and command information programs and spots indigenous to the Vietnam operation. The station also acquired the wire services of the Associated Press (AP) and United Press International (UPI), thus relieving its dependence on VOA re-broadcasts via the Philippines. The local news staff produced news summaries and features, and roving reporters conducted tape interviews with visiting dignitaries and military officials. The station also began, at the close of the year, a series of one-minute spots and programs on Vietnam's heritage, customs, and language. The staff grew to nineteen full-time personnel.<sup>30</sup>

Initial plans for high power network.--Reacting to the coverage deficiencies evidenced in the AFRTS-LA report, and apparently with an eye toward the planned build-up of forces, the MACV Signal Division set out, in early 1965, to provide more adequate radio service country-wide. A study of the problem was conducted and recommendations were made to blanket four major areas of the Republic with a minimum number of high and very high power stations. It was proposed that desired radio saturation could be achieved by the installation of four 50-kilowatt transmitters and a yet-to-

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<sup>30</sup>Air Force Times, January 27, 1965, sec. E, p. 4.

be-determined--but smaller-number of 10-kilowatt transmitters. The proposal was approved by the U. S. military commander and the equipment ordered; however, the Vietnamese Government withdrew the use of the Saigon area frequency--820 kiloHertz--after the first transmitter arrived in-country. This event, and the apparent knowledge of changes in troop deployment, made necessary a general re-examination of the originally proposed frequency and geographic location plan. Installation of the ordered equipment was halted.<sup>31</sup>

Television for Vietnam.--In Washington, even more ambitious planning was underway for upgrading and expanding Armed Forces Radio and Television services for the rapidly expanding number of men serving in Vietnam. The U. S. Navy Oceanographic Air Survey Unit, at Patuxent River, Maryland, was given a special assignment--code name: Project Jenny--which would figure heavily in the yet-to-be realized television service. The Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) directed that certain Navy C-121, Super Constellation, aircraft operated by the Maryland Unit be equipped with AM, FM, and TV transmitters for "research and other special projects."<sup>32</sup> These aircraft were called "Blue Eagles."

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<sup>31</sup>OIC, AFVN, "Narrative," pp. 1-2.

<sup>32</sup>MACV, "AFVN: Fact Sheet," pp. 2-3.

In February, 1965, AFRS, Vietnam expanded its programming from eighteen to twenty-four hours a day.<sup>33</sup>

In May, work was begun on Blue Eagle One for configuration as a high power, communication and radio relay station. It was deployed to Vietnam in the summer of 1965, and was on hand to rebroadcast the 1965 Baseball World Series over AM and shortwave to servicemen in Vietnam and to ships at sea in the Pacific. The utilization of this test aircraft proved to be very effective and popular.<sup>34</sup>

In August, special modifications were begun on Blue Eagle Two and Three, since it had been determined that television would: ". . . significantly contribute to the U. S. policy objectives of rural pacification, urban stability, national unity, free world support and U. S. presence in Vietnam."<sup>35</sup>

The new configurations would enable the Blue Eagles to broadcast television programming to the Saigon area on two channels--one for U. S. personnel, and the other for Vietnamese citizens--in addition to the various radio communications capabilities.<sup>36</sup>

On December 2, 1965, plans were approved by the Deputy Secretary of Defense, Cyrus Vance, which called for

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<sup>33</sup>"The AFVN Story."

<sup>34</sup>MACV, "AFVN: Fact Sheet," p. 3.

<sup>35</sup>Ibid.

<sup>36</sup>Stars and Stripes (Pacific), January 5, 1966, p. 1.

the long-range establishment of additional, ground television facilities outside Saigon.<sup>37</sup> The formal agreement authorizing television in the Republic was reached by the United States and the Government of Vietnam on December 24th. It was signed on January 3, 1966, by Dr. Tran Van Do, GVN Minister of Foreign Affairs, and U. S. Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge.<sup>38</sup>

Assistance from Washington.--Up until *the* middle of 1965, the history of AFVN followed a pattern similar to the establishment and growth which normally occurs in foreign countries where the local U. S. military commander initiates and fosters any new AFRT facility.<sup>39</sup> Although the initial request for a television outlet came from the field, the information acquired for this study indicates that Washington played a much larger role than usual in the establishment of greatly expanded facilities for Vietnam, beginning in 1965. This attention was related to bringing television, not just to Americans, but to the Vietnamese people; and not just for entertainment and information of U. S. troops, but for

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<sup>37</sup>Deputy Secretary of Defense memorandum, "Armed Forces Radio and Television Service for the Republic of Vietnam," February 5, 1966, pp. 1-3.

<sup>38</sup>New York Times, December 25, 1965, p. 3; also in, Stars and Stripes (Pacific), January 5, 1966, p. 1.

<sup>39</sup>U. S. Department of Defense (DoD) Instruction 5120.20, "American Forces Radio and Television (AFRT)," April 26, 1971, sec. IV, A., p. 13. (Hereinafter cited as DoD Instruction, 5120.20.)

improving education, rural pacification, and national unity of the Vietnamese.

