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HEADQUARTERS AIR TRAINING COMMAND  
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, TEXAS



REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: ATFDC

11 OCT 1963

SUBJECT: Informational Brochures

TO: ATCCS

1. Attached brochures, Field Training Detachment 921R, Project "Go Ahead", and Field Training Detachment 917H, are forwarded for your information.
2. When attachments are withdrawn or not attached, the classification SECRET of this letter will be cancelled.

*C. A. Martin, Jr.*  
 C. A. MARTIN, JR.  
 Colonel, USAF  
 Asst DCS/Flying Tng

2 Atchs, a/s

~~DATE 24 Jul 75  
 CLASSIFICATION CHANGED  
 TO: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
 BY AUTH DOD DIR 5200.10  
 Date by on: 31 Dec 75  
 Edith J. Taylor~~

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS  
 DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS  
 DOD DIR 5200.10

DATE 22 APR 1976  
 CLASSIFICATION CHANGED  
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UNIT DESIGNATION: Field Training Detachment 917H

MISSION: Conduct In-Country Helicopter Pilot Training for VNAF Personnel

CONCOMITANT MISSION: Train VNAF Helicopter Maintenance Personnel

PARENT ORGANIZATION: 3635th Flying Training Group, Stead AFB, Nevada

LOCATION OF DETACHMENT: Tan Son Nheet Heliport, Vietnam

DETACHMENT COMMANDER: Lt Col Jimmy M. Hamill, 12243A

AUTHORIZED STRENGTH: 23 Officers, 73 Airmen

STUDENT PILOT CLASS SIZE: Presently 30

STUDENT MECHANIC CLASS SIZE: Presently 30

DATE 24 Jul 75  
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BY AUTH: DAD [Signature] 520010  
Declassify On: 31 Dec 75  
[Signature] J. Jaylor

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### GENERAL INFORMATION

In September 1962, Headquarters, USAF, requested ATC make a survey of the feasibility of establishing a temporary in-country H-19B Helicopter Pilot Training Program in Vietnam.

The survey was completed 7 October 1962. It was determined that it would be possible and advantageous to conduct in-country helicopter pilot and mechanic training. The Survey Team recommended that a Field Training Detachment, staffed by personnel from Stead AFB, Nevada, and Sheppard AFB, Texas, be established.

The FTD 917S (now designated the 917H) was organized on 3 Dec 1962; authorized strength was twelve (12) officers and forty-seven (47) airmen. Personnel to man this detachment were withdrawn from ATC resources. Logistic support furnished by the MAAG, AF Section, Vietnam. Officers and airmen assigned to FTD 917H arrived in Vietnam on 12 January 1963 and flight training was commenced 11 February 1963. The training was conducted in eight (8) H-19B helicopters that had been in storage in Vietnam. Students for the first Pilot Training Class (63A) were VNAF cadets who did not have previous flying experience.

In May 1963, Headquarters, USAF, informed ATC that plans were being formulated to augment FTD 917H with an additional eleven (11) officers and thirty-one (31) airmen to support nine (9) additional H-19B helicopters. The majority of the personnel were not available within ATC but were furnished by MATS, Air Rescue Service. With this augmentation, Class 63B would be increased to thirty (30) students. Of the eleven (11) new instructor pilots that arrived in Vietnam, nine (9) were considered by the Commander of FTD 917H to lack the training necessary to assume the duties of Instructor Pilot. Five (5) of these pilots were upgraded in Vietnam and four (4) were sent to Stead AFB for training. The four (4) pilots trained at Stead AFB were given thirty-five (35) flying hours of upgrade training in September 1963. After passing a standardization flight check they were returned to Vietnam.

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The first class of fifteen (15) students completed training 15 June 1963, and have been assigned to VNAF Helicopter Squadron for upgrade and operational training. Class 63B, consisting of thirty (30) students, commenced training 1 July 1963. Due to the lack of qualified instructor pilots and aircraft, only fourteen (14) students were entered into the flight training phase.

A Mechanics Training Program was initiated 1 July 1963 with thirty (30) Vietnamese student helicopter mechanics in Class 63A. Three (3) hours per day of classroom lectures totaling one hundred and eighty (180) hours of engineering subjects and three (3) hours per day of flight line practical experience is scheduled. Each student is assigned to a crew chief or specialist and assists with the daily maintenance of the helicopter. This practical application or "laboratory phase" allows each student mechanic to learn first hand the proper maintenance techniques, use of maintenance forms and records, and understand the inner workings of the helicopter. This program is closely monitored by personnel in Academic Section. All comments stemming from maintenance personnel have been complimentary in nature and excellent results are anticipated as a result of this training. The student mechanic displays much elation at the prospect of actually working on mission aircraft and is desirous of proving himself to his flight line supervisor.

