



"UNOFFICIAL"

History of the 917-S/917-H FTD

3 Dec 1962-20 Aug 1964

Tan Son Nhut Air Base

Saigon South Vietnam

FOREWARD

The intent of this document is to locate and document any information concerning the FTD. Information about the organization, purpose, problems, achievements, and awards of the FTD has been included along with memorabilia provided by members of the FTD.

The quality of some items in this document are not the best due to being copies of copies in some instances and all the documents, pictures and clippings are from the 1963-1964 era.

This document is not intended to provide a complete and all encompassing official history of the FTD.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Former members of the FTD who have provided pictures, documents, news clippings, and other memorabilia for inclusion in this recollection of the unit.

**Don Cannon
Dick Kuenzli
Jerry Millikin
Bob Runinger
James O. Smith
Jim Moore**

PATCHES ON COVER PAGE COURTESY OF JAMES O. SMITH & DON CANNON

EDITOR JIM MOORE



Saigon Airport April 1964



January 1964-July 1964

Largely because of American military assistance, the helicopter section of the VNAF was experiencing a critical pilot shortage in late 1962. Under the Military Assistance Program (MAP) a total of 48 helicopters (H-19 and H-34) were projected for the VNAF by 1 July 1964.

To accomplish the task of training VNAF personnel, the USAF either brought the Vietnamese to the CONUS or it sent Americans to Vietnam to train the Vietnamese in their own country. Superficially, it would seem more efficient to send a small number of American instructors to train a large number of Vietnamese students than to send those same students to the CONUS.

There were political advantages and one of the desiderata of training conducted in the CONUS was the exposure of foreign students to democratic ideals and the "American way of life". By 1962 due to the deteriorating military situation the political and cultural advantages of CONUS training had to be sacrificed for the greater efficiency of "in-country" training.

On 8 September 1962, CINCPAC sent a message to HQ USAF requesting that "all feasible steps" be taken to alleviate the current pilot shortage of the VNAF. To expedite this training program, CINCPAC asked HQ USAF to get an ATC team "on the road without delay".

An ATC survey team visited Vietnam from 23 September to 7 October 1962 to study the various possible ways of training VNAF helicopter pilots in that country.

They recommended an FTD be established in Vietnam to provide helicopter and mechanic training. They believed this was the only

way to “eliminate the need for USAF Forces serving in any air combat counterinsurgency operations”.

The survey team recommended the FTD be “in Vietnam by 1 January 1963, with training starting 1 February 1963.

In November 1962, HQ USAF approved the team’s recommendations and directed ATC to deploy an FTD to Vietnam to conduct H-19 helicopter training for the VNAF.

FTD 917-S was organized on 3 December 1962 with an authorized strength of 12 officers and 47 airmen drawn from ATC resources. Most of the officers and airmen left the CONUS on 11 January 1963 and arrived in Vietnam the next day. The detachment became operational and began training on 11 February 1963.

Led by Col. Jimmy Hamill, instructors were taken from Stead and other ATC units to began VNAF helicopter pilot training in H-19B helicopters.

The training was conducted on 8 H-19B helicopters. Three were already available at Tan Son Nhut Airfield in Saigon, while the remaining five were in flyable storage at the VNAF Bien Hoa Depot.

With the success of the training and at the urgent request by the VNAF for expansion of the training program, CINCPAC requested and was approved to add 11 officers, 31 airmen, and 9 helicopters.

On 17 June 1963, ATC transferred responsibility for FTD 917-S from Sheppard to the 3635th Flying Training Group (Advanced) at Stead AFB Nevada. FTD 917-S was inactivated and FTD 917-H was designated and organized at Saigon to take its place. The reason for the change concerned the unit’s primary mission of

pilot training; it was reassigned to a "compatible ATC flying training organization".

After graduating its first class of helicopter pilots and while beginning to train its second class the FTD also undertook to train a class of helicopter mechanics. The first mechanics' class began on 1 July 1963 with 30 Vietnamese students.

A major problem facing the FTD was the inadequacy of its logistical support. Once deployed to Vietnam the detachment found itself short of aerospace ground equipment, hand tools, and spare parts. This poor situation continued through 1963.

By February 1964, through controlled cannibalization, coupled with the improvement of the logistical support the supply problem was reduced to only one aircraft out of commission because of parts. *(James O. Smith stated he recalls one particular day sixteen aircraft were in the air)*

Although the detachment's supply situation had improved early in 1964, it continued to have logistical difficulties. The detachment had only six aircraft in commission in early July 1964. An urgent action technical order required that the helicopters' main rotor head pitch control rods be radiographed. Eighteen of the pitch change rods were not affected by the urgent action technical order.

This procedure was not available in Vietnam so the rods had to be shipped to Air America in Taipei, Formosa. The maintenance personnel met the challenge and kept the six remaining aircraft flying throughout this period.

On 16 June 1964 aircraft 53-4454 crashed on take off. *(James O. Smith and Dick Kuenzli both have stated it was the result of engine failure)*

Personnel rotation presented the detachment with another kind of problem. Sheppard AFB intended to rotate the original complement of detachment personnel in monthly increments beginning in November 1963 and continuing through April 1964, extending the tours of some of the airmen to as long as 15 months. The detachment commander protested the inequity of this program and urgently requested that a more equitable rotation plan be formulated that would provide a minimum period of disrupting concentrated training programs. By October 1963, the original cadre of officers and airmen was being replaced.

Beginning with class 64A training was accelerated in two ways. The training was extended from 5 to 6 days and the flying time per student was increased from 45 minutes to a full hour. These procedures eliminated several issues.

When 26 student pilots graduated on 18 July 1964 that brought the total to 95 pilots trained by the detachment. The detachment also trained 92 mechanics during its 19 months in Vietnam.

Its mission accomplished, the detachment prepared to go home. On 20 August 1964, HQ ATC inactivated FTD 917-H at Saigon.

The FTD under its earlier designation received the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for the period 12 January to 14 June 1964.

The 3638th Flying Training Squadron (Helicopter) at Stead received the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for the period of 1 March 1962 to 1 March 1963.

The United States Military Assistance Command Vietnam recommended the FTD for the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

for its performance throughout its period of deployment in the Republic of Vietnam.

Overall the detachment was cited as having contributed significantly to the operational capability of the Vietnamese Air Force.

The documents below provide more detailed information on the FTD. These documents are in PDF format and can be viewed in the electronic version of this document. The electronic version is available on the website or on disc. A hard copy of the documents may also be obtained.