The Vice President of the United States, Hubert H. Humphrey, placed strong emphasis on bringing television programs of, by and for Vietnamese to the most remote village as ". . . a decisive factor in nation-building and establishing national unity in South Vietnam."<sup>40</sup> Further evidence of special interest by the Department of Defense in AFRT facilities in Vietnam is contained in Deputy Secretary of Defense Memorandum of February 5, 1966 wherein approval was granted for establishing a four-station radio network utilizing high powered transmitters--proposed by MACV--and, wherein funds were made available to supplement the MACV budget in order to expand radio, and greatly increase proposed television facilities.<sup>41</sup>

For these reasons, the writer assumes that further development of AFRT service in South Vietnam, beginning with the arrival of television for Vietnamese and Americans, was directly linked to the build-up of American forces.<sup>42</sup>

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<sup>40</sup>OIC, AFVN, "Narrative," no. 1; all subsequent entries in this document are numbered. Programming for Vietnamese Television (THVN--untranslated) was assigned to the Minister of Psychological Warfare, Mr. Dinh Trinh Chinh; New York Times, February 8, 1966, p. 16.

<sup>41</sup>Deputy Secretary of Defense memorandum, "Armed Forces Radio and Television Service for the Republic of Vietnam," February 5, 1966, pp. 1-3; and AFRTS Vietnam buildup was first reported in the Stars and Stripes (Pacific), September 1, 1966, p. 1.

<sup>42</sup>This situation is probably not unique to AFRT in



Armed Forces Radio and Television  
Service, Vietnam: February, 1966-  
July, 1967

Television debut.--Under much fanfare and apparent haste, television made its debut in Vietnam on February 7, 1966, just in time for the celebration of Tet, or lunar new year.<sup>43</sup> Two channels--nine and eleven--had been assigned to the Government of Vietnam (GVN) and AFRT, Vietnam, respectively. Following ground video taping of the program in the airport terminal at Tan Son Nhut, THVN (untranslated initials for GVN Television Service) began television broadcasting at 7:30 P.M. with an address by Premier Nguyen Cao Ky. Other remarks were made by U. S. Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge, and General Westmoreland, COMUSMACV. The American service began one-half hour later on station NWB-TV [sic],<sup>44</sup> and the initial

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Vietnam. Aside from the normal outlet establishment procedure, AFRT facilities for troops might be incorporated in contingency planning; or, in the absence of local command request and any prior planning, the feasibility of radio and television might be realized remotely, in Washington, and the establishment of facilities carried out with the local commander's concurrence. Interview with Commander James E. Wentz, USN, former Director of Radio, AFVN, 1968-1969, January 19, 1972. At the end of 1965, U. S. Forces in the Republic of Vietnam totaled 184,314 servicemen as reported in Sheeham, Pentagon Papers, p. 384.

<sup>43</sup>The Capital of neighboring Cambodia, Phnom Penh, opened its TV service on this date, also. New York Times, February 8, 1966, p. 16. As in the establishment of any new TV service, receivers came into demand after broadcasting began. In Vietnam, the distribution and acquisitions of receivers was, at best, token. Subsequent development of the Vietnamese service was hampered by receiver expense, availability and almost total absence of repair technicians.

<sup>44</sup>"NWB-TV" designation appeared in news report cited immediately below. Official material gathered does not identify initial call letters.

program included a voice-over-picture message from the Secretary of Defense, Robert S. McNamara, followed by "Hollywood Salute to Vietnam," with entertainer Bob Hope.<sup>45</sup>

Aboard the Blue Eagle, flying at 5,000 to 12,000 feet in a circle around Saigon, a ten-man crew operated equipment including two film chains (16 millimeter), two transmitters, two video tape recorders, and one TV camera in a compact studio complete with lighting. The coverage area of the airborne facility was thirty to fifty miles.<sup>46</sup>

Later, a temporary studio was set up in downtown Saigon to produce video tapes for each Vietnamese broadcast. THVN was on the air for one hour nightly. U. S. programming materials consisted principally of top stateside TV network programs supplied by AFRTS-LA on film. AFRT, Vietnam broadcast initially for three hours each night; among the first programs most popular with the troops were "Gunsmoke," "Combat," and "Bonanza."<sup>47</sup> The weekly evening format is shown in Figure 4, page 40.<sup>48</sup>

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<sup>45</sup>The audio tape of Secretary McNamara was begun at the wrong speed. New York Times, February 8, 1966, p. 16. For additional comments regarding on-the-air debacles at AFVN, see Patrick Sajdak, "The Snafu Network," TV Guide, October 16, 1971, pp. 20-22.

<sup>46</sup>Blue Eagle flights were apparently scheduled for other cities, including Qui Nhon and Da Nang. Stars and Stripes (Pacific), February 7, 1966, p. 2.

<sup>47</sup>MACV, "AFVN: Fact Sheet," p. 3.

<sup>48</sup>Composite week schedule in Figure 4, page 40 was derived by the writer.

