

AMERICAN FORCES



VIETNAM NETWORK

— NEWSLETTER —

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APRIL 1, 1969

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

We have about three months before the heavy turnover of personnel starts. With this in mind, all supervisors should start cross training to assure continuity of operation during the critical months of June, July and August. I know that many detachments have such programs in operation. This is merely a reminder to take a close look at the upcoming more-than-normal personnel turnover to determine where training emphasis needs to be placed.

On March 14, AFVN Det 7 at Chu Lai went officially on the air with appropriate ceremony. More on that from LCDR Wentz, Chief, Network Radio Branch, who represented AFVN headquarters at the ceremony. I was unable to attend because of TDY to the Army OCINFO Armed Forces Radio and Television conference held in Washington D. C. I will report on that conference when I return.

Congratulations are in order for MSGT Almeida, USMC, and his men for their dedicated work in bringing in this youngest station in the AFVN family. Personal congratulations are in order too for Sergeant Almeida's recent well deserved promotion to E-8. Marine Col. W. M. Crooks, Deputy CINFO, MACV, and that charming lady, Major Filkins, the Marine liaison officer to MACV, who assisted in the changing of the chevrons.

Recent weekly reports from detachments have had notes for the newsletter attached. Keep them coming and the purpose of the newsletter will be fulfilled.

NETWORK NEWS BRANCH

MSgt. Matt Matheson departed the Network March 3, to return to stateside duty as information chief of the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S. C. His replacement as NCOIC of the Network News Branch is Marine MSgt. Jim Kyser who spent the last 2½ years with the Armed Forces Press Service in Washington D. C. He arrived in Saigon March 15.

Detachment OICs are reminded to return the newsfilm usage reports each

week with the detachment reports to AFVN headquarters. These reports will help us determine what you need in the way of newsfilm.

The News Branch still wants twice-monthly air checks of newscasts on either audio or video tape. Only Da Nang has responded to date.

NETWORK TV PRODUCTION

The late Sam Cooke had a hit song entitled "A Change is Gonna Come." That change has arrived and is continuous at network TV.

Personnel changes were: SP4 Tom Steinbeck and SP4 Morrie Beitch have been transferred to Det 6 at Tuy Hoa to replace two of their men. Det 7 at Chu Lai received SSG Fred Haber and SP4 Peter Halperin. Det 3 at Pleiku gains SP4 Mike Soares. All of the above are U. S. Army types. On the plus side we welcome Marine SSG Bill Buck.

Programming changes: Beginning April 7, we are putting into effect a complete schedule change. This is being done for three reasons: To keep the greater Saigon audience on its toes; to allow us to adjust programming to fit the findings of the survey; and to keep Channel 11, Saigon, from becoming stagnant visually. It is suggested that the detachments consider a schedule change for the reasons stated, if practical.

Congratulations are in order for Paul Baldrige and Bruce Covington, both promoted to Specialist Five during the month of March. Twenty one guns sounded off for Fred Haber, advancing to SSG E-6 at the same ceremony. All were Army troops.

Our film library needs all empty reels returned when detachments have no further use for them. This especially applies to seven inch reels. When cleaning house, make sure you return those reels to us.

The phrase for professionalism for this newsletter is:

"Creativity = Imagination + Work"

NETWORK RADIO

This and next month will see many personnel changes in the Radio Branch. Due for rotation to the United States is C&W Country Caravan MC, SFC Clem Shamus. Clem, also known for his guitar playing and country singing both on radio and television will be replaced as NCOIC of the Network's Radio Branch by MSG Raymond Banks. Sergeant Banks is presently getting familiar with the Network operations before taking over. He arrived in Saigon from the Command Information Unit, Washington D. C.

Another addition to the Radio Branch is SFC Raul Rodriguez. He was with the American Forces Network, Europe, as the enlisted program supervisor before his assignment as program director.

Marine Lance Corporal Stephen F. Rutt is the latest addition and has been assigned to radio production. Rutt, a Californian, was with the Parris Island Information Services Office before his assignment here.

The second new programming cycle of the calendar year begins April 20. There are relatively few changes which will effect network programming. All That Jazz, Promenade Concert, Music A La Carte, Escape and Drive Time will no longer be heard. The Ave Maria Hour and Silhouette will take thirteen week vacations as part of their normal rotation with The Catholic Hour, Eternal Light and Master Control.

New programs will include Casey's Cavern, a progressive folk/rock hour; The Carmen Dragon Show, a series of classical music presentations; The Barbara Randolph Show, featuring rhythm and blues; The Jeannie Seely Show, with country and western artists and records; plus The Adventures of Michael Shane, a detective drama.

"The History of Rock & Roll," a 48-hour long documentary tracing the development of America's most popular music is tentatively scheduled for broadcast on April 25, 26 and 27. Provided to AFVN by the RKO General Broadcasting Group, the program required more than 12,000 hours of production time. All local breakaway time, save hourly IDs, will be preempted during this special presentation.

NETWORK SUPPLY

As a matter of interest to all concerned the following information is provided which reflects the status of requests covering AFVN activities for supplies and equipment and the status of requisitions submitted by Net Supply to higher supply sources.

	<u>Jan</u>	<u>Feb</u>
Requests received	331	433
Requests filled	245	241
Requests outstanding	129	196
Requisitions forwarded for supply action	515	419
Requisitions filled	107	107
Requisitions due out	499	303

DETACHMENT TWO

At last, public works has erected a roof on the television van and painting of the van should be completed in a few days.

