



AMERICAN FORCES

VIETNAM NETWORK

# — NEWSLETTER —

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## BRIEFS FROM THE EDITOR

Since the commander, Col. Nash, is enjoying himself in Australia on R&R, there is no need to explain why the Newsletter is without the Commander's column. Maybe the commander will have some useful information about Australia in the next issue, which will benefit those planning to spend an R&R there.

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The new AFVN logo is an original by Marine Sgt. J. B. Offenbacher, the graphic arts man for Headquarters. The new design will eventually replace the one in use now.

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Another reminder—inputs are not being received by all detachments, which hampers the intended purpose of the Newsletter. Inputs should reach Headquarters prior to the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. To those few detachments who are submitting regularly, your efforts are greatly appreciated.

## NETWORK NEWS BRANCH

Newscast air checks have begun to trickle in from detachments, but not on a regular basis. These are to be submitted by all detachments twice each month.

A series of general sports action slides is being prepared for all detachments. There will also be a complete set of slides covering team insignia for all major league baseball teams. Network News Service is also working on a set of map slides covering the four Corps areas in Vietnam.

Personnel changes during the month of May included the loss of SSgt. Dan Ruch who will be reporting to Ft. Gordon, Ga., for duty and Sp5 Gary W. Gears who returned to CONUS and equipment with ABC affiliate station KQV in Pittsburgh.

New additions to the AFVN news staff are Marine SSgt. Dan Brereton from FENB where he was station manager at Iwakuni and Army PFC Gilman Tobin who joined AFVN from the 2d Armored Division, Ft. Hood, Tex. Also joining AFVN news this month was Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Hugh Morgan from Sheppard AFB, Tex.

#### NETWORK RADIO

With the recent addition of new FM facilities at AFVN detachments, it is imperative that OICs insure adherence with the provisions of the "AFVN FM Radio Programming Concept" dated Oct. 26, 1968. If there is anything in that concept which any detachment finds irrelevant to their operations, it should be brought to the attention of Network Headquarters. It is emphasized that concept, along with the AM concept of radio programming (dated Oct. 6, 1968) are the rules for the operations of AFVN AM and FM radio.

Recently, a detachment requested that Network Headquarters investigate the supposed non-receipt of RPL shipments to their location. This resulted in two telephone calls and additional correspondence with AFRTS-LA. It was finally discovered that the shipments had been received at the detachment and were on hand. The lesson to be learned from this experience is that senior detachment personnel should insure that requests to Network Headquarters are justified and that requests for assistance are put in writing and signed by the OIC.

Another month and more changes, hopefully, improvements. The first was productions studio "B". Marine SSgt. Jlee LeFiles from the Engineer section of headquarters worked almost a month to rid the studio of the RF problem. He did a fine job, which means Sp5 Bob (the talker) Casey and his production staff will be back in full swing. With only one studio the headquarters production staff has been doing an almost impossible job in getting the extra heavy work load out.

Work in the AFVN music library is still underway. The music library once again has had a face lifting. Moving racks, desks, tables and files around in order to make more space available to sit down and work. Miss An who measures only a little over four and one half feet tall found it a trifle difficult to climb a ladder to get to the artist file, which is placed one on top of another to make more floor space. It was suggested, get a taller girl, but after five years of devoted service by Miss An, we decided it was easier to rearrange the library than to find another Miss An. Along with this move several records were removed from our files and sent up country to the detachment. SFC Raul Rodriguez is the man responsible for the outstanding job done in the library so far. "Espanolandia Ole."

In a previous Newsletter we indicated that there would be a special on the history of Rock and Roll. It now seems that this package will be delayed until further notice. "Xin Loi."

Sp5 Mike Halloran and Sp4 Pat Sajdak have extended their tour with AFVN for six months and will go on a special 30 day leave. Pat will go to the United States (The World) while Mike will visit Ireland. Sp5 Raymond Profeta and S4 Mike Sherman returned from Japan and their seven day R&R.

#### NETWORK SUPPLY

The month of April showed an improvement in demands filled. We filled 765 out of 888 requests. Our percentage of fill from stock has increased considerably. This is contributed mainly to the new supply system for AFVN, utilizing the DA Form 2765-1 and the requestor providing more specific information on the items requested. Also, with the help of the Engineer personnel, we are able to furnish acceptable substitutes. While there has been improvement in quality of request submitted, there is still need for further improvement. It can not be stressed too strongly the need for the make and model of the end item that the part is required for.