Monday-Friday format for  
Saigon television programming:

6:30 Sign on and entertainment or information  
program (local)  
7:00 Entertainment program  
7:30 News and sports (local)  
8:00 Entertainment feature  
9:00 Entertainment programs  
10:00 Entertainment feature (variety, talk show, or  
motion picture feature)  
11:15 News and sign off (local)

<u>Entertainment Programs<sup>1</sup></u>	<u>Entertainment features<sup>2</sup></u>	<u>Information programs</u>
What's My Line	Dean Martin Show	Big Picture
To Tell the Truth	Joey Bishop Show	20th Century
My Favorite Martian	Perry Mason	NFL Highlights
Candid Camera	Talent Scouts	News and Sports
G. E. College Bowl	Combat	features (film)
Bewitched	FBI	
Third Man	Rawhide	
Flintstones	12 O'clock High	
Andy Griffith	Red Skelton	
M-Squad	Gunsmoke	
Have Gun Will Travel		
Batman		
Dick Van Dyke		
Adams Family		
Beverly Hillbillies		

Comments: The station produced information spots and short programs to round out the broadcast hour which had been shortened upon removal of commercials. News programs were generally done on camera, in flight. Further descriptions of early programming are continued in the body, below.

<sup>1</sup>Entertainment programs are one-half hour in length.

<sup>2</sup>A feature runs for an hour or more.

Fig. 4.--AFRT, Vietnam: Television Programming Schedule.

Source: Stars and Stripes (Pacific), April 1-8, 1966, p. 17 (Three star edition.)

AFRT<sub>1</sub> Vietnam's unique role.--AFRT, Vietnam was assigned a vital role in bringing television to the Vietnamese people. It was the very first time any AFRTS outlet or network had been assigned "a mission of such high level, government and international significance."<sup>49</sup> In the months to follow, AFRT, Vietnam provided engineering and technical assistance to the Joint U. S. Public Affairs Office (JUSPAO) for the purpose of building and placing into operation independent ground television stations for the Vietnamese Government. The costs of constructing, operating, and maintaining THVN television equipment and studio buildings were the full responsibility of the U. S. Agency for International Development (USALD).<sup>50</sup>

In addition to providing engineering assistance to the Vietnamese television effort, AFRT, Vietnam had been engaged in the establishment of television coverage for the majority of American servicemen throughout the

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<sup>49</sup>OIC, AFVN, "Narrative," no. 1.

<sup>50</sup>Deputy Secretary of Defense memorandum, "Armed Forces Radio and Television Service for the Republic of Vietnam," February 5, 1966, pp. 1-3. As a result of a memorandum of understanding between the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Department of the Army and the United States Information Agency, dated June 29, 1967 [sic], the role was made a formal mission of AFVN. The researcher would place the date of the memorandum one year earlier. Letter from OIC, AFVN to Charles B. Moore, February 3, 1971, p. 1. Mr. Moore had previously written on AFVN relating to the news censorship controversy. (See Chapter V and Bibliography of this study.)

Republic. Eleven mobile van stations—each with an effective radiated power (ERP) of 40-kilowatts—were ordered to Vietnam, to be strategically placed in areas of greatest troop concentrations.<sup>51</sup>

As the Blue Eagle flights continued, construction was begun on permanent ground stations for the two services. The initial facility would house the transmitters for THVN and AFRT, Vietnam and studios for the American radio and television station in Saigon. Construction on a new Vietnamese TV studio would not begin until late May, 1967.<sup>52</sup>

Improvement in news programming.--The radio branch of AFRT, Vietnam was not totally neglected during this period. Earlier in the year the dedicated news staff had won the Vietnam affiliate the distinction of being the first of all armed forces radio outlets to present news broadcasts, on the hour, every hour, twenty-four hours per day.<sup>53</sup> On March 24, 1966, a new, two-way undersea cable was opened to link Saigon and AFRTS-LA. This enabled the station to program major sports events, important speeches, and other special features on a timely basis, in addition to directly

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<sup>51</sup>"The AFVN Story."

<sup>52</sup>MACV, "AFVN: Fact Sheet," pp. 2-3.

<sup>53</sup>Stars and Stripes (Pacific), February 3, 1966, p. 2.

receiving regular AFRTS-LA programming around the clock.<sup>54</sup> The link was shortly extended to include the recently established Armed Forces News Bureau in Washington. Material utilized from AFNB included all newscasts--for actualities--, "Armed Forces Digest," news analyses, special events, and similar programs deemed of interest to American servicemen in Vietnam.<sup>55</sup>

Blue Eagles attacked.--On April 13, 1966, the Viet Cong (V.C.) attacked Tan Son Nhut air base with mortars and damaged all three Blue Eagle aircraft. One Blue Eagle was repaired in a matter of hours, but inspectors estimated repairs on the other two craft would take from nine to thirteen weeks. Television programming was continued, but on a reduced, five-day week schedule. The Navy inspectors who made the initial damage assessment were, no doubt, surprised when normal programming was resumed on May 11th, just one month after the attack.<sup>56</sup>

OIC billet upgraded.--In June, with greatly increased

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<sup>54</sup>MACV, "AFVN: Fact Sheet, " p. 3.

