

HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES MILITARY ASSISTANCE COMMAND, VIETNAM
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96309
AMERICAN FORCES VIETNAM NETWORK



1 February 1971

AMERICAN FORCES VIETNAM NETWORK

1. MISSION: To provide commanders with a radio and television capability to broadcast information and entertainment programs for United States Armed Forces personnel assigned duty in the Republic of Vietnam and to provide engineering assistance to the Joint United States Public Affairs Office for the installation of television facilities for the Government of Vietnam. The engineering assistance portion of the mission statement is unique to Vietnam. This is the result of a memorandum of understanding between Office, Secretary of Defense, Department of the Army and the United States Information Agency, dated 29 June, 1967.
2. COMMAND CHANNELS: The Office, Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower and Reserve Affairs) has assigned to Department of the Army responsibility for all radio and television outlets in the Republic of Vietnam. CINCUSARPAC was designated to exercise operational control over AFVN. MACV assumed command and operational control over AFVN in January 1970. Upon cessation of hostilities and upon order from CINCPAC, CINCUSARPAC will assume all command responsibilities for AFVN. The command channel currently in effect is AFVN - MACV - CINCPAC - OASD(M&RA). The technical channel is AFVN - AFRTS (Washington) for news and AFRTS (Los Angeles) for entertainment type programming materials.

3. FUNDING: Network Supply is responsible for the budgeting and funding of all in-and out-country procurement. In FY 70, we were allocated \$1,000,000.00 for supplies and equipment. Of this \$792,484.00 was obligated and spent. AFVN was also allocated \$350,000.00 for repair and return of commercial equipment. For FY 71, the amount of \$750,000.00 was allocated. Later funding was increased by \$250,000.00. A total of \$1,000,000.00. No dollar figure has yet been given for repair. Requisition thru Sacramento Army Depot (for parts peculiar to AFRTS) and NICP's. When we submit a requisition, we forward one copy of the requisition to U.S. Army Pacific, Centralized Financial Management Agency (CFMA) to obligate funds. SAAD or the NICP sends a copy of the shipping document to CFMA, adjusting costs to true acquisition value. Network Supply is responsible for the negotiation and re-negotiation with USARV of inter-service support agreements (ISSA's) for up country detachments.

AFVN has five contracts in force: Page Communications and Electronics for telephone switchboard service, 30 June 1971, \$2,606.00; American Broadcasting Co., for news film service, 31 Aug 1971, \$15,200.00; Columbia Broadcasting Co., for newsfilm service, 30 Jun 1971, \$11,154.00; United Press International, for broadcast news wire service, 30 Jun 71, \$9,240.00; and Associated Press, for broadcast news wire service, radio photo service and weekly photo color slides, 30 Jun 71, \$24,360.00.

AFVN is presently attempting to negotiate a contract with ABC for news satellite service on a three month test period. Cost \$1,800.00.

4. ORGANIZATION: AFVN consists of a network key station in Saigon and six affiliate stations up-country. The network key station is organized into five branches: Admin, Supply, Engineering, News, and Broadcast Operations. The six affiliate stations vary as to capability: 4 stations with AM/FM radio and television capability; and 2 stations with television capability. An organizational diagram with names of key personnel is at Inclosure 1. A schematic of network stations is at Inclosure 2.

5. MANNING: A JTD revision has been prepared, approved by MACV and CINCPAC and is pending approval by JCS. Unofficial implementation of this new JTD is for May 1971.

6. OPERATION:

a. AM Radio: AFVN-AM - commenced full network operation on 28 Sep 70. Affiliate stations (Quang Tri, Da Nang, Pleiku, Qui Nhon and Nha Trang) no longer have break-away time for local programming. Unmanned transmitters are located at Chu Lai, Tuy Hoa and Camp Evans. The 24-hour daily network feed was necessitated by JTD personnel reductions. Approximately 50% of AFVN-AM is pre-recorded from AFRTS-LA.

b. FM Radio: AFVN-FM originates at the Saigon key station and four affiliate stations (Pleiku, Nha Trang, Qui Nhon and Da Nang). Two stations have automated FM stereo capability (Saigon and Da Nang), although the Saigon key station is the only facility with full stereo facilities. FM stations broadcast 24 hours a day, including 0001-0600 AM simulcasting by all stations except Saigon and Da Nang. Programming at Nha Trang and Pleiku is approximately 50% pre-recorded

from AFRTS-LA: Da Nang and the Saigon key station provide an almost entirely locally produced format. A network, composed of the Saigon, Nha Trang, Pleiku and Qui Nhon stations, is planned to go into operations in Spring 1971. Network programming will originate from the Saigon key station with limited local break-away time.