The repeated practice of ordering kits of resistors, fuses, and/or capacitors instead of specific items of replacements for the kits is poor supply practice. If you have received an initial kit, do not order another kit but instead order specific items for replacements.

We are all conscious of maintenance when it concerns our highly technical electronic equipment but don't fail to give equal concern to other items of equipment such as office equipment, individual weapons, etc. Network Supply will not accept equipment where user maintenance has not been performed.

Our DF, May 1, 1969, subject: "Change of Hand Receipt Holders", established a policy to allow for sufficient time to effect the change over of property responsibility. Check on your equipment constantly and be sure you know what you have and where it is.

#### TV PRODUCTION

Film splicing complaints have been coming this way recently from all detachments. Masking tape seems to be the biggest culprit. The Network Film Library is double checking all film shipments from Saigon to insure film is leaving here in good condition. Each detachment should make the same check prior to shipping to the next detachment. With this process working throughout the network, we can determine where the fault lies. It just could be personnel of military mailing units. If this is found to be true, we will initiate further steps to eliminate the problem. Also, detachment library personnel are urged to ship TWS to the next unit immediately after showing. Some delays in shipping have been reported. Also, double check those TWS to insure the package is complete.

New personnel arriving at AFVN recently and their job, are Sp4 Chuck Hays, TV Production; Marine SSgt. Norm Garrett, Network Special Events and

Newsletter editor; and Sp5 William Price, TV Production. Also congrats to Sp4 Bill Schmitzer, TV Production, on his recent promotion.

Some comments have tricked in regarding film quality and content of Kines produced in Saigon. As to film quality, we are doing the best we can with available equipment resources. Anyone who has the knowledge to improve the quality of Kine production is cordially invited to come to Saigon and be our guest. As to content—that's a matter of opinion. If you don't like it, don't use it (except in the case of priority items). 'Nuff said?

#### TV ENGINEERING

Network Engineering made many personnel changes during the month of May. This allowed as many qualified TV personnel to be placed at the dets as possible. Leaving the branch was SFC Ravenscroft and SSG Driscoll and SSG Ramagnano. Joining the roving team was SFC Gayle L. Gage, who has a wide background in TV to include Gates transmitters. The Headquarters team consists of CW2 Jarmon, MSG Ken Repasher and SFC Gage. We will be available any time to help with your station problems, just give us a call on the KWM-2.

Standards of good engineering practices for AFVN are nearing completion. They will be published and distributed as soon as possible. These standards will provide uniformity of technical operations throughout the Network.

#### RADIO ENGINEERING

Progress, progress, progress is the word around Saigon's Radio Engineering. Studio "B" is near completion of a similar type rehabilitation that took place in Studio "A" recently.

New patch panels are currently being wired for the frame room. They will be completely wired and tested before being put into use. This should improve our image by about 100 percent. Completion is an estimated 30 days away.

Due to our extensive preventive maintenance program our trouble calls have been reduced to practically zero. Nothing but results can appear when men work so diligently.

Our maintenance shop has taken on a new look with the addition of a take-out counter. This should produce better customer service.

Detachments are again reminded that calibration facilities are available at Tan Son Nhut through the radio engineers here in Saigon. If your test equipment doesn't work send it to us and we will repair it. Also, technical assistance on cart machines, turntables and reel to reel machines is available here. Let us know your needs.

### DETACHMENT 3

Detachment 3 met another self-imposed deadline with the consolidation of the AM radio studios, formerly at the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division basecamp, into the recently completed FM-VTR studio building. AM now enjoyed larger, more modern facilities. Meanwhile, letters are coming in filled with appreciative comments on the recently established FM facility, which continues to offer 18 hours daily local programming.