<sup>55</sup>Letter from OIC, Radio Saigon to Armed Forces News Bureau, Washington, November 10, 1966. Another function of the link through to Washington was to enable the Pentagon to receive a daily feed from Saigon of the MACV communique and briefing. AFNB, "Standing Operating Procedures for use of the Saigon Line," February 3, 1967, p. 6.

<sup>56</sup>"The AFVN Story,"

responsibilities and personnel, the billet of Officer in Charge (OIC) of AFRT, Vietnam was upgraded to "05" (Lieutenant Colonel) and Lt. Col. DeForrest Ballou assumed the reins of the network beginning to take shape. Captain Robert Cortez stepped down to head the radio branch.<sup>57</sup>

First ground stations.--The formal opening of the first AFRTS television station in a combat zone climaxed a monumental effort by a small group of individuals who had worked under abnormal conditions. Without ascribing to the more obvious problems involving weather and threat of enemy attack, one would expect the installation of a television facility under such conditions as those in South Vietnam to be haphazard at best. But in spite of the poor conditions of the equipment after transportation to the site, lack of replacement items, length of time required to receive routine logistic support and other problems involved with installing very fragile and sophisticated equipment,<sup>58</sup> the first television van began operation on September 25, 1966, from Vung

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<sup>57</sup>Lt. Col. Ballou was originally assigned the coordinator for the overall television effort and was to remark in October, 1966: "When they told me last year in Washington to set up a television network in Vietnam, I thought it was, well, incongruous for a country at war," in New York Times, October 23, 1966, p. 7. Captain Cortez was OIC, Radio Saigon for an undetermined period prior to television's arrival. Interview with Staff Sergeant Nick Palladino, USA, former newsman at AFVN for five years, January 21, 1972.

<sup>58</sup>OIC, AFVN, "Narrative," no. 3.

Chau hill near the coastal city of Qui Nhon, in central South Vietnam. Broadcasting with an effective radiated power of 40 kilowatts, Captain Willis Haas, OIC, Detachment 1, AFRT, Vietnam began beaming American television to the approximately 24,000 servicemen in the vicinity.<sup>59</sup>

One month later, Detachment 2 began broadcasting television from high atop "Monkey Mountain" at Da Nang harbor, in northern South Vietnam, just before the monsoons arrived in that portion of the country.<sup>60</sup> Installation of additional television vans would be completed in 1967. Figure 5 provides a geographic illustration of South Vietnam and selected locations mentioned throughout this study.

Upgrading of radio coverage and facilities, first proposed in early 1965, took a back seat to the television expansion during 1966--although, new, 1,000-watt AM and 1,000-watt FM--radio transmitters became operational in conjunction with the opening of the Saigon television station. By the Fall of 1966, all twenty-two repeater stations were in operation, rebroadcasting the Saigon AM signal via an assortment of ground lines and communication links. The programming on AM radio for this period, reflects a minimum reliance on AFRTS-LA package programs and AFNB originated programs, a characteristic of the Vietnam

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<sup>59</sup>New York Times, September 26, 1966, p. 6.

<sup>60</sup>OIC, AFVN, "Narrative," no. 3.