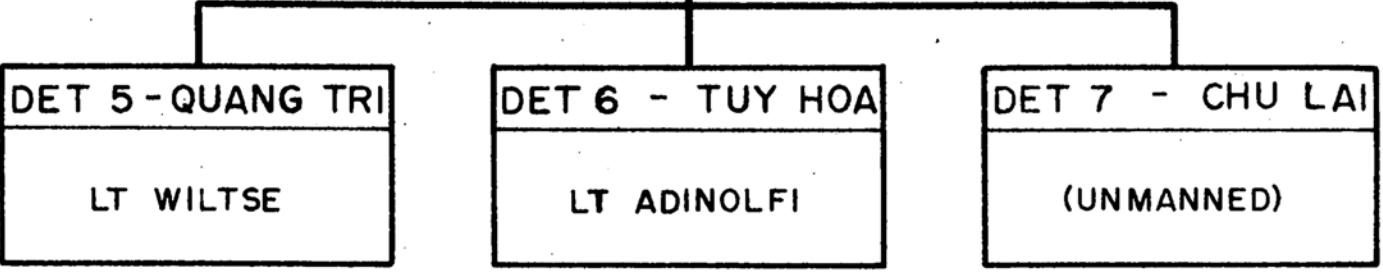
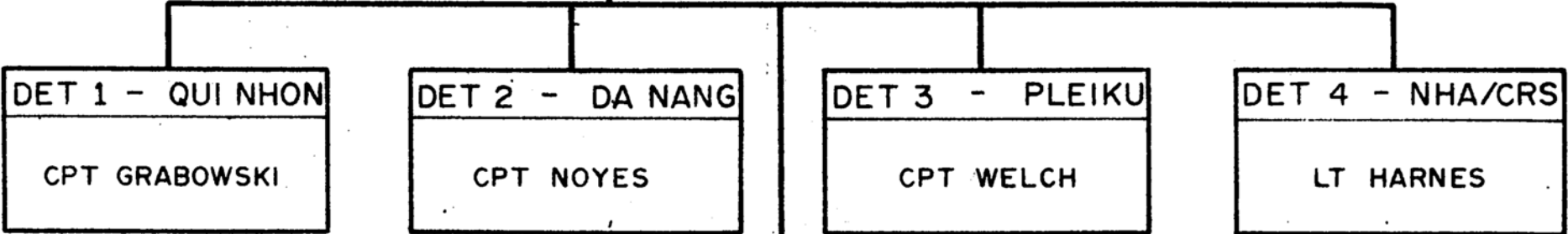
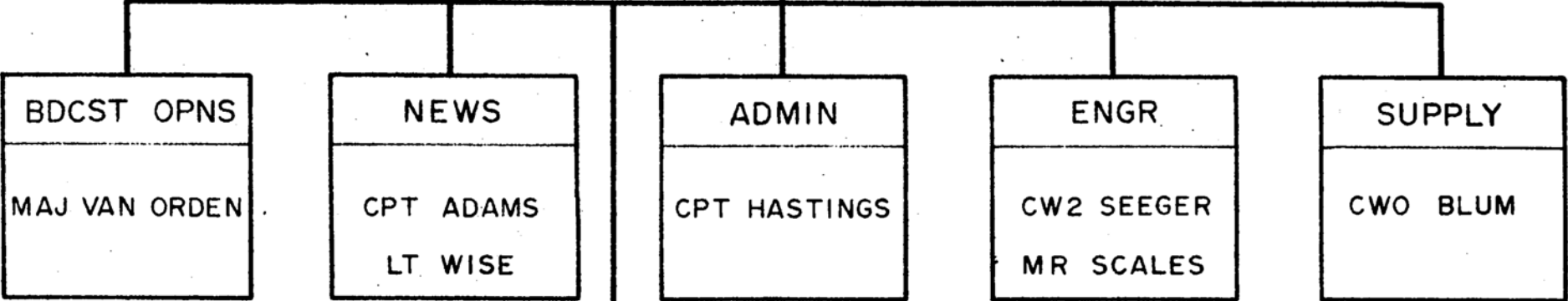
c. TELEVISION: AFVN-TV is a film and video tape network. A weekly TV package is received from AFRTS-LA. This package contains approximately 42 hours of programming. AFVN-TV operates on a double programming concept with approximately 90 hours of programming each week to allow maximum number of personnel the opportunity to view the programs. Since the programs are "de-commercialized" at LA, AFVN must fill the gaps to bring the individual programs back up to 60 minutes. This is accomplished by using AFRTS-LA film library material and locally produced AFVN material with the emphasis on command information spots. Once the package is aired at the key station it is then "bicycled" up country via a weekly film flight. The Saigon package is dropped off at Nha Trang and the package which that station aired is picked up for delivery to the next station and so on until the circuit is completed. Prior to shipment back to LA, all AFVN filler and spot material must be removed from the package. All stations sign on at 1200 and sign off approximately 2400 hours daily, except Quang Tri which signs on at 1700 hours Mon - Fri and at 1200 on Sat and Sun. Affiliate stations at Quang Tri, Qui Nhon, Da Nang, Pleiku, Nha Trang and Tuy Hoa produce their own TV newscasts and certain other local programming.

d. NEWS: The sources for news are AP and UPI radio wire services; AFRTS-W wire service; and voice feed; MACV daily communique; ABC film clips; and CBS film clips and video tapes which include the Walter Cronkite newscast. All news casts are edited by a commissioned officer (on duty 24 hours daily).

