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FACT SHEET

AVHAF-OPT

SUBJECT: VNAF Helicopter Program

Classified by *cdn, lat, hnm, rhl*
SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION
SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652
27 Nov 71
AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED
INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED ON 31 MAR 1978

PURPOSE: (U) To provide update information on VNAF Improvement and Modernization (I&M) Helicopter Augmentation Program.

FACTS:

1. (U) The I&M program is divided into III phases.
2. (C) Phase I was the conversion of four CH-34 squadrons to UH-1 aircraft during 1968-69. At its conclusion, VNAF had four UH-1 squadrons and one CH-34 squadron.
3. (C) Phase II provided for the activation of eight UH-1 squadrons and one CH-47 squadron during the period Sep 70 - Mar 71. During this period USARV had provided 354 VNAF Pilots with approximately 150 hours each of operational upgrade training following their CONUS helicopter training at USAAVNS. These pilots lived and worked within USARV Assault Helicopter Companies for a three month period. USARV is scheduled to train an additional 246 VNAF Aviators during the period 1 Aug 71 to 15 Mar 72. Presently there are 57 VNAF pilots in training with USARV Aviation units.
4. (U) 182 VNAF mechanics were provided OJT with USARV units during Phase II. A maintenance training program to support Phase III began on 18 Oct 71 to provide upgrade training for 142 VNAF mechanics in CH-47A organizational maintenance.
 - a. This program will entail two weeks of formal training at the AARTS and four weeks of OJT with US Army CH-47 units located at Can Tho and Phu Loi, scheduled completion date is 4 Mar 72. Through 26 Nov 71, 66 VNAF mechanics have completed the AARTS training and 28 have completed OJT with the 213th and 147th ASHC's.
 - b. A depot level type maintenance program on the CH-47A and UH-1 for VNAF mechanics commenced on 1 Nov 71 at the 765th TC En, Vung Tau. Currently there are 17 students in training which will be completed by 21 Jan 72.
5. (C) Phase III will provide for converting the remaining CH-34 squadron at Da Nang to UH-1 aircraft during the period 1 Nov - Jan 72 and activating three additional UH-1 squadrons and a CH-47 squadron during the period Dec 71 - May 72 as follows:

US I&M Unit	VNAF Unit	C or A Date	Location
59 AHC	243 HS	1 Nov 71	Kha Trang
116 AHC	219 HS	1 Dec 71	Ba Nang
240 AHC	245 HS	1 Dec 71	Bien Hoa
48 AHC	239 HS	1 Feb 71	Ba Nang
203 ASHC	241 HS	1 May 72	Phu Cat

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5. (C) The helicopter squadrons in Program III will receive their aircraft and associated equipment from USARV assets. Supply support for these squadrons is covered by Inter-Service Support Agreements (ISSA) between the US Army and Air Force.
6. (C) At the completion of Program III, VNAF will have the following helicopter squadrons:

<u>SR</u>	<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>TYPE SQUADRON</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
1	4	UH-1	Da Nang
	1	CH-47	Phu Cat
2	2	UH-1	Pleiku
	2	UH-1	Nha Trang
3	1	UH-1	Bien Hoa
	3	UH-1	Bien Hoa
	1	CH-47	Bien Hoa
4	2	UH-1	Bien Hoa
	2	UH-1	Soc Trang

TOTAL 16 UH-1
2 CH-47

7. (C) On 12 Nov 71 a conference was held to discuss the feasibility of activating a third VNAF CH-47 squadron. In attendance were USARV Aviation OPT and AVLOG and Air Force Advisory Group personnel (AFOP). It was concluded that activation of a third VNAF CH-47 HS during the CREP program could not be supported, primarily because of the programmed output of CH-47 qualified VNAF aviators. Additionally, activation of the second CH-47 HS (241 HS) could only be advanced one month to 1 Apr 72 vice 1 May 72. Op 4.

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