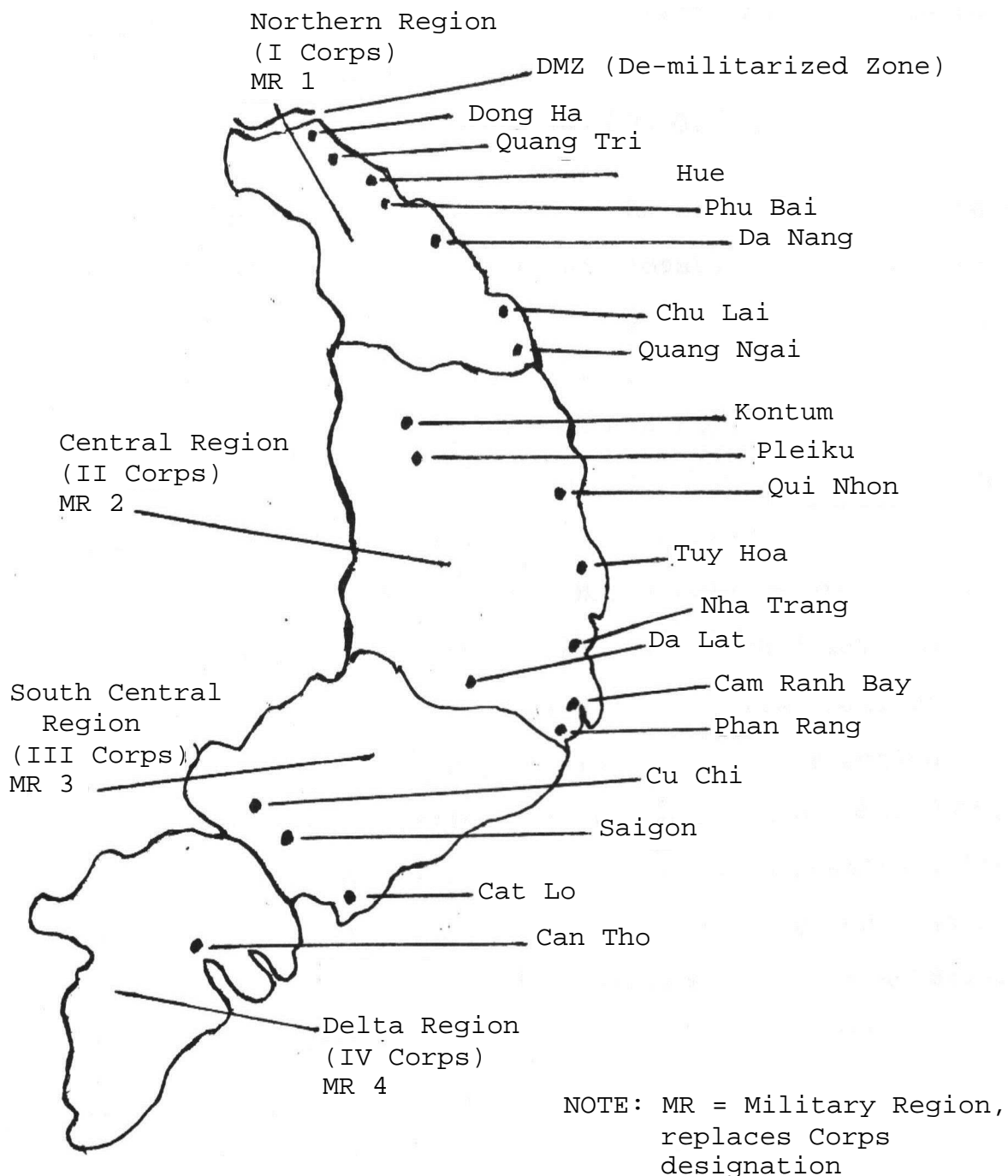


Fig. 5.--Republic of Vietnam (South Vietnam).

Source: U. S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, Officer in Charge, American Forces Vietnam Network (AFVN), "Status of Vietnam Radio-TV," March 18, 1969. (Not to scale.)

service which continues to this day.<sup>61</sup> The schedule for AM radio programming for October, November, and December, 1966, is presented in Figure 6, pages 48-50.<sup>62</sup>

Flagship station opens.--The official opening ceremony for the new Saigon station, located at 9 Hong Thap Tu, was held on October 31, 1966. Premier Nguyen Cao Ky and General William C. Westmoreland were on hand to cut a video tape ribbon stretched between the main studio of AFRT, Vietnam and the transmitter building for both Vietnamese and American television services.<sup>63</sup> The radio and news departments remained located in the Brink Hotel, pending completion of full audio facilities. AFRT, Vietnam and THVN, Saigon, each operating with an ERP of 240-kilowatts, relieved the Blue Eagles which had begun serving the Delta region with Vietnamese--only television programming on October 26th.<sup>64</sup>

Records of the number of television receivers in-country at this time are sketchy, however, an estimated 2,500 sets were made available to the GVN through USAID, and the U. S. Military Advisory Group (Military Assistance

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<sup>61</sup>Ibid., no. 7.

<sup>62</sup>As presented in Letter from OIC, Radio Saigon to Armed Forces News Bureau, Washington, November 10, 1966, enclosure no. 1.

<sup>63</sup>MACV, AFVN: Fact Sheet," p. L.

<sup>64</sup>OIC, AFVN, "Narrative," no. 4.

October-December, 1966

MONDAY THRU FRIDAY

0005	Be Still and Know	1230	USO Show
0007	Sign Off/On	1305	AFR-VN Feature Report
0015	Night Train	1330	America's Popular Music
0305	Small World	1405	World of Country Music
0405	Bill Steward Show	1505	Afternoon Break/Foot- ball (Monday)
0505	Country Corner		
0600	Expanded News (10)	1705	Monitor
0610	Morning Meditations	1800	News and Sports (30)
0615	Dawnbuster	1830	Music by Candlelight or Special Program)
0705	Morning Meditations		
0710	Dawnbuster	1905	Swinging 60's
0830	Ira Cook	2005	Jazz Concert
0905	Bill Stewart Show	2030	Night Beat
1005	Destination Noon	2105	Aussie News
1200	News and Sports	2110	Night Beat
		2200	News and Sports (30)
		2230	Night Beat

SATURDAY

0005	Be Still and Know	1330	Silver Platter
0007	Sign Off/On	1355	Point of Law
0015	Jazz Show Case	1400	World of Country Music
0105	Night Train	1455	News (5)
0505	Jim Pewters	1500	Football
0600	News (10)	1705	Bolero Time
0610	Morning Meditations	1800	News and Sports (30)
0615	Dawnbuster	1830	Music by Candlelight (or Special Program)
0700	Morning Meditations		
0710	Dawnbuster	1905	Sammy Davis Jr. Show
0905	Polka Party	2005	Grand Ole Opry
1005	Saturday Swing	2105	Aussie News
1200	News and Sports (30)	2110	Night Beat
1230	Navy Hour	2200	News and Sports (30)
1255	World of Money	2230	Night Beat
1305	AFR-VN Feature Report	2305	Patty Show

