



AMERICAN FORCES VIETNAM
NETWORK

COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

LTC Laurence W. Souville, USA

Working with you and your predecessors these past 12 months has been fun and has taught me much. I believe we have the closest-knit team in American Forces Radio and Television Service, able to meet adversities and successes of the present and challenges of the future with a unity of responsiveness and harmony. I think our ability to talk and listen equally has, in large measure, been the reason for our collective achievements. I commend the officers, non-commissioned officers and lower grades, all, for your understanding, loyalty, and dedication to our broadcast mission. Thanks, and I will remember you and this network always.

POTPOURRI

Recent developments concerning the Vietnam war have brought new challenges to the entire AFVN staff. The stepped-up drawdown has especially affected network manning, causing crossover and doubling up on jobs in order to maintain quality broadcast standards. Some detachments have moved. The Nha Trang and Quang Tri establishments are now located at Cam Ranh Bay and Hue/Phu Bai, respectively. In addition, Typhoon Hester challenged MSG Chet MacHeese and the AFVN DaNang staff by knocking the station off the air on 23 Oct 71. Transmission towers were rebuilt and FM returned to the air in three days, TV in five, and AM in six days... a tribute to the detachment staff and network engineers.

LTC Felix L. Casipit received the AFVN guidon from LTC Souville on 28 Jan 72 in a ceremony at the Saigon station. Colonel Souville received several honors, including the Vietnamese Psywar Medal, the Bronze Star Medal, and a Certificate of Appreciation from Jack Murphy, JUSPAO advisor to THVN. The former officer-in charge said he particularly appreciated the plaque presented him by the men of the network. Colonel Casipit comes to the network from the Army Signal School at Ft. Monmouth, N.J., and Colonel Souville is heading for an assignment with HQ USAREC HAMPTON, VA,

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BROADCAST OPERATIONS

MSgt. Jean LeRoy completed his tour as Broadcast Operations NCO and turned over the reins to SFC Bob Nelson who came to Saigon from AFN's Kaiserslautern station. Bob previously served with AFVN in 1965. Sergeant LeRoy, who also was one of AFVN's original TV troops in 1966, spent his second year in Saigon working television, news, radio, and finally followed Master Sergeants Chet MacHeese and Bob Martin into the Broops slot. Jean packs his bags and heads for Clark Air Base and duty at AFPH. Capt Terry Mayer remains as Chief of Broadcast Operations for the network and continues to see that AM keeps on pumping our those hits while FM serves the more conservative members of the radio audience.

Television, although its staff has gradually diminished, was active in recent months, with two major productions successfully handled along with the steady daily news requirements. One of the two major production was "The Golden People of Hawaii" show, a special Island feature brought to the "Nam" to thank GIs for visiting Hawaii. MSgt. Jean LeRoy directed the show and SP5 Dennis Hannon was his TD. The production was under the overall supervision of MSG Bob Martin and 1LT Don Dare, who also handled the lighting chores. All members of the staff agreed that the "Golden Folks" were one of the most fun groups to work with in a long time; especially, we might add, in the grass skirt department.

December was the occasion for the third annual taping of the Bob Hope Christmas Show. This time the production was under the able guidance of 1LT Don Dare who acted as overall producer and was a member of the "Operation Jingle Bells" staff. The two-hour show was directed by MSgt. Jean LeRoy. The rest of the crew included Sgt. Laurie Clemons, MSgt. Al Redlow, SP4 Tom Rutledge, SP5 Rich Battison, and SP5 Chris Pease. Graphics, produced by DMI Dennis "Mephisto" Harper and DMI Bob "Ship Shape" Maurer, were seen nationally in the Long Binh segment of the show when it was telecast in the States. Engineering for the show was capably handled by SFC Harry West, TSgt. Don Armstrong, and SSGT. Aaron Davis. The mobile van was borrowed from THVN. Except for having to drop back to a two-camera operation half-way through the show and some trouble with the audio feed, the production went well. The show was aired twice in Saigon and furnished to all AFVN stations, AFTN, and 7th Fleet.

The TV crew has a bright new addition in recently promoted (1 Feb 72) WAF Laurie Clemons, now a staff sergeant. Laurie has the distinction of being the first permanently assigned feminine member of the AFVN team. Laurie calls Alaska home. She's a graduate of DINPOS ISB-11 (1971) and was previously assigned to Keesler AFB, Mississippi. Other members of the recently reduced TV crew include NCOIC MSgt. Al Redlow, SP4 Tom Rutledge, SP5 Randy McElmury, SP5 Rich Battison, and SP4 Rick Erickson. Two recent returnees to civilian life are SP4 Jim Matyas and SP4 Tom Serkies.

Change of personnel is also the name of the game for radio in Saigon. Returning to civilian life are SP5 Wes Cunningham, SP5 Dennis Dormody, and SP4 Bruce Blackburn. Chief Announcer SP5 Dennis Hannon is off to South Carolina where he still has some time to give to the Army. His replacement in radio's top slot is JO2 Tim Huguenard. Tim comes from FEN-Tokyo and is shoveling out the hits country style. Other newcomers include SP4 John Noonan, an in-country reassignee; SP4 Rick Turner, a VN returnee who saw service with the Da Nang detachment earlier in 1971; and SP4 Dan Vander-Myde. Soul chores are handled by SP4 Harold Lamar Jr. Known to soul fans as "The Seventh Son", he pumps out 12 hours of soul a week on AM and two hours of underground on the FM side. SP5 Robert Tucker finally made his break from technical duties and is keeping those hits coming with the rest of the AM rockers.

