

FACT SHEET ON AFVN DET#5

An initial field survey to locate a site for TV transmission in Northern I Corps began in December, 1966. At that time, a hilltop location seemed the only feasible place from which to "reach" American Forces operating in the northern two provinces — Thua Thien and Quang Tri. Due to the fact that we did not control the most desirable locations, the survey turned up negative results.

Several other field surveys were conducted by engineers from AFVN Saigon in the period between December, 1966 and February, 1967 with the same negative results.

In March, 1967 the present OIC of AFVN Det.#5 conducted a further field survey, concentrating his efforts on locating a site in the Hue/Phu Bai area.

After an extensive search and study of the terrain, it was determined that a site offered to AFVN in the city of Hue by the American Province Representative for the Office of Civilian Operations (OCO), Thua Thien, would be adequate.

Further study of the proposed site was conducted by the Engineering Department, AFVN Saigon, and it was decided to proceed with installation of TV Van #5 in Hue.

Detachment #5 officially came into being on 1 May in Saigon and made plans to proceed to Hue. Before leaving the Saigon area, however, the detachment suffered its first casualty when the assistant engineer, a Marine Cpl. MAJOR was the victim of a terrorist grenade attack and was med-evaced from Vietnam.

Tower installation began on 11 May and less than 48 hours later, the first signal was transmitted.

The official opening of the Det.#5 TV station was held on 15 May and regular programming continued smoothly. The VC celebrated the station opening by mortaring Hue for the first time. Subsequently, two more mortar attacks were made.

Then at approximately 1430 on 2 July 1967, disaster struck when a Marine truck, delivering fuel, backed into one of the tower guy lines causing it to buckle and collapse.



Undaunted by this tragedy, the stalwart members of Det.#5 proceeded to reinstall their station at another location in order to co-locate with the soon to be built GVN-TV station in Hue.

Many obstacles had to be overcome and many problems solved — but on 7 August 1967, AFVN Det.#5 went back on the air and on 4 September 1967, GVN-TV followed suit.

Since then our programming has expanded and many favorable comments are continually received from our viewing audience.

Recently the Det.#5 OIC and Chief Engineer traveled north to the Demilitarized Zone visiting such "hot spots" as Khe Sanh, Dong Ha, Cua Viet and Gio Linh, the latter within sight of North Vietnam.

Their mission was to conduct a TV reception survey and the results were astonishing. In all of those remote locations a very acceptable TV signal was reached.

The 3rd Marine Division Special Services Officer who accompanied the Det.#5 members on this survey, has agreed to provide TV sets and antennas for all the locations visited.

Thus, AFVN Det.#5 is completely blanketing its assigned area — all the way south to Phu Loc — west to Khe Sanh, east to Cua Viet and north to Gio Linh.