AFVN Det 3 hosted another distinguished guest as BrigGen. Thomas Rienzi toured the site on May 12. General Rienzi is the G-6 for USARV, and the Commanding General of the 1<sup>st</sup> Signal Brigade. We were also pleased to host LtCol. Nash, Network OIC. Colonel Nash spent an afternoon with the detachment, and assisted with the construction of a septic tank. The colonel's help typified the attitude of all headquarters personnel visiting Det 3. "Chief" Forland is currently visiting us, and is installing complete new teletype circuits. DM 1 Williams, also currently with us, has designed and built a new news/sports set, and has designed a new seven bedroom, two-story hootch (Det 3 can't expand any wider without falling off the mountain, so is following stateside urban building trends and going up), and a modern new latrine (Det 3 goes with flush potties, urinals, built-in sinks, indirect lighting, paneled walls, and shower stalls). "Willy", in his few spare moments, has even helped out by serving as FM announcer and TV cameraman. And, still another example of this willingness to help on the part of visiting personnel, Sgt. Nichols from Det 5, while awaiting transportation, pitched in a willing hand. Det 3 expresses its appreciation to all personnel from other network units who have lent us their time and skills.

We lost three men to the land of the big PX during May...Now DEROS'd are announcers Air Force Sgt. Joe Schwetz and Sp4 Bob Harrison, and engineer Sp5 Lou Waters. Yours are tough acts to follow, guys!

Rank structure at Det 3 is in danger of becoming a bit top-heavy, but we couldn't be happier. Our fingers are crossed for Sp5's Mike Sarkin and Steve Pierce, and SSgt. Ron Huskey, as we anxiously await the results of the last promotion board.

Det 3 goes to the movies...following completion of a 30-minute locally produced show on the 124<sup>th</sup> Motor Transportation Battalion, we received word that the battalion had viewed the show via a television set up in the base theater. The men were so impressed that word spread far and wide, and soon the commander of the 8<sup>th</sup> Transportation Group flew in from Qui Nhon to see it. The commander then asked for a copy of the video-tape show to be sent to Fort Eustis, VA., to be used as a training film. Sp4 Jim Beamer shot some outstanding film footage while accompanying the battalion on a convoy, and still talks about his experience with their truck-mounted mini-gun. The battalion commanding officer, LtCol. Bing, and the battalion sergeant major, command SGM Zircle were guests on the show, which was narrated by Sp4 Rich Brooks. Other detachment personnel involved directly in this particular local production were Cpl. Bob Milford, writer and producer; Sp4 Larry

Crider, director; Sp4 Mike Soares, cameraman; and ET1 Dave Larson, production engineer. In the past, Det. 3 has received letters of commendation and/or appreciation for locally produced shows, and in our drive for press we hope to be able to continue that quality so that our now firmly-established image can continue to grow.

Recently we completed a permanent, enclosed entrance to the TV van, which new steps and added storage space. This has helped a great deal in cutting the dust problem, and during monsoons will cut mud as well as help keep people dry.

The Det 3 "Scrounger's Award" goes to super-traders Lt. Cutlip and MSG McNeese. These two, who could sell iceboxes to Eskimos, have acquired literally hundreds of items from an FM antenna mast to flush potties, fluorescent lights and virtually all the materials used in the Det 3 expansion and beautification projects. Their motto is now "you trade, we travel"... Any takers?

#### DETACHMENT 4

Several projects are nearing completion here at Detachment 4. The new office building which was supposed to be built by the Army Engineers turned into another proverbial self-help project. The Hon Tre "Carpenters", MSG Akin, Sgt. Carita and Sp5 Young have already finished the exterior and roof and have begun work on the interior. The FM studio is almost complete. A new control console is on its way to us from Saigon to be installed and we are anxiously awaiting its arrival. The new board will provide much greater latitude in our FM production and programming. Next week we are planning to make the changeover in power to Page Communication's generators. This will bring much joy to Sp6 Joe, our chief engineer, since the present power is unreliable and the power surges and fluctuations have been playing havoc with the transmitter and Joe's nerves.

However, the most momentous occasion of the month was arranging for a transfer for Chico our pet monkey. After several unsuccessful attempts to find her a new home, MSG Akin finally resorted to advertising her on the late newscast. Before MSG Akin could get out of the studio we were flooded by 32 calls for the beast. Two days later all traces of the monkey were gone much to our delight.

#### AFVN NEWSLETTER EDITORIAL POLICY

The AFVN Newsletter is an informal communications medium published monthly as a means of exchanging views and ideas between Headquarters AFVN and detachments. News items from detachments should be included as attachments to weekly operation reports. Items not received prior to the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month will be included in the newsletter for the following month. All items must be typed, double spaced, on 8 X 10½ bond paper.