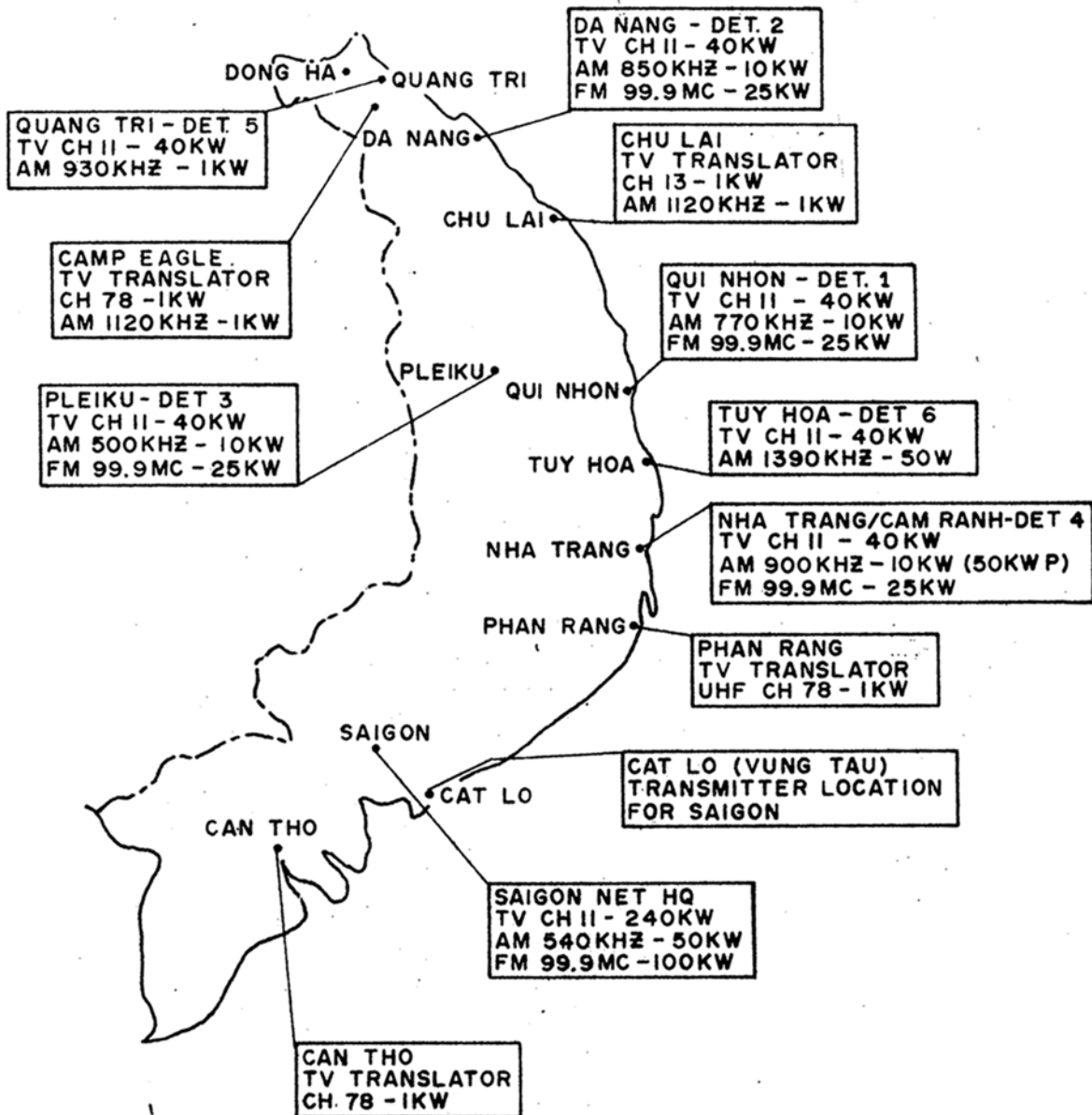
e. AFVN-TV Local Production: There is a considerable amount of local TV production. This consists of Special Programs (Cambodia - 60 days), Information Programs (Vietnam Forum; Insight) and Entertainment Programs (In Town Tonight; USO Tour Shows; Bob Hope Christmas Show).