As SP5 Ron Edwards left Saigon for Da Nang, SP4 Barry Coffman took over the chores of running the network traffic-continuity shop with the newly added and able assistance of SP4 Dave Ritz. The traffic-continuity shop has been busily up-grading the quality of spots used on the network and preparing the continually changing program schedules. Quick turnover of people at AFVN has backlogged "tons" of tapes and slides over the years. Barry and Dave have now catalogued them and they have thus become an asset to the creative production efforts of the Dynamic Duo. Dave and Barry also produce "Concert in Classics" for FM, "Sgt. Pepper" (underground) and the service club's weekly show "Your Song" for AM.

TSgt. selectee Tom Shuck, former AFTV-Germany film librarian is reeling in his new assignment as the network film librarian. Tom has realigned AFVN's film handling procedures and revitalized the operation in his constant effort to prove he's the best librarian in AFRTS. The library recently took over the daily preparation of TV logs. This provides for a more efficient operation and better use of available materials. Assisting in the film library is the ever-smiling Mrs. Mai, former admin man SP5 Paul Miano, and SP4 Gary McIntyre who takes over SP4 Mark Range's daily log preparation chores. Mark is off for duty with Pacific Stars and Stripes.

ENGINEERING

The Network Engineering Branch, under the direction of CWO Gilbert L. MacDonald has been quite active with projects ranging from Hue, in the North, to Can Tho in the Mekong Delta. SSG Phillip Provence and SSG Tommy Morris, Qui Nhon Engineers, teamed up with MSgt Willis McGhee from Hue, in pulling out the FM transmitter and antenna system from the Vung Chua mountain (Qui Nhon) site and shipment to its new location in Hue city, where Sergeant McGhee's engineers got it on the air in time for Christmas broadcasting. SSG Provence, along with his full time station operations in Qui Nhon, is installing a complete TV studio for the Vietnamese Television Authority (THVN). Sergeant Provence's engineering crew is working hand in hand with OICC, JUSPAO, and the Ministry of Information on the project, which is expected to be completed shortly.

CWO MacDonald, Mr. Ke, the Chief Vietnamese Engineer, along with SFC Harry Owsley and his legendary construction team consisting of: Mr. Thai (VGS-11), Mr. Son (VGS-9), Mr. Hy (VGS-9), and Mr. Nam (VGS-9) traveled from the Saigon Key Station to the AM site outside Cam Ranh Bay at Dong Ba Thin. Working with the Radio & TV sections of the Ministry of Information, they deactivated the Dong Ba Thin site, turning over the transmitter and the disassembled towers to the Vietnamese Government. CWO Waller and SP4 Bodle handled the logistics end of the trip, which was incidentally, by 1st commercial truck. After completion

of the Dong Ba Thin portion of the trip, all hands proceeded North, via their one vehicle convoy to Cui Ebon to perform tower maintenance. Upon their return to Saigon Mr. Ke hinted that perhaps the road wasn't quite clear all the way.

SSG Jesse Hardwick replaced SFC William Raynor as ECOIC of Radio Maintenance in the key station. Sergeant Hardwick is now starting his forth tour in the Republic. His previous assignment was with Strike Command at McDill AFB, Florida. Sergeant Raynor has PCS'D to Fort Bragg, N.C.; Petty Officer Jesse Ybanez and Harold Hayes have joined the Radio engineering staff in Saigon.

TSgt . Don Armstrong has been reassigned to Washington, D.C. Along with his key station duties in television engineering, Sergeant Armstrong was instrumental in putting the Da Nang station back on the air after Typhoon Hester hit it, last October.

SSG Ben Stearman and SP4 Tommy BeeBe are manning the recently established site at Can Tho Air Base. Currently, they are providing TV (UHF) and FM coverage of the Can Tho area. Plans call for expansion of the coverage via a VHF 1 Kilowatt translator.

SUPPLY

AFVN supply has been extremely busy as a result of many network realignments. Among the top recent projects of the branch were turn-in of excess property, reduction of spare parts to mission-essential items, and improvement of property accountability. CW4 Sam Waller and his crew have had some personnel changes, too. SFC Stacy Hawley has been replaced as ECOIC of the shop by SSG Sylvester Miller. Others on the supply staff include PFC Bob Bodle, SSG Morty DeLeon, SSG Robert Halsey, SP5 Walter Kankhue, and SSG Ed Saypack. SSG Richard Montanye (the oldest continuing member of the staff 66-72) has finally called it quits and is leaving Vietnam for a new assignment; hopefully, somewhere else in Asia.

PLEIKU

CPT Jack Howard has successfully completed his tour with AFVN and the United States Army. He was replaced at Pleiku by his DINFOS classmate 1LT Robert Cline (they graduated in February 1970). MSG Bob Lewis stopped in Saigon for a couple of weeks on his way to assignment at the Pentagon and SP5 Dave Dean is on his way to civilian life. C.J. McMurray has been reassigned from Pleiku and is now enjoying the sun at the MACV swimming pool where he's a lifeguard.