Doc 1001 CINPAC Message 082101Z Sep 62

Doc 1002 Report of Helicopter Survey Team 16 Oct 62

Doc 1003 Accelerated Force Development of the Vietnamese Air Force (VNAF) Helicopter Pilot and Mechanic Training

Doc 1004 FTD Force Structure - Recommended Manning

Doc 1005 VNAF Helicopter Pilot Personnel Posture

Doc 1006 VNAF Helicopter Mechanic Personnel Posture

Doc 1007 Aircraft Utilization Recap Mar 61- Feb 62

Doc 1008 Special Order G-40 7 June 63

Doc 1009 Transfer of Responsibility of FTD 917

Doc 1010 Minutes of the H-19 FTD Planning Meeting 4 June 1963

Doc 1011 Summary of Detachment Activities 3 July 1963

Doc 1012 Informational Brochure 11 October 1963 (contains listing of personnel on that date)

Doc 1013 Summary of Detachment Activities 11 July 1964

Doc 1014 Special Order G-47 26 June 1964 (Unit Discontinuance)

Doc 1015 Air Training Command's Support of Forces in Southeast Asia 1961-1973 Extract

Doc 1016 Freedom of Information Act Request - Konek 3 Jan 92

Doc 1017 HQ ATC/IM Ltr 7 Jan 92

Note: The six documents underlined were provided by Mr. Sid Nanson

UNIT MANNING AS OF 11 OCTOBER 1963

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AS OF 11 OCT 63

Following is a list of FTD 917H Officer Personnel:

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>AFSN</u>	<u>Duty</u>
Lt Col	HAMILL JIMMY M	[REDACTED]	Detachment Commander
Maj	GASE FRANK R	[REDACTED]	Maintenance Officer
Maj	GOESSEL FREDE H JR	[REDACTED]	Operations Officer
Maj	HUGHES WILLIAM A	[REDACTED]	Acad Officer and IP
Capt	ANATRELLA LOUIS P	[REDACTED]	Instructor Pilot
Capt	CARROLL JAMES T JR	[REDACTED]	Instructor Pilot
Capt	KEKUNA GEORGE L	[REDACTED]	Instructor Pilot
Capt	KING BYRON W JR	[REDACTED]	Instructor Pilot
Capt	LINK JOHN A	[REDACTED]	Standardisation Pilot
Capt	MAY EARL H	[REDACTED]	Instructor Pilot
Capt	MAYO ROBERT E	[REDACTED]	Admin Officer and IP
Capt	PRESTON JERRY N	[REDACTED]	Instructor Pilot
Capt	RENSCH DONALD J	[REDACTED]	Instructor Pilot
1Lt	ALMANZAR DONALD H	[REDACTED]	Instructor Pilot
1Lt	COODY MARCUS H	[REDACTED]	Instructor Pilot
1Lt	DEVRIES WILLIAM A	[REDACTED]	Instructor Pilot
1Lt	DURHAM FLOYD A	[REDACTED]	Instructor Pilot
1Lt	KOERSCHNER FREDE E	[REDACTED]	Instructor Pilot
1Lt	MCKIBBEN JOHN H JR	[REDACTED]	Instructor Pilot
1Lt	MICKELSEN RICHARD A	[REDACTED]	Supply Officer and IP
1Lt	SALMANS LARRY D	[REDACTED]	Instructor Pilot
1Lt	SCHANNEP ROBERT N	[REDACTED]	Instructor Pilot
1Lt	SCHILDGEN PAUL R	[REDACTED]	Instructor Pilot

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Following is a list of FTD 917H Enlisted Personnel:

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>AFSN</u>	<u>AFSC</u>
SMSgt	ANDERSON JOHN W JR	 	43190
TSgt	BRUNT JOHN M	 	64670
TSgt	CRAVENS FRANK E	 	43170
TSgt	GAULDIN BRICE E JR	 	75170
TSgt	HELLAND EARL H	 	70270
TSgt	MAURER JACOB JR	 	43170
TSgt	POOLE BRADY E	 	43170
SSgt	ADAMS JOHN F	 	43150
SSgt	BAKER CHARLES E	 	43150
SSgt	BALFOUR JOHN H	 	43150
SSgt	BENSON JAMES O	 	A43150
SSgt	BIZZELL WELDON B	 	A43150
SSgt	CANNON DON K	 	A43150
SSgt	CROSSON LOUIS K	 	43251
SSgt	DANIEL MYLES E	 	42152
SSgt	DAVIS FRANK W JR	 	A43150
SSgt	DEGAETANO BENNY A	 	A43150
SSgt	EZELL COLBERT	 	A43150

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Enlisted Personnel (Con't)

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>AFSN</u>	<u>AFSC</u>
SSgt	FERGUSON CARL G JR	██████████	43150
SSgt	GERTZ STANLEY E	██████████	A43150
SSgt	HASSMAN DONN M	██████████	43150
SSgt	HAWLEY EDWARD E	██████████	A43150
SSgt	HEATH JAMES A	██████████	A43150
SSgt	HICKMAN ROBERT	██████████	43150
SSgt	INMAN CLIFTON E	██████████	A43150
SSgt	KAPLAN JACK	██████████	A43150
SSgt	KADERKA EDWARD J	██████████	64650
SSgt	KILLOUGH WILLIAM B	██████████	43150
SSgt	LANGLEY CLIFFORD R	██████████	A43150
SSgt	LAWLER ROBERT H	██████████	53450
SSgt	LEE GLENN H	██████████	43150
SSgt	LEHENBAUER KAY F	██████████	42250
SSgt	LONG ROBERT A	██████████	A43150
SSgt	MAY WALTER H	██████████	A43150
SSgt	MAXWELL CHARLES C	██████████	43150
SSgt	MCFARLAND DON E	██████████	A43150
SSgt	NELSON RAYMOND L	██████████	73250B
SSgt	NICHOLSON LEONAR A	██████████	43150

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Enlisted Personnel (Con't)

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>AFSN</u>	<u>AFSC</u>
SSgt	NOVAK, JOSEPH	[REDACTED]	43251
SSgt	RASBERRY CURTIS R	[REDACTED]	70250
SSgt	RUNNINGER ROBERT E	[REDACTED]	43150
SSgt	SCADDEN VERNON A	[REDACTED]	53450
SSgt	SINGEL ROBERT E	[REDACTED]	A43150
SSgt	SMITH DAVID E	[REDACTED]	A43150
SSgt	STEPHENS ROBERT L	[REDACTED]	43150
SSgt	TOMLINSON RICHARD E	[REDACTED]	A43150
SSgt	WEST LUTHER J JR	[REDACTED]	30150
SSgt	WILDER CLYDE	[REDACTED]	43150
SSgt	WILSON FRED J	[REDACTED]	27150
SSgt	WRIGHT EVERETT W	[REDACTED]	43150
A1C	BOTHWICK FRANKLIN D	[REDACTED]	43150
A1C	BRANDENBURG RALPH R	[REDACTED]	43150
A1C	GIPSON ROOSEVELT	[REDACTED]	42153
A1C	GLADISH WILLIAM R	[REDACTED]	43150
A1C	HALL RONALD A	[REDACTED]	43150
A1C	HAYNES LEONARD E	[REDACTED]	43150
A1C	HAZZARD JOHN H JR	[REDACTED]	A43150

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Enlisted Personnel (Con't)

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>AFSN</u>	<u>AFSC</u>
A1C	JONES GEORGE A	[REDACTED]	64650
A1C	KOLBEK ARTHURE H	[REDACTED]	43150
A1C	LAND RICHARD D	[REDACTED]	A43150
A1C	LOGAN ROBERT P JR	[REDACTED]	A43150
A1C	NACHBAR CHARLES D	[REDACTED]	43150
A1C	PAYNE RALPH L	[REDACTED]	42350
A1C	PUSTORINO JOHN A	[REDACTED]	43150
A1C	REIDER LAWRENCE G	[REDACTED]	43150
A1C	SPARKS GLENN C	[REDACTED]	43150
A1C	WEILAND CHRIS A JR	[REDACTED]	43150
A1C	WENDLER DONALD L	[REDACTED]	43150
A2C	KUENZLI RICHARD L	[REDACTED]	43150
A2C	OTHON EUGENE G JR	[REDACTED]	43150
A2C	ROGERS ELWOOD L	[REDACTED]	43150