Fig. 6.—Armed Forces Radio Vietnam Broadcast  
Schedule

Source: Armed Forces Radio and Television Service,  
Vietnam, November 10, 1966

Fig. 6 (continued)

## SUNDAY

0005	Be Still and Know	1305	Panorama
0007	Sign Off/On	1455	News (5)
0015	Night Train	1500	Football
0505	Jim Ameche	1705	Music for Sunday
0600	News (10)		Afternoon
0610	Music for Sunday	1800	News and Sports (30)
	Morning	1830	Music by Candlelight
0805	Salt Lake Tabernacle	1905	Roger Carroll
0820	Protestant Hour	2005	Footlights and Sound-
0905	Message of Israel		tracks
0930	Hour of the Crucified	2105	Aussie News and Sports
1005	Music for Sunday	2115	Night Beat
	Morning	2200	News and Sports (30)
1200	News and Sports (30)	2230	Night Beat
1230	Army Hour	2305	Night Life
1255	World of Money		

## Comments:

DAWNBUSTER: Heard Monday thru Saturday beginning at 6:15 A.M. with Specialist four (SP/4) Cramer Haas and his greeting which is becoming known World Wide--G-o-o-d Morning Vietnam!

DESTINATION NOON: Monday thru Friday, 1005 'til noon; more popular music to bring listeners up to the lunch hour.

AFTERNOON BREAK: From 3:00 until 5:00 every weekday afternoon with Private first class (PFC) Dave O'Conner.

NIGHT BEAT: Popular Music with Specialist five (SP/5) Rick Sonntag to the midnight hour.

NIGHT TRAIN: Overnight from dawn till early in the morning with Marine Corporal Dan Zeigler.

SPECIALTY MUSIC:

COUNTRY: Corporal Dan Zeigler, 2:00 P.M. Monday thru Saturday

ROCK: Staff Sergeant Ron Nottelson, 7:05 till 8:00 P.M. Monday thru Friday

JAZZ: Marine Sergeant Dan Doherty, 8:05 until 8:30 Monday thru Friday. Specialist four (SP/4) Haas, 1:15 until 2:00 A.M. Saturday A.M.

ALL KINDS OF MUSIC:

SATURDAY SWING: 10:00 until noon.

NEWS: Expanded casts: 6:00 A.M., noon, 6:00 P.M., and 10:00 P.M. daily. News is broadcast every hour, on the hour.

SPORTS: Marine Sergeant Bob Kinsman and Army Specialist five (SP/5) Bob Vale, noon, and 6:00 F. M. plus the 10:15 Sports report.

## Fig. 6 (continued)

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Are now aired on AFRT-VN at 15, 30 and 45 minutes past the hour. It's a good idea to keep close to your radio when you are scheduled for flights, for if any change is going to be made, it will be announced on Armed Forces Radio.

Programs of special interest, such as Presidential News Conferences, special addresses by United States or World Leaders, and programs of this nature are aired in place of Music by Candlelight at 6:30 in the evening. Notice of such changes will normally be aired on newscasts during the day as well as on popular music programs.

## PANORAMA:

A Sunday kind of show heard every Sunday afternoon from 1:05 until 2:55 has interviews, music, comedy, and items of general interest to all Vietnam stationed listeners.

Also on Sundays, hear Music for Sunday morning, good popular music to fill the early Sunday Morning hours preceding our religious programming heard from 8:05 until 10:00 A.M. every Sunday.

Advisory Group, or MAAG) had contributed 500 additional sets for use by the Vietnamese Army (Army of the Republic of Vietnam, or ARVN) by October, 1966. Over 16,000 receivers of U. S. and Japanese manufacture had been sold through the Post Exchange (PX) system to U. S. personnel.<sup>65</sup>

Early Christmas Eve, 1966, two years to the day after the Brink blast, AFRT, Vietnam came under small arms attack staged by the V. C. at the new Saigon facility. The compound structures and studio building sustained only light damage, and, this time, no one was injured.<sup>66</sup>

The year 1966 clearly belonged to television at AFRT, Vietnam. The influx of equipment and personnel required for such a greatly expanded effort saw the number of technicians, engineers, writers, directors, cameramen, and other production workers dramatically boost the full-time complement of men and officers. Until the build-up started, AFRT, Vietnam counted twenty-two people; in a year's time, by the close of 1966, the staff had grown to 150 personnel. The one-time single station and series of repeaters began to assume the character of a full-fledged radio and television network. The overall troop strength of U. S. forces in Vietnam had doubled to over 340,000 men.<sup>67</sup>

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<sup>65</sup>New York Times, October 23, 1966, p. 7.

<sup>66</sup>"AFVN Story."