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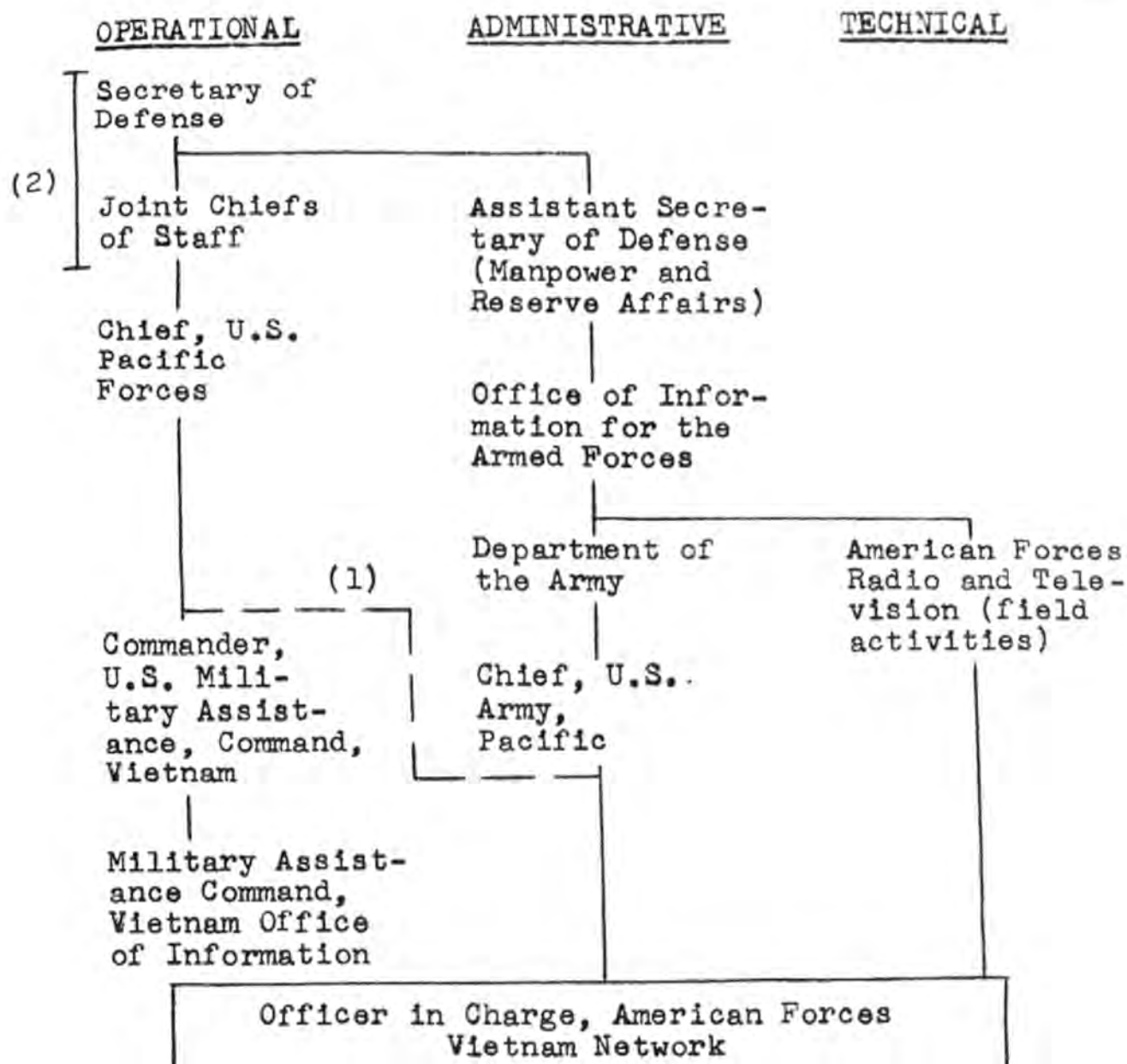
OFFICER IN CHARGE
LTC SOUVILLE
MAJ DOVE



AFVN RADIO & TV FACILITIES IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM



2nd 2



- (1) Under non-contingency conditions, operational control and administrative authority rests within the military department responsible for AFRT facilities in a given geographical area. See Chapter II, pp. 8-9.
- (2) This is an exaggeration of operational control of AFVN which stresses the joint-service nature of MACV.

Fig. 8.--American Forces Vietnam Network Control Organizational Chart (an interpretation).

Source: U. S. Department of Defense Instruction 5120.20, "American Forces Radio and Television," April 26, 1971; and in letter from OIC, AFVN to Charles B. Moore, February 3, 1971, p. 1.