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9175 FTD 1963
Lounge Built by Unit Members
Dedication Party
Lt to Rt around table is
Robert Stephens,
John Pustorino, Weldon Bizzell
and Ed Hawley walking away



Lt to Rt Robert Stephens,
David E. Smith



**Lounge Dedication Party
TSN Saigon RSVN 1963**



**Lt to Rt Stan Gertz, Weldon
Bizzell, Frank Gase (MO),
Jimmy Hamill (DETCO),
Richard Tomlinson**

Don Cannon C/C, Acft P/U at Bien Hoa AB and flown to TSN 1963



917th FLD TNG DET

U.S. AIR FORCE
CERTIFICATE OF HONORABLE DUTY IN SAIGON, VIETNAM
ISSUED IN SOLEMN WARNING
on this _____ day of _____ 19____
TO THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF _____

NOW SERVING IN SAIGON, VIETNAM

Very soon now he will take his place again as a human being with freedom. You are respectfully cautioned to treat this tired specimen with care and affection. Show no surprise to his broken Vietnamese and English accent, nor if an occasional off-colored word slips through, for he has tolerated much and has been long exposed to the verbal temptations of the cruel vicious southeast asia climate. Show no surprise if he prefers to squat on his haunches instead of using a chair. Make sure the ice box is well supplied with red meat (no rice or fish), butter and a good supply of real, fresh milk. Make the bed with "clean" white sheets and warn the neighbors to welcome him with a cool stimulant. For the first few weeks, until he is house-broken be very careful of him while he is around "round-eyed" women. Keep in mind that beneath his pasty pallet heart beats a heart of gold, and that with tolerance and kindness you will in time rehabilitate that which is now a hollow shell of the happy soul that you once knew before this strange, dull and gruesome tour in this asiatic wasteland. In consuming this foregoing advice, your loan to the Vietnamese will slowly begin to resemble the pre-Vietnamese you once knew, though approximately 12 to 15 months older, but many more in mind. Perhaps he will be slightly changed in weight and structure, but with a little more appreciation for life itself and the feeling of knowing he made it home, he will tackle the chores of life with new vim and vigah.

"I CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE NAMED PERSON IS SCHIZOPHRENIC IN THE HEBEPHRENIC STAGE. HE ALSO SUFFERS HALLUCIANATIONS WITH ACTIVE MANNERISMS AND COULD BE CALLED PARANOIC. EXAMINATION REVEALS HE IS OF SOUND MIND AND CAN BE TRUSTED IF ESCORTED BY TWO OR MORE PERSONS.

Chief



Entrance to work area

HEADQUARTERS
3635TH FLYING TRAINING WING (ADVANCED)(ATC)
United States Air Force
Stead Air Force Base, Nevada

SPECIAL ORDER
P-89

23 March 1964

1. The functional account code of the following named airmen, Hq 3635 Fly Tng Gp (Adv), ATC, this stn, with operating location Field Training Detachment 917H, APO 143, San Francisco, California, is changed from 87020-681 to 3700-0681, effective 1 Apr 64. Authority: UMD Change and Ltr, ATC (ATPAP-A-D), 26 Feb 64, Conversion and Reporting Functional Account Codes for Airmen.

GRADE, NAME AND AFSN

A1C ARTHUR H KOLBEK, ██████████
A1C RICHARD D LAND, ██████████
A1C RONALD E LEVI, ██████████
A1C ROBERT P LOGAN JR, ██████████
A1C PAUL W MOORE, ██████████
A1C JAMES B MOORE, ██████████
A1C LAWRENCE G REIDER, ██████████
A1C JAMES O SMITH, ██████████
A1C DONALD L WENDLER, ██████████
A2C RICHARD L KUENZLI, ██████████
A2C EUGENE G OTHON JR, ██████████
A2C ELWOOD L ROGERS, ██████████

2. The functional account codes of the following named airmen, 3638 Fly Tng Sq (Heli), ATC, this stn, are changed as indicated, effective 1 Apr 64. Authority: UMD Change and Ltr, ATC (ATPAP-A-D), 26 Feb 64, Conversion and Reporting Functional Account Codes for Airmen.

<u>GRADE, NAME AND AFSN</u>	<u>FUNCTIONAL ACCOUNT CODE</u>	
	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
TSGT DONALD G ASHTON, ██████████	87020-181	3710-2105
TSGT EUGENE P BRADY, ██████████	87020-890	3710-0852
TSGT DOUGLAS J LAWSON, ██████████	87020-181	3710-2105
SSGT PAUL D ASHLINE, ██████████	87020-181	3710-2105
A1C FRANK L THOMASY, ██████████	87020-890	3710-0852
A2C THOMAS D BUTLER, ██████████	87020-213	3710-2103
A2C RICHARD P DIFANI, ██████████	87020-890	3710-0852
A2C JOSEPH L GNIBUS, ██████████	87020-181	3710-2105
A3C JAMES E CATCOTT, ██████████	87020-890	3710-0852

P-89



H-19s & H-34s



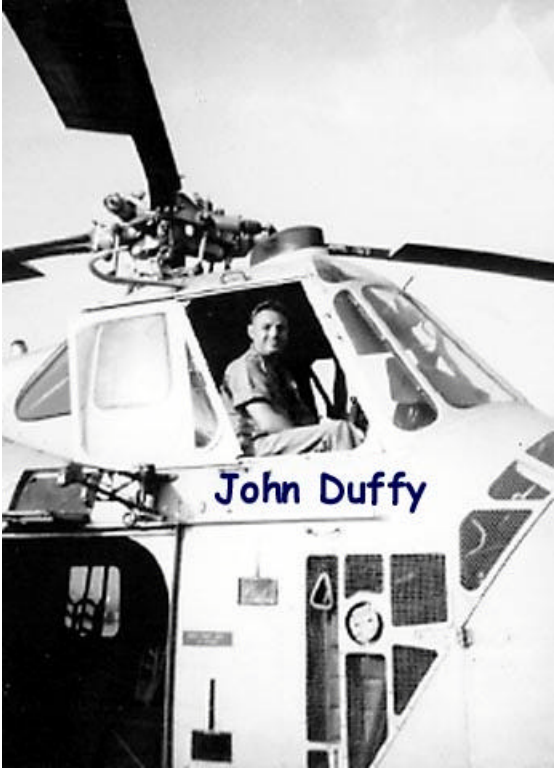
Jim Breaux & Jim Moore



SMsGt Boone & MSgt Hickman



James O. Smith





VNAF Mechanics & and Nov 63 Coup pictures courtesy Bob Runninger







51-3967 C/C Allan Dyer A/C/C Gordon Brown

Mar. 28, 1964



COLONEL CARNEY BRIEFS CREW OF H-19
Nguyen Minh and Lt. John McKibben Jr.

Record Holding Chopper Pilot Teaches Vietnamese How To Fly

By SSgt. HENRY MARQUEZ

A veteran USAF Officer who was named the world's outstanding helicopter pilot for 1962 and holds four altitude records is commanding a unique helicopter school here.

Lt. Col. Francis M. Carney, of Philadelphia, commands 23 USAF instructor pilots and 77 enlisted men who compose 917H Field Training Detachment of the Air Force Section MAAG. In charge of the overall program is Brig. Gen. Robert R. Rowland, chief of the AF Section, MAAG. The detachment is quickly overcoming an acute shortage of Vietnamese helicopter pilots specially created by war, lack of training facilities and the demands for mechanics in warfare operations in deterring communist aggression in Viet Nam.