<sup>66</sup>MACV, "AFVN: Fact Sheet," pp. 4-6.

Network radio in Vietnam.--With grossly inadequate coverage at the beginning of 1967, the upgrading of radio services was begun. The first event of the New Year was the move of the radio and news sections to the new station, a move which commenced on January 2nd. There was no loss of air time over AM radio during the change; however, FM programming had to be suspended until the FM control studio was completed on January 13th. At 9:00 A.M. on January 6, 1967, the AM radio service of AFRT, Vietnam began originating programming from 9 Hong Thap Tu.<sup>68</sup>

Plans were reviewed and construction commenced immediately on the installation of three 50-kilowatt and two 10-kilowatt AM stations to eventually cover 95 per cent of South Vietnam and adjacent areas of the South China Sea to serve all U. S. troops in-country and U. S. Navy and Coast Guard ships involved in the Vietnam conflict.<sup>69</sup> Plans included linking each station electronically with network programs originated from the key Saigon outlet. Provisions were made to install a complete studio at each station to afford local, breakaway programming for at least part of the day. This step was taken so that the local AFRT station

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<sup>68</sup>01C, AFVN, "Narrative," no. 7.

<sup>69</sup>Ibid. The new transmitters would provide a 5-millivolt signal throughout most of South Vietnam and a minimum .5 millivolts for the remaining area. MACV, "AFVN: Fact Sheet," p. 5.

would be able to support the command information program of the area commander.<sup>70</sup>

News sources expanded.--The news staff of AFRT, Vietnam received a tremendous boost following the move to the new station in Saigon. The UPI press wire was replaced by the UPI broadcast news wire.<sup>71</sup> Under a re-organization of the AFRTS activity in Washington, the Vietnam outlet was afforded access to a wide range of news and feature programming based upon material gathered from wire services, the three commercial television networks, and all major radio networks.<sup>72</sup> Expanding into television news, contracts were made with the American Broadcasting Company (ABC) for television news film, and the Associated Press (AP) for radio photo service and library photo service. The initial agreements called for 2,000 feet of news film monthly from ABC, ten to fifteen news photographs daily from AP, and forty photographs of leading world personalities each month, also from AP. All of the television news services were

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<sup>70</sup>Interview with Colonel James E. Adams, USA, former OIC, AFVN, January 25, 1972. (Hereinafter cited as interview with Colonel Adams.)

<sup>71</sup>MACV, "AFVN: Fact Sheet," p. 5.

<sup>72</sup>Also included in the sources of news were 110 commercial radio stations and the U. S. Information Agency Press Wire, Air Force Times, January 4, 1967, p. 3. AFNB, initially compiled and rebroadcast news utilizing military and civilian "reporters" of DoD. The procedure was discontinued in 1968, and since then, commercial network transmissions have been rebroadcast as they are received. Interview with Colonel Adams.



reproduced by the key station and sent to the van stations within hours of receipt.<sup>73</sup>

The news staff placed heavy reliance on incoming wire copy and utilized voice actualities excerpted from Armed Forces News Bureau's (AFNB) news programs. All five-minute newscasts and the majority of news summaries broadcast over AFRT, Vietnam were prepared and produced locally. In addition to national and international news, the same covered local, in-country news happenings, information briefings and other sources of war news to provide current reports, often ahead of the commercial press. The station also produced and supplied special reports on the Vietnam War to AFNB for world-wide dissemination.<sup>74</sup>

Saigon station facilities.--The inward appearance of the new key station in Saigon took on every characteristic of a large, regional television and radio station operation in the States. Outwardly, AFRT, Vietnam was situated in a military compound with high walls, military guard posts and the usual array of concertina wire. In drawing comparisons, it was probably much better equipped than many commercial,

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<sup>73</sup>MACV "AFVN: Fact Sheet," p. 5.

<sup>74</sup>OIC, AFVN, "Narrative," no 5. This tradition of authoring and reporting war news began in early 1964 when timely news coverage of the local situation was unavailable, continued in effect, even after adequate commercial news coverage was really accessible to the network.

full service stations at home.<sup>75</sup> Other than office and storage spaces--it was also network headquarters for administration, supply, and engineering--the main studio building contained separate master control rooms for AM and FM programming, three radio production studios, a record library, television film library, video tape and kinescope room, television master control, and one large, fully equipped television studio. The transmitter building, nearby, housed two 25-kilowatt TV transmitters and two 1-kilowatt FM and AM radio transmitters. A 300-foot steel tripod tower supported an 80-foot antenna which increased the effective radiated power of the TV transmitters by an approximate factor of ten.<sup>76</sup>

Television programming.--Following the move to the new facility, television programming was extended, on Saturday and Sunday, to include afternoon broadcasts. Radio programming underwent only minor modifications. A composite week of AFRT, Vietnam television programming is presented in Figure 7.<sup>77</sup>

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<sup>75</sup>The comment is based upon interviews and correspondence with twelve former staff members at AFVN, many of whom had professional broadcast experience, commercially, from which to draw comparisons. See Appendix J for a list of major equipment throughout AFRT, Vietnam stations.

