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AFSMS-OT-FE

## Report of Helicopter Survey Team

Headquarters, USAF  
AFSMS-OT

1. Reference MAAG Vietnam Secret Message COMUSMACV MAC J3-1281, DTG 18 Jul 62, and CINCPAC Secret Message DTG 082101 Sep 62. A survey team of two officers, Major Frank R. Gase, AO 784429, AFSC 4318, Stead AFB, Nev. (Maintenance), and Major William E. Peel, AO 1909371, AFSC 1418, Hq ATC (Operations), was sent to Saigon, Vietnam, to survey the possibility of an in-country MTT, with prime purpose of training 15 Vietnam cadets as helicopter pilots.
2. Prior to departing the U. S., the team was briefed at Headquarters, USAF by Colonel James A. Watkins, Chief, Organization & Training Division, Assistant for Mutual Security, DCS/S&L, and follow-up briefings were conducted by Lt. Colonel Gordon E. Baker and Lt. Colonel Jack S. Sargent, AFSMS-OT-FE. All messages relating to subject MTT request and survey were read during this period by the team and a good understanding of the problem was achieved.
3. The team departed Washington, D. C., 21 September 1962 and arrived Honolulu the same day for further briefings as directed by Hq USAF. During stopover at Honolulu, the team was briefed by Colonel Stockett, PACAF, and Lt. Colonel Egendor, CINCPAC, in order to be on firm ground upon arrival in Vietnam.
4. The team departed Honolulu 0330, 23 September 1962, and arrived Saigon, Vietnam, 1230, 23 September 1962.
5. The team remained in Saigon for 14 days and during this period studied all possibilities for in-country training of helicopter pilots.
6. It was determined after a careful study of facilities available that it would be possible and extremely advantageous to conduct in-country helicopter training with the following exceptions:
  - a. The original request for an MTT to train 15 cadets would not solve the acute pilot shortage presently suffered by VNAF.

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b. Preparation for the requested MTT by Maintenance and Supply, Air Force Section, MAAG in Vietnam had not been accomplished prior to arrival of the team and had the original request been approved, it is extremely doubtful that the training could have been successfully accomplished.

7. Based upon the above, the following recommendations are submitted:

a. That in-country helicopter pilot and mechanic training be established through the use of a Field Training Detachment. The detachment personnel should be PCS without PCA from Stead AFB, Nevada, Sheppard AFB, Texas, and other Air Force resources as necessary to carry out the mission.

b. The detachment should be in place Vietnam by 1 January 1963, with training starting 1 February 1963.

c. That an advanced party be sent to Saigon as soon as possible to supervise and make ready all training and maintenance requirements as needed by the FTD. This group should consist of (1) Major Operations Officer and two Instructor Pilots (preferably ground school instructors), (1) Operations Clerk, (1) Capt Maintenance Officer, (1) Line Chief, (1) Dock Chief, (1) Fit Chief, (1) Quality Control Inspector and (2) Supply Specialists.

8. Prior to departing Saigon the team debriefed Colonel Brown, Chief of AF Section, MAAG, L/Col Mia, Chief of Staff, VNAF, and, upon arrival at Honolulu, debriefed CINCPAC and PACAF personnel. All personnel debriefed by the team were in complete accord with the recommendations presented.

9. Complete Survey Team report attached.

*Frank R. Gase*  
FRANK R. GASE

Major, USAF (Stead AFB)

*William B. Peel*  
WILLIAM B. PEEL  
Major, USAF (ATC)

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Survey Report  
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