The versatile colonel who in 1961 broke the helicopter altitude record by reaching 32,846 feet in one hour and 15 minutes in an H-43B Kaman Huskie, now trains Vietnamese students to operational level in 180 hours of ground training and 75 hours of flying; student pilots have never had any flight training before enrollment.

In this short time they must learn the aerodynamics of the H-19B, fly it in transition, solo, night, instrument and hoist and sling training, and the USAF instructors teach all these things despite a language barrier. Although the cadets have attended an in-country English-language school,

some translation problems arise especially with technical terms.

To the students, getting off the ground with three 26-foot rotating blades whacking the air over their heads may seem a remarkable achievement, but to Colonel Carney, who reached 30,000 feet in record time breaking two other records on the way, it is strictly routine.

The USAF school, opened in Feb., 1963, has graduated 39 pilots. Since a mechanics' school was started in July at the heliport, 60 maintenance men have finished the course. Thirty pilot cadets and 30 mechanic students usually begin and end the accelerated courses together. In the present class, which ends in April, there are 29 pilots and 30 mechanics. The next and final class begins April 27 and finishes July 30.

The amiable colonel is holder of the Sikorski "Winged 'S' Emblem" for performing the largest night rescue operation in 1954, when he saved 66 fishermen caught in a storm off the South Carolina coast. The 22-year Air Force veteran has rescued 114 people during his career despite never having served in Air Rescue Service.

Explosion Rocks Kinh Do Theatre

SAIGON, Feb. 17 — A huge explosive charge blew up in the lobby of the Capital Kinh Do theatre here last night, killing three Americans and injuring 34. Seven of the injured required hospitalisation. Two of the 3 killed were later indentified as a Marine Corps Captain and a military policeman.

Two men were reported to have rushed up to the entrance of the theatre, where one of them shot a U.S. military policeman on duty there and the other slipped a pail containing the charge inside the iron grille gate.

A man who had entered the theatre lobby just before the terrorists appeared at about 7:45 p.m. said he thought more shots were fired following the explosion but it was not known last night whether policemen or MP's had shot at the fleeing pair. They were believed to have escaped.

The whole front of the theatre, which is leased by U.S. Forces for the showing of films to Americans here, was wrecked by the blast. The big iron grille gate was blown off. One observer said 20 to 30 pounds of plastic must have been used.

Of the 34 injured, six were civilian men, five were women and children and the rest U.S. military personnel. One of the civilian men is British.

This is the third terrorist incident in 10 days in Saigon directed against Americans. The first occurred Friday, Feb. 7, at a bar behind the Metropole hotel. There were no American deaths but several U.S. Army personnel we-

(Continued on prge 6)





"Peace of the Brave, Not Peace of the Grave" JFK Sign placed for McNamera's visit

Imperial Bar "Birdwatching Club"

Sidewalk Barber Shop

Remains of "Three Sisters Statue" destroyed during Coup of 63
Reminder of Madam Nhu

NHÀ HÀNG
VAN-CANH
RESTAURANT
184, BÁC-SĨ CALMETTE
SAIGON



MENU

CORNS WITH CRAB MEAT SOUP
DEEP FRIED SHRIMPS SWEET-SOUR SAUCE
FRIED EGGS ROLL
FRIED DICED CHICKEN WITH ALMOND
FRIED BEEF WITH GREEN PEPPER
FRIED RICE YANGHOW STYLE
(o)
COFFEE OR TEA

Detachment Party 17 April 1964

Weather Eye

April is the hottest month — according to past records — with the mean maximum temperature up to 94° and an all time maximum of 104° for Saigon. The average monthly minimum is up to 77° while lowest temperature for April is 67°.

The average relative humidity is 75%.

Cloud cover averages 59% for the month. Rainfall averages 2.1 inches, with a maximum of 7 inches. The lowest total is less than .05 inch. The greatest amount in one day was 3.5 inches.

An average of three days with precipitation occurs in April. There are an average of three days with thunderstorms. That about covers it for April.

PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENTS WHEN DETACHMENT CLOSED

Courtesy of James O. Smith

OFFICERS

Lt Col	Francis E. Carney	3635 Fly Tng Wg, Stead AFB, Nev
Maj	Jack A. Cannon	4486 Test Sq, Eglin AFB, Fla
Maj	Frederick H. Goessel Jr.	6511 Test Gp, El Centro, Calif.
Capt	Joseph F. Agro	1001 Heli Sq, Andrews AFB, Md
Capt	Ellsworth A. Campbell Jr.	6594 Rec Cntl Gp, Hickam AFB, Hawaii
Capt	Homer L. Hite Jr.	3636 M & S Gp, Stead AFB, Nev
Capt	Earl H. Hay	1001 Heli Sq, Andrews AFB, Md
Capt	John R. Squire	3566 Nav Tng Sq, James Connally AFB Tex
Capt	William E. Takacs	3638 Fly Tng Sq, Stead AFB, Nev
Capt	Donald R. Walker	3638 Fly Tng Sq, Stead AFB, Nev
1st Lt	Donald H. Alvaraz	Det 12, Randolph AFB, Tex (MATS)
1st Lt	Marcus E. Goody	3638 Fly Tng Sq, Stead AFB, Nev
1st Lt	William A. DeVries	4486 Test Sq, Eglin AFB, Fla
1st Lt	Floyd A. Durham	2750 A B Wg, Wright Patterson AFB, Ohio
1st Lt	Lawrence F. Hubertus	2750 AB Wg, Wright Patterson AFB, Ohio
1st Lt	Frederick E. Koerschner	1716 Maple St., Milwaukee, Wis.
1st Lt	Doyle W. Krauss	3638 Fly Tng Sq, Stead AFB, Nev
1st Lt	Donald L. Linenberger	3638 Fly Tng Sq, Stead AFB, Nev
1st Lt	John H. Mc Kibben	Box 435, Route 1, Deale, Md
1st Lt	James T. Riley	Det 14, Nellis AFB, Nev (MATS)
1st Lt	Jerry D. Robertson	4486 Test Wing, Eglin AFB, Fla
1st Lt	Robert W. Schamp	3638 Fly Tng Sq, Stead AFB, Nev
1st Lt	Paul H. Schildgen	Det 5, McChord AFB, Wash (MATS)

ENLISTED

C.Sgt	Clarence L. Boone	Det 519, Kingsley Fld, Oreg
ASgt	Calvin L. Eby	Det 11, Laughlin AFB, Tex
MSgt	Carl E. Saindon	3751 Fld Tng Sq, Sheppard AFB, Tex
TSgt	George A. Beauchemin	3636 M & S Gp, Stead AFB, Nev
TSgt	Donald L. Duncan	Det 502, McChord AFB, Wash
TSgt	Carl G. Ferguson Jr.	Det 9, England AFB, La
TSgt	Robert Hickman	1 Strat Aerosp Div, Vandenberg AFB, Calif
TSgt	Donald E. Weitzel	4175 FTD, Dyess AFB, Tex
SSgt	James C. Benson	Det 11, Craig AFB, Ala
SSgt	Thomas B. Crowder	3636 M & S Gp, Stead AFB, Nev
SSgt	Benny A. De Gaetano	337 Consol Acft Maint Sq, Portland Intl Arpt, Oregon
SSgt	Harold B. Dempsey	Det 11, Craig AFB, Ala
SSgt	John T. Duffy	Det 2, Dow AFB, Maine
SSgt	Allen L. Dyer	3636 M & S Gp, Stead AFB, Nev
SSgt	Colbert Ezell	Det 9, Portland Intl Arpt, Oregon
SSgt	William R. Gladish	Det 13, Brookley AFB, Ala
SSgt	Paul J. Gorman	Det 12, Moody AFB, Ga
SSgt	Richard E. Greene	Lackland AFB, Texas
SSgt	O'Neill L. Griffin Jr.	Det 7, Seymour Johnson AFB, NC
SSgt	Donn H. Hassman	825 Strat Aero Div, Little Rock AFB Ark
SSgt	James A. Heath	2750 AB Wg Wright Patterson AFB, Ohio
SSgt	Francis L. Hill	USAP Special Air Warfare Center Eglin AFB, Fla