<sup>76</sup> MACV, "AFVN: Fact Sheet," p. 4.

<sup>77</sup>Derived, as in Figure 4, supra, p. 40.

<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>
6:30 What's My Line feature	News/What's my Line	New/Information feature
7:00 Flintstones	My Favorite Martian	Batman
7:30 News and Sports	News and Sports	News and Sports
8:00 Combat	Rawhide	Perry Mason
9:00 Bewitched	12 O'clock High	Mickie Finn's
9:30 Third Man Special	Bob Hope	Movie
10:00 Dean Martin		
<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	
6:30 News\Wonders of World	New/Information feature	
7:00 Adams Family	Batman	
7:30 News and Sports	News and Sports	
8:00 Gunsmoke	The FBI	
9:00 Danny Kaye	Hazel	
9:30 Tonight Show	Have Gun Will Travel	
10:00	Milton Berle	
<u>SATURDAY</u>	<u>SUNDAY</u>	
1:30 News/U.S. Navy film	New/Information feature	
2:00 M-Squad	Chapel of the Air	
2:30 Candid Camera	Silver Wings	
3:00 Town and Country	Roger Miller	
3:30 Swinging Country	Sunday Matinee	
4:00 Beverly Hillbillies		
4:30 Football	Football	
7:00 Sportsman Holiday	20 <sup>th</sup> Century	
7:30 News and Sports	News and Sports	
7:45 Metrotone Newsreel		
8:00 Special	Dick Van Dyke	
9:00 Hollywood Palace	Bonanza	
10:00 Late Show	John Gary Show	

Fig. 7.--American Forces Radio and Television,  
Vietnam: Television Schedule, January, 1967.

Source: Stars and Stripes (Pacific), January 5-  
18, 1967, p.1.

Television vans completed.--Installation of the field television stations was resumed early in the year, and on February 1st, Detachment 3 completed the third van facility at Dragon Mountain, Pleiku. The station offered television service for the first time to U. S. troops in the Central Highlands region of South Vietnam.<sup>78</sup> The fourth van was installed on Hon Tre Island near Nha Trang. It commenced operation on March 13, 1967, serving the Nha Trang and Cam Ranh Bay areas on the coast. The fifth van became operational at the old imperial city of Hue on May 15th.<sup>79</sup>

Although reshuffling of the vans occurred to meet the needs of the likewise mobile audience, the installation of AFRT, Vietnam's television network of stations was completed on May 26, 1967, when the sixth van began broadcasting from Tuy Hoa, north of Nha Trang. The seventh van was temporarily placed in the Saigon compound to be used as a training facility for personnel replacements assigned to the field.<sup>80</sup>

Each field station represented a small monument to engineering ingenuity. Personnel who would normally concern themselves with broadcasting duties doubled as carpenters, electricians, and other construction workers. In addition to the van, messing and berthing facilities had to be

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<sup>79</sup>MACV, "AFVN: Fact Sheet," p. 4.

<sup>79</sup>Ibid.

<sup>80</sup>Ibid.

provided, and each detachment was responsible for its own perimeter defense.<sup>81</sup>

In the meantime, the once neglected radio service was beginning to make headway. On March 31, 1967, the hamlet of Cat Lo, sixty miles southeast of Saigon, became the site for the first 50-kilowatt transmitter of the new AM radio network. The powerful signal began serving the Saigon area and practically all of the Delta region. It was connected to the flagship station in Saigon where the main network studios were located.<sup>82</sup>

AFVN designated.--Two months later, on June 1st a second AM station opened at Da Nang's "Red Beach" with a power of 10 kilowatts. The new outlet of Detachment 2 began serving U. S. personnel assigned to the northern region of the Republic. This important event in the realization of upgraded radio coverage came as the Officer in Charge of AFRT, Vietnam changed and Lt. Col. Arthur Jones was on hand to welcome the first link in a country-wide radio network.

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<sup>81</sup>"AFVN Story." To guard against eventualities that might be encountered during an enemy attack or terrorist activity, somewhat less than accepted engineering practices were occasionally employed. John Scales, a civilian and Chief Engineer of the network, devised a transmission line that clearly resulted in a loss of signal quality between transmitter and antenna. Rather than use a coaxial, helium-filled cable, a series of open, independent leads were installed. When a station came under attack, it was a relatively simple matter to shore up damaged leads, resulting in a minimum loss of air time. Interview with Staff Sergeant Calvin M. LaMartiniere, USAF, former AFVN staff member for three years, January 27, 1972.

<sup>82</sup>0IC, AFVN, "Narrative," nos. 6-10.

The Da Nang outlet, connected to the key station in Saigon via an assortment of communication links, began broadcasting eighteen hours of network programming each day. The event also occasioned the justification for a network name change. On July 1, 1967, the American Forces Radio and Television Services in the Republic of Vietnam adopted the name, the American Forces Vietnam Network (AFVN).<sup>83</sup>

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<sup>83</sup>Ibid.

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