In preparation for Tet and over-zealous VC celebrants, several detachment members, augmented by a Saigon-based visitor, managed to kill (no pun intended) an entire afternoon setting trip-flares in the jungle above the station site. The sore-muscled, badly scratched and "battle-weary vets" were somewhat dismayed the following afternoon to see one of the falres go off. After some

serious discussion for more than an hour, two brave and hardy staffers "volunteered" to recon the area and try to determine if a two-legged or four-legged animal was responsible. Net result: two flares have now been tripped; we know who tripped the second one, but the first...?

DETACHMENT 3

Det 3 hosted the 4th Inf Division Commanding General, Maj Gen D. R. Pepke to a briefing and tour of the Dragon Mountain television site recently. General Pepke expressed his appreciation on behalf of 4th Div troopers for service rendered by Det 3 and AFVN.

A rebuilding program was initiated in late November and to date, has completed troop billets, a new TV studio, TV production room, film library, news room, a day room, and OIC and NCOIC quarters and lounge. All construction was performed by personnel of the detachment.

In the very near future, the Central Highlands will be receiving its AM and FM signals from facilities atop Dragon Mountain. Construction was completed March 12 on a new building which houses a combination AM/FM studio, radio production room, record library and VTR room. The VTR has been installed and now is in use. The FM transmitter is on the site and presently being installed with the signal expected to be on the air April 1. The studio facilities were built, all other facilities, on a self-help basis. However, we owe the 819th Civil Engineer Squadron (Red Horse), Pleiku AB, a note of thanks for their material support.

Who Can Top This? With the recent arrival of a U. S. Navy electronics technician, Det 3 is now joint-service staffed. Not only did the arrival of the sailor equal service representation, but land-locked a submariner. He is ET1 (SS) David J. Larsen who is adjusting to Dragon Mountain altitude, having previously served five years below sea level. He comes to AFVN from Treasure Island, Calif., where he served as a television instructor. Det 3 also has a new station manager in MSG Chet McNeese, a veteran of 25 years, entering AFRTS the first time in 1950. He comes to Det 3 from AFN Bremerhaven, Germany, where he served as station manager for three years. He replaces MSG Arthur B. Davis who has departed Vietnam for duty with the U. S. Army Recruiting Command.

Suggestion for TV Van maintenance: The "red dust" in the Central Highlands is murderous to TV van equipment. To reduce the dust problem, Det 3 removed the rubber matting and replaced it with floor tile. When personnel enter the van, boots are removed. The tile is much easier to keep clean and gives the van a better appearance.

DETACHMENT 4

The ARVN Chief Signal Officer, Colonel Vien, and his entourage of 14 staff officers visited the TV and FM station on Hon Tre Island recently. Col. Vien was especially interested in the TV operation since he enjoys many of

the programs on AFVN.

Hon Tre Islanders observed their second anniversary of television service to the Nha Trang-Cam Ranh-Phan Rang area. The TV van at Det 4 came on the air March 13, 1967 and a lot of well-modulated RF has been transmitted since then. On the eve of this momentous occasion we were provided good news from the Army Engineers...the plans for our new television studio have been approved and construction will begin soon. When the studio is completed it will be the first building at Det 4 that wasn't built by us in a "self-help project." The studio will allow us vast latitude in production and of course free us from the broom closet on the front end of the TV van which has served us for the last two years.

In the midst of this reverie we welcomed Pfc Parker Snow to the clan. He is doing the "Gone Show" emanating nightly from Dong Ba Thin.

DETACHMENT 5

On Feb. 27, Det 5 began sending its radio signal from the completed radio tower. This feat was accomplished through the efforts of Det 5 members, who pulled together with one desire in mind -- provide American fighting men in the Northern I Corps area with the best possible radio reception.

However, the radio tower is only a small part of the accomplishments of the men at Det 5. In their free time at night, Det 5 'ers turn their efforts toward the building of a radio studio, which is nearing completion. Using their ability of fast talking, and finding items which are not available, station members have lined the walls with acoustic tile, made arrangements for plexi-glass windows, and obtained support from several units in the area for needed supplies.

DETACHMENT 6

We started using our new news format recently. A new set was designed in the form of a triptych fronted by an eight foot "S" curved desk. In addition, a 30-second film clip of approximately 100 news slides interspaced with an AFVN News and Sports slide is being used for the opening.

The production department has a new sports writer and announcer in ALC Bob Young. Bob comes to us from Lowry AFB, Colo. In addition to Bob's arrival, we're happy to announce that our program director, Howard W. Fuller, pinned on master sergeant stripes (USAF) March 1.

DETACHMENT 7

AFVN Det 7 at Chu Lai began television operations March 14, when Maj Gen Charles M. Gettys, Americal Division Commanding General, officially opened the station. MSG Frank Almeida, Det 7 NCOIC, welcomed General Gettys

to the station and then presided over a cake-cutting ceremony to mark the event.

Chu Lai will broadcast on Channel 13 and will serve the Americal Division along with Navy and Marine Corps personnel in that area. Until an expanded schedule is formulated and facility construction is completed, the station will begin its broadcast day at 6pm and sign off about midnight. Chief Journalist Ray Lucasey, USN, is PD.

With the establishment of a full radio studio capability at Chu Lai sometime this year, the long-range plans for AFVN will be completed.

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 15th of the month will be included in the newsletter for the following month. All items must be typed, double spaced, on 8 X 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ bond paper.