SSgt	James W. Holloway	Det 2, Cannon AFB, Ne
SSgt	Michael B. Kelly	57 Air Div, Westover AFB, Mass
SSgt	William B. Killough	Det 15, Goodfellow AFB, Tex
SSgt	Arthur H. Kolbek	825 Strat Aerosp Div, Little Rock AFB Ark
SSgt	Warren J. Kuster	Tech Tng Cen Lowry AFB, Colo
SSgt	Clifford L. Johnson Jr.	Det 16, Williams AFB, Ariz
SSgt	Walter Johnson	Det 13, Brookley AFB, Ala
SSgt	Clifford Langley	48 Air Rescue Sq, Eglin AFB, Fla
SSgt	James S. Lester	Tech Tng Cen, Amarillo AFB, Tex
SSgt	Edward A. McKowne	Tech Tng Cen, Lowry AFB, Colo
SSgt	Thomas E. Madden	Det 14, MacDill AFB, Fla
SSgt	Charles C. Maxwell	351 Strat Hsl Wg, Whitean AFB, Mo
SSgt	Walter H. May	Det 10, Maxwell AFB, Ala
SSgt	Jerry B. Milliken	3636 M & S Gp, Stead AFB, Nev
SSgt	Alan L. Milner	3636 M & S Gp, Stead AFB, Nev
SSgt	Raymond L. Nelson	826 Air Div MacDill AFB, Fla
SSgt	Curtis L. Pert	USAF Special Air Warfare Center
		Eglin AFB, Fla
SSgt	Robert E. Runniger	48 Air Rescue Sq, Eglin AFB, Fla
SSgt	Vernon A. Scadden	3560 Flt Tng Wg, Webb AFB, Tex
SSgt	Robert L. Singel	2750 AB Wg Wright Patterson AFB, Ohio
SSgt	Charles H. Stone	Det 12, Randolph AFB, Tex
SSgt	Donald E. Thompson	817 Air Div, Pease AFB, NH
SSgt	Fred J. Wilson	Tech Tng Cen, Lowry AFB, Colo
SSgt	Everett W. Wright	AF Flt Test Ctr, Edwards AFB, Calif
SSgt	Theodore N. Youngblood	Det 12, Moody AFB, Ga
A1C	James E. Armenia	USAF Special Air Warfare Ctr
		Eglin AFB, Fla
A1C	Franklin D. Bothwick	462 Strat Aerosp Wg, Larson AFB, Wash
A1C	Ralph R. Brandenburg	341 Strat Hsl Wg, Malstrom AFB, Mont
A1C	James B. Dreaux	2750 AB Wg, Wright Patterson AFB, Ohio
A1C	Gordon D. Brown	4756 Organizational Maint Sq, Tyndall
		AFB, Fla
A1C	Robert L. Brown	Tech Tng Cen, Amarillo AFB, Tex
A1C	Felipe T. Campos Jr	Det 15, Luke AFB, Ariz
A1C	Robert S. Cartwright	Det 5, Suffolk County AFB, NY
A1C	Ronald E. England	3565 Nav Tng Wg, James Connally AFB, Tex
A1C	Ronald A. Hall	Discharge No Records Available
A1C	Richard D. Land	Tech Tng Cen, Lowry AFB, Colo
A1C	Ronald B. Levi	Det 15, Luke AFB, Ariz
A1C	Robert P. Logan	341 Strat Hsl Wg, Malstrom AFB, Mont
A1C	James B. Moore	2750 AB Wg, Wright Patterson AFB, Ohio
A1C	Paul W. Moore	4 Tac Ftr Wg, Seymour Johnson AFB, NC
A1C	Laurence J. Reider	Det 6, Andrews AFB, Md
A1C	James C. Smith	825 Strat Aerosp Div, Little Rock AFB Ark
A1C	Donald L. Wendler	821 Strat Aerosp Div Ellsworth AFB S Dak
A2C	Richard L. Kuenzli	2750 AB Wg, Wright Patterson AFB, Ohio
A2C	Eugene G. Othon Jr	Det 5, KI Sawyer AFB, Mich
A2C	Elwood L. Rogers	Det 6, Andrews AFB, Md



LEAFLET COURTESY OF JAMES O. SMITH

Chính sách Bình Định và Phát Triển của Chính Phủ Việt Nam Cộng Hòa đã đem lại an ninh và thịnh vượng cho dân chúng tại các thôn ấp. Dân chúng sống trong cảnh an vui, lạc nghiệp.

Việt Cộng chỉ biết có tàn phá. Họ đi đến đâu là cửa nát nhà tan, dân chúng bị sát hại khò sờ. Cảnh tượng thật điều linh thể thảm.

Giữa hai cảnh trên đây, bạn thích cảnh nào ?

4384

There are three translations of the above leaflet, all saying about the same thing. Due to the varied interpretations it is evident the leaflet language was apparently written by an American and then interpreted into Vietnamese for the leaflet. It appears a Vietnamese person using their original language didn't write it. Regardless the leaflet is an interesting item with some history behind it. The following are the three interpretations:

Tom Penn TLCB

Received VIA Jim Burns

WHICH SCENARIO DO YOU LIKE?

The Pacification and Development Policy of the Government of the Republic of Vietnam has effected security and prosperity for the people in the villages and hamlets.

The people live in a state of happiness and contentment.

The Viet Cong only know destructiveness. Wherever they go they demolish homes, they brutally murder the people. This is a very real tragedy.

Between the two scenarios above, which one do you like?

Dr. Cynthia Pham

Received VIA Kathy Orra

Dr. Cynthia Pham (Who was about 4 years old in Saigon during the Vietnam war) was able to translate this - it doesn't translate word for word but the heading says: "Which Picture do you like best?"

The picture on the left represents democracy and tranquility under the South Vietnam rule (Republic), the picture on the right represents destruction under communist rule.

Cong Hoa refers to democracy and the first paragraph describes peaceful, tranquil, and prosperous conditions under South Vietnam rule, the second paragraph describes the death and destruction under communism.

"Viet Cong" refers to all communists, not just the Viet Cong that we referred to as the irregular communist armed forces encountered during the war.

It is essentially a propaganda leaflet dropped likely by South Vietnamese forces (or US) to encourage the people to make the choice between democracy (South Vietnam, US) vs. communism (North Vietnam) and make it for "democracy."

Lew Weatherford TLCB

Received VIA Jim Burns

"WHICH DO YOU PREFER?"

The policy of peace and development of the government of the Republic of Viet Nam brings security and prosperity for the people of all villages and hamlets.

The Viet Cong only know destruction. They destroy homes, murder and bring agony. A truly sorrowful spectacle.