The shortage of ground support equipment, hand tools, and spare aircraft parts is a matter of considerable concern. The FTD has to rely on the VNAF 211th Helicopter Squadron for support. As an example, two (2) engine specialist kits are authorized, with fifty-eight (58) items per kit. Only seven (7) items per kit are on hand. Fifty-two (52) mechanic kits are authorized, with sixty-one (61) items per kit and only four (4) items per kit are on hand. Eight (8) mechanics tool kits that were brought with the FTD are only 35% complete. The required items have been requisitioned and it is imperative that they be available before the FTD can operate as an independent unit or successfully conduct training under the proposed expanded program. Follow-up action has been initiated.

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A staggered personnel rotation plan is in operation and the original cadre of officers and airmen are in the process of being replaced. A personnel roster of the FTD is included as Attachment 1.

Present plans are to continue in-country training until 24 October 1964. At that time the VNAF should have adequate instructors to conduct their own training program, and FTD 917H can be phased out.

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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]	Standardization 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
t	KOERSCHNER FREDE E	[REDACTED]	Instructor Pilot
1Lt	MCKIBBEN JOHN H JR	[REDACTED]	Instructor Pilot

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Officer Personnel (Con't)

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>AFSN</u>	<u>Duty</u>
1Lt	MICKELSEN RICHARD A	<del>          </del>	Supply Officer and IP
1Lt	SALMANS LARRY D	<del>          </del>	Instructor Pilot
1Lt	SCHANNEP ROBERT N	<del>          </del>	Instructor Pilot
1Lt	SCHILDGEN PAUL R	<del>          </del>	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	<del>                    </del>	43190
TSgt	BRUNT JOHN M	<del>                    </del>	64670
TSgt	CRAVENS FRANK E	<del>                    </del>	43170
TSgt	GAULDIN BRICE E JR	<del>                    </del>	75170
TSgt	HELLAND EARL H	<del>                    </del>	70270
TSgt	MAURER JACOB JR	<del>                    </del>	43170
TSgt	POOLE BRADY E	<del>                    </del>	43170
SSgt	ADAMS JOHN F	<del>                    </del>	43150
SSgt	BAKER CHARLES E	<del>                    </del>	43150
SSgt	BALFOUR JOHN H	<del>                    </del>	43150
SSgt	BENSON JAMES O	<del>                    </del>	A43150
SSgt	BIZZELL WELDON B	<del>                    </del>	A43150
SSgt	CANNON DON K	<del>                    </del>	A43150
SSgt	CROSSON LOUIS K	<del>                    </del>	43251
SSgt	DANIEL MYLES E	<del>                    </del>	42152
SSgt	DAVIS FRANK W JR	<del>                    </del>	A43150
SSgt	DEGAETANO BENNY A	<del>                    </del>	A43150
SSgt	EZELL COLBERT	<del>                    </del>	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	<del>██████████</del>	43150
SSgt	GERTZ STANLEY E	<del>██████████</del>	A43150
SSgt	HASSMAN DONN M	<del>██████████</del>	43150
SSgt	HAWLEY EDWARD E	<del>██████████</del>	A43150
SSgt	HEATH JAMES A	<del>██████████</del>	A43150
SSgt	HICKMAN ROBERT	<del>██████████</del>	43150
SSgt	INMAN CLIFTON E	<del>██████████</del>	A43150
SSgt	KAPLAN JACK	<del>██████████</del>	A43150
SSgt	KADERKA EDWARD J	<del>██████████</del>	64650
SSgt	KILLOUGH WILLIAM B	<del>██████████</del>	43150
SSgt	LANGLEY CLIFFORD R	<del>██████████</del>	A43150
SSgt	LAWLER ROBERT H	<del>██████████</del>	53450
SSgt	LEE GLENN H	<del>██████████</del>	43150
SSgt	LEHENBAUER KAY F	<del>██████████</del>	42250
SSgt	LONG ROBERT A	<del>██████████</del>	A43150
SSgt	MAY WALTER H	<del>██████████</del>	A43150
SSgt	MAXWELL CHARLES C	<del>██████████</del>	43150
SSgt	MCFARLAND DON E	<del>██████████</del>	A43150
SSgt	NELSON RAYMOND L	<del>██████████</del>	73250B
SSgt	NICHOLSON LEONAR A	<del>██████████</del>	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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