Between the above two scenes, which do you prefer?"

The leaflet is courtesy of James O. Smith who stated he came across it while in Saigon in 1964. The currency below is courtesy of James O. Smith.







FOLLOWING IS A COLLECTION THAT WAS PROVIDED BY
DON CANNON

Viet Cadets Earn Chopper Dunking At Tan Son Nhut

U.S. Air Force Photos

HQ., 2D AIR DIV. OFFICE OF INFORMATION

SAIGON, Vietnam—U.S. Air Force men here recently threw six Republic of Vietnam Air Force cadets in a sink and doused them with buckets of water.

It comprised a ceremony similar to the treatment given a coxswain when a college racing shell crew wins an event.

The "event" in this case was a history-making one. The six cadets were the first in Republic of Vietnam history to make solo helicopter flights under U.S. Air Force training outside the U.S.

Veteran U.S. instructors, all from the USAF's Helicopter Training School at Stead AFB, Nev., turned the student pilots loose on their own after 35 hours of dual instruction.

Brig. Gen. Robert R. Rowland, chief of the U.S. Air Force Section, Military Assistance Advisory Group, is in charge of the program and called the Tan Son Nhut AB training school here a "unique experiment."

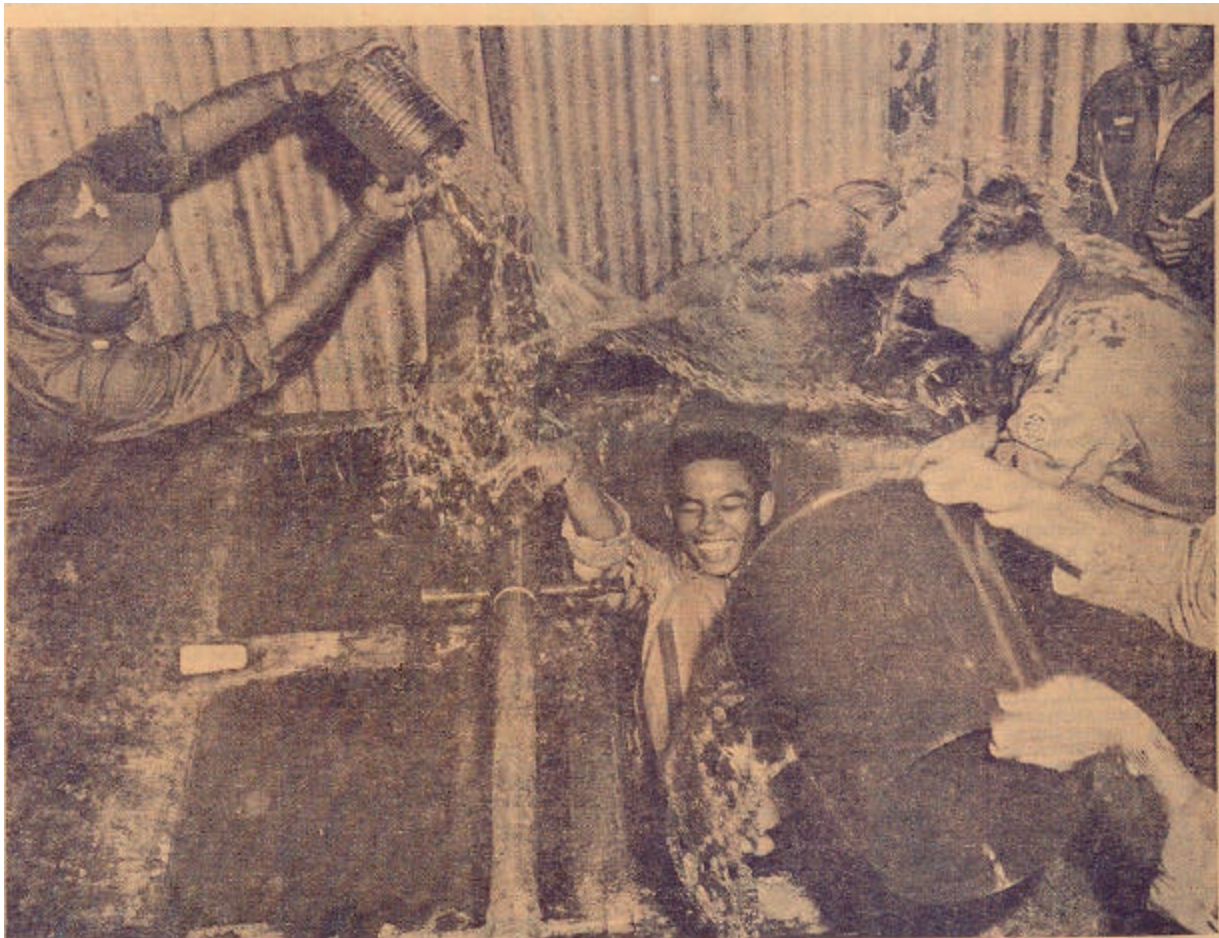
The "unique experiment" is vital to the work of turning out badly needed helicopter pilots for the Republic of Vietnam Air Force "chopper" units.

The school was established here in January and is a literal transplant of instructional equipment, teaching materials and 59 selected helicopter instructors and skilled mechanics from various USAF training bases in the States.

This group was designed as Field Training Det. 917-S and placed under the command of Air Force Lt. Col. Jimmy M. Hamill who headed the Helicopter Training Sq. at Stead AFB.

The sight of the silver egg-beaters swishing through Saigon skies on training missions is a comforting sight to the people of the area.

It means that soon Republic of Vietnam pilots will be ready to take their dunking, get their silver wings and go out on their own to battle communist tyranny.



A royal dunking welcomes this cadet to the soloist "club" as his American instructors do the honors. At left is detachment commander | Lt. Col. Jimmy M. Hamill joining in on the wetting session that every-
one seems to enjoy.

Vietnamese Pilots

By S/Sgt. BOB REID

SAIGON, Vietnam (OI) — Fifteen youthful-looking Vietnamese knelt at Tan Son Nhut AB to receive starred pilot's wings in the Vietnamese Air Force.

They represented the first class of U.S.-trained helicopter pilots ever to graduate from other than a U.S.-based flying school.

Future plans call for the eventual takeover of all flying training duties by the Vietnamese Air Force, with VNAF instructors and maintenance men.

Officials said the first class was immensely successful in view of two factors:

First, it marks the initial time that U.S.-trained helicopter pilots have been qualified without prior conventional aircraft flight training. American fliers traditionally attend a year of training in fixed-wing aircraft before going on to advanced helicopter training. The VNAF grads were enrolled without any prior flight training, and schooled in helicopter flying.

Secondly, of 15 students who started the accelerated five-month course, all 15 graduated. A 100 per cent graduation rate in U.S. flying schools is extremely rare.

Following fundamental military training and a course in technical English, the students

began their flying phase last Feb. 11. In the four months of concentrated instruction, they each logged 75 flying hours.

Eleven U.S. pilots from the Air Force Section, Military Advisory Assistance Group, gave individual instruction to the cadets in H-19 helicopters.

Brig. Gen. Robert R. Rowland, chief of the Air Force Section, MAAG, pinned the first set of pilot wings on honor graduate Nguyen Huu Nhan. Then the U.S. instructors each pinned wings on their individual students.

Commenting on the first graduating class, Rowland said, "With a long-term outlook the in-country training of Vietnamese pilots is most significant. The great success of this first class has proven that flying trainees in Vietnam can be trained on their native soil, without the costly and time-consuming procedure of continental U.S. training.

"The future is even brighter. Soon, Vietnamese Air Force pilots will take over as instructors, and the VNAF flying training program will be entirely a Vietnamese facility."

Also attending the exercise were Lt. Gen. Le Van Ty, chief of the Joint General Staff of Vietnam, and Col. Huynh Huu Hien, commander of the Vietnamese Air Force, both of whom addressed the assemblage.

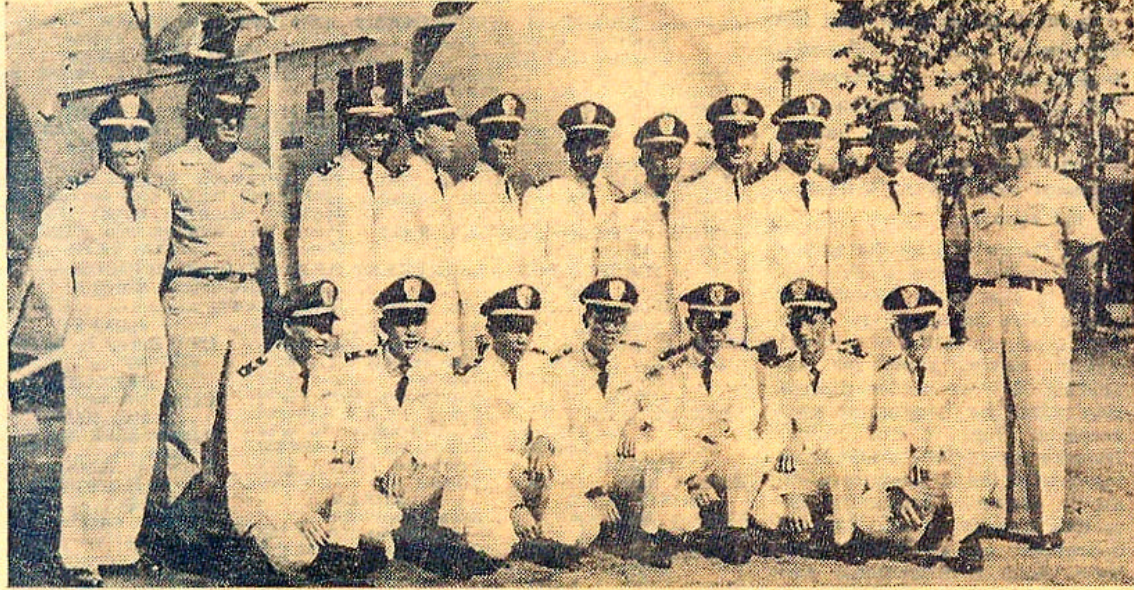
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It's Graduation Day for V



Lt. Gen. Le Van Ty, chief, Vietnam Joint General Staff, fastens the shoulder bars on the tunic of a commissioned aspirant in the Republic of

Vietnam Air Force. He is one of 15 new helicopter pilots trained by U.S. MAAG advisers in the Republic of Vietnam.



Fifteen new helicopter pilots pose for their class photo following graduation before assignment to an operational chopper squadron to give

combat support in the war against the communist Viet Cong. Lt. Col. Jimmy Hamill, U.S. Air Force Det. commander, is at far right.



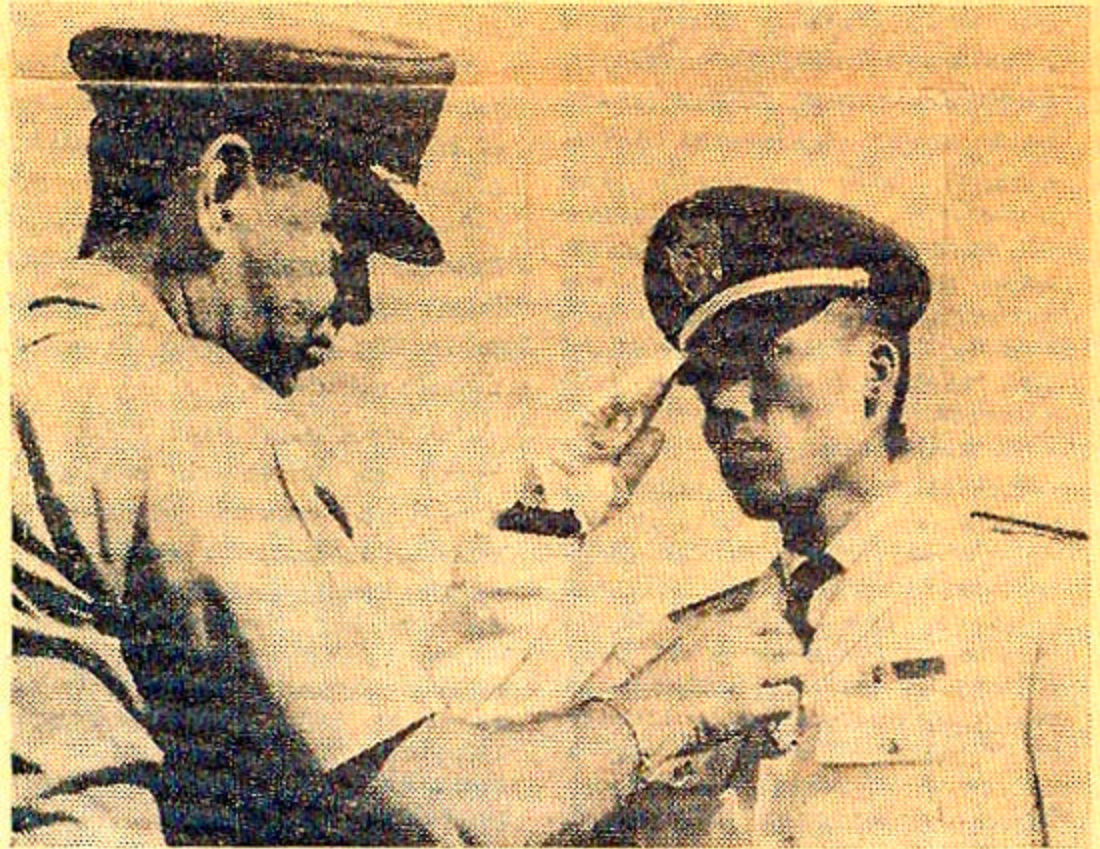
The new pilots, concluding graduation ceremonies, take a solemn oath of allegiance in their new roles as commissioned officers of the Re-

public of Vietnam Air Force. The success of the class proved Vietnamese pilots can be trained on their native soil.



American instructor pilots pin pilot's wings on their students at graduation of the first class of VNAF helicopter pilots ever trained in the Republic of Vietnam. (USAF Photos)

Pacific Stars & Stripes 7
Thursday, July 4, 1963—A



Brig. Gen. Robert R. Rowland, chief, U.S. Air Force Section, MAAG, Vietnam, pins the first set of wings on honor graduate Nguyen Huu Nhan at Tan Son Nhut AB. The group of new pilots was the first trained and graduated in Vietnam.

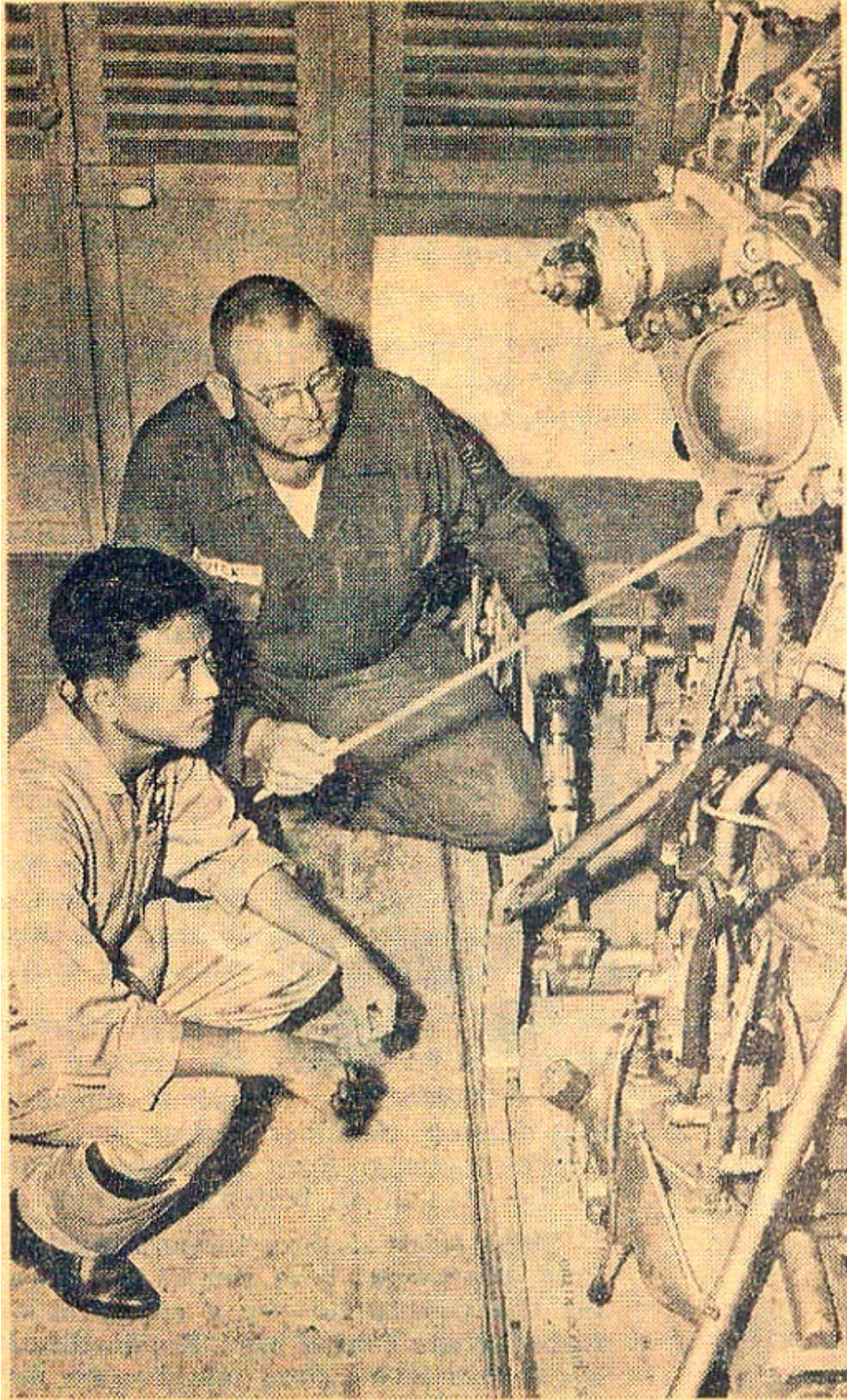


QUANG XANG NH - F-5572
CHI DO 14/100. 2000 KHONG

Capt. Preston (front) runs through the starting procedures before takeoff with cadet Nguyen V. Manh. | A complete check of panel and other instruments is made before each flight.



Part of the academic training given Republic of Vietnam Air Force cadets by U.S. Air Force Helicopter Training School instructors consists of briefings on the "whys and wherefores." Here, Capt. Jerry Preston (left foreground) makes a point to students as other American officers do likewise.



T/Sgt. John A. Quick (right) discusses the flight control system of an H-19B helicopter with cadet Phan Van Thanh in a classroom session.

The following pictures are courtesy of Dick Kuenzli



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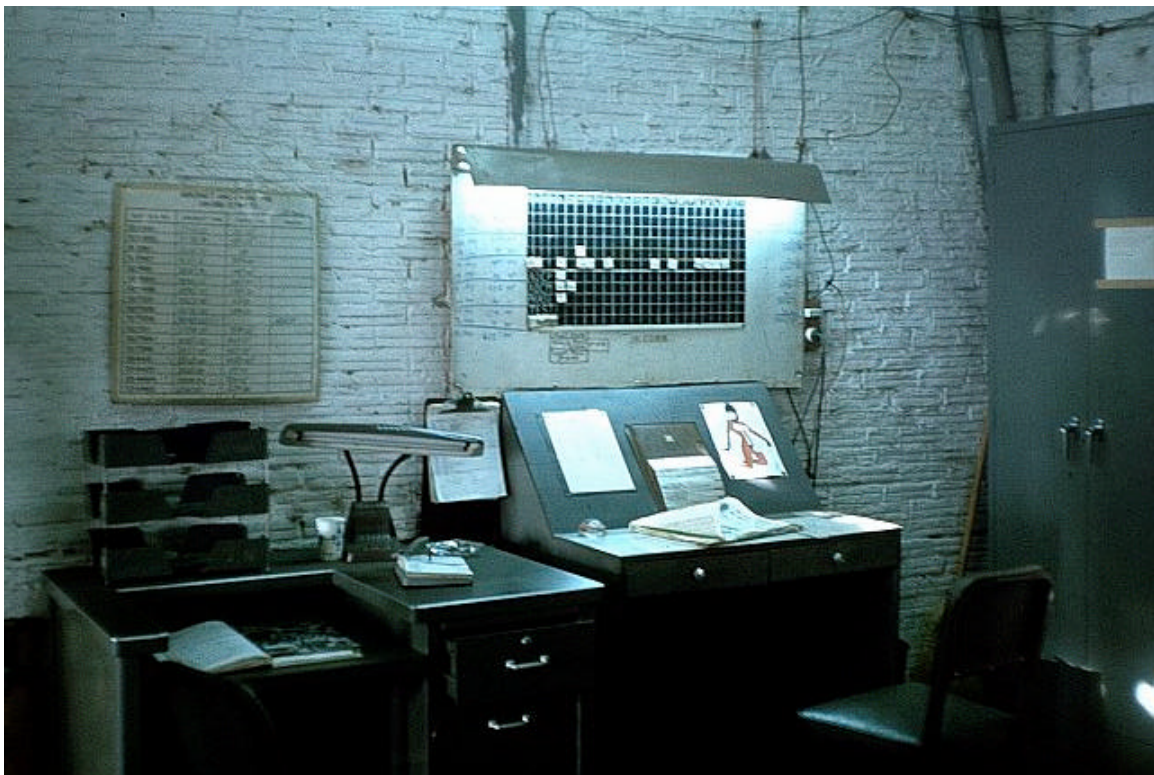
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Break Time



Killough, Madden & Hill



Plans & Scheduling



Helicopter Ramp



Hill, Madden, Milner, Armenia, Kuenzli



Ramp



Engine Work



John Duffy & Francis Hill



Ramp



Milner & VNAF Students



Break Area



Dick Kuenzli



Jim Heath/Records Section