

EVALUATION

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM ARMED FORCES LANGUAGE SCHOOL

LNCL 2

Mission

The mission of the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces Language School is:
"To teach Vietnamese highland dialects and foreign languages to all members of the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces."

"To teach Vietnamese to non-natives as directed by Central Training Command (CTC)."

History & Locations

In response to the urgent need for helping servicemen to acquire the speaking and writing knowledge of English required for offshore training or for special missions involving some use of the English language, the Armed Forces English Language School was founded on 16 June 1956 and was located in the Camp Tran Hung Dao Compound in Gio Dinh Province. At the beginning, the school operated with a Director, a US Advisor and seven (7) instructors teaching thirty (30) students in two (2) small buildings which were used as offices and classrooms. After five consecutive years of activity, the Armed Forces English Language School was redesignated the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces Language School. This occurred on 1 September 1961.

On 31 January 1968, the school was severely attacked by Viet Cong forces. The VC occupied the school during the period 31 January 1968 thru 1 February 1968. All major buildings were damaged and the language laboratory and Senior Advisors' office were totally destroyed. Three students were killed while facing the enemy in the initial attack. During the ensuing battle, helicopter gunships were successful in repulsing the Viet Cong but at the same time severely damaged and destroyed a good part of the school's buildings and equipment. In order to resume classes on a limited basis, the school acquired 10 temporary type "Cholon" tin buildings. Each building contains 4 classrooms providing a total of 40 classrooms available for classes.

These 40 classrooms along with offices which were set up in damaged buildings comprised the Armed Forces Language School as of 1 May 1968. There was no language laboratory as it was completely destroyed as mentioned above.

Since 1 May 1968, the language school has steadily expanded into other locations to meet an increase in student load. The peak student load experienced at the school during the month of April 1968 was 1,451 students. This compares with a peak student load during the month of April 1969 of 4,435 students. Total student input to the school during the period 2 May 1968 to 1 May 1969 is as depicted in Annex C to this report.

The first new location to be acquired to meet this tremendous increase in student load was a building located at 29 Dong Khanh Street in Cholon. This

building required a great deal of rehabilitation, much of which is still being accomplished. This location of the school was designated as the 29 Dong Khanh Annex and provided 80 classrooms for English language training. Instruction began for VNAF students at this facility on 4 November 1968.

The second new location to be acquired was Koelper Compound which includes two large buildings, one being utilized for classrooms and the other as the school headquarters building. The acquisition of this facility occurred on 19 December 1968 and provided another 80 classrooms. Instruction began for VNAF students at Koelper Compound on 25 December 1968.

The third new location to be acquired was the Royale Hotel located on 467 Phan Tran Gian Street. The acquisition of this facility occurred on 21 April 1969 and provided 53 classrooms. Instruction began for VNAF students at this facility on 28 April 1969.

As of 1 May 1969, the school conducted operations at the 4 locations mentioned above. During the period 1 February 1969 to 1 May 1969, the school acquired and installed one (1) 25 position and one (1) 60 position language laboratory at Koelper Compound. Also during this period one (1) 40 position laboratory with an additional 20 listening positions was installed at the 29 Dong Khanh Annex. This provides a total of 125 laboratory positions with 20 listening positions throughout the school. On 30 April 1969, installation of a 40 position laboratory with 20 listening positions began at the Camp Tran Hung Dao Annex.

II - PERSONNEL

The school faculty is composed of officers from various branches of the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces and contract civilian instructors. Most of the military instructors are former cadets of the Thu-Duc Officer Candidate School (OCS). To be chosen as prospective RVNAFLS instructors, they must successfully complete a series of qualifying tests even if they possess advance degrees in English or other related fields. Many of the instructors currently assigned to RVNAFLS have had extensive teaching experience in Vietnamese high schools or civilian language schools. Total assigned strength of the school as of 1 May 1969 was 267. Of these 267 personnel, 115 are Vietnamese military English language instructors and the remaining 152 are assigned to the school staff sections. Contract civilian instructors are mostly graduates from various universities in the United States or from other English speaking countries. As of 1 May 1969, 15 contract civilian instructors were assigned to the school.

These 115 Vietnamese military and 15 contract civilian instructors assigned as of 1 May 1969 compare with 88 and 10 assigned as of 1 May 1968. Of special note is the fact that although the average student load per month has increased from 1,451 students during April 1968 to 4,455 students during April 1969, there has been a total increase of only 32 Vietnamese military and civilian instructors.

Due to the extreme importance of the VNAF and VNN modernization program and the inability of the Vietnamese to recruit instructors, US personnel have been assigned as instructors at RVNAFLS. As of 1 May 1968 there were a total of 27 US military instructors assigned to the school. This compares with a total of 495 assigned as of 1 May 1969. These US military personnel are not professional language instructors. The average US military instructor possesses, as his principal qualifying skill, the ability to speak English as a native language. Methods and techniques employed by US military instructor personnel capitalize on this native skill. Maximum classroom time is devoted to oral drills and repetition by the student.

The Language Training Detachment (LTD) assigned to the school has the responsibility of training both Vietnamese and US instructors in the proper methods and techniques of instruction. This is accomplished through both a pre-service and in-service instructor training course. The LTD also periodically evaluates all instructors to assure both the school Commandant and Senior Advisor that the instructors are presenting instruction according to prescribed techniques.

III - SECURITY

Security Threat

An increased threat to the security of personnel and material at RVNAFLS occurred concurrently with the expansion of the school from a relatively secure location at Camp Tran Hung Dao to 3 other unprotected buildings located in the busiest sections of Saigon and Cholon. This threat to security is the vulnerability of the school buildings to terrorist activities. This occurs because of their close proximity to the crowded and busy city streets. At all 3 locations there is not enough area between the school buildings and the street to allow for adequate student dispersal.

Compensatory Measures Taken

Detailed joint US-ARVN physical security plans have been developed to minimize the effects of a terrorist attack at one of the school locations. These plans provide for strict control of personnel entering into the school buildings, bus mounting and dismounting procedures and control over large groups of students approaching the school buildings.

During times of increased terrorist activities within the Saigon area, these security plans provide for supplementing the ARVN security detail with US personnel to assure adequate and mutual protection of all personnel. The ARVN security personnel detailed daily to perform security functions are shown in Annex C to this report.

Other measures taken against this type security threat have been the request by the school Commandant to secure wire screens, pipe and concrete foundations

which will be used to construct a security barrier at the entrance to the most vulnerable facility which is the 29 Dong Khonh building.

IV OPERATIONS

Organization

RVNAFLS is organized for operations as shown on the organizational chart which is attached as Annex A to this report. Under the instructional body section, only two languages are currently being taught at RVNAFLS, these being the English Language Course and the Vietnamese Language Course. There are no personnel assigned to the mess section as there are no mess halls at any of the school locations.

The tremendous increase in student load from the period 1 May 1968 to 1 May 1969 completely overtaxed and saturated many of the critical operating sections under the control of the Training Division. (Examination section, training aids section, technical section (maintenance of labs) and program section) To alleviate this situation, during February 1969, the Language Training Detachment was reorganized in order to perform the functions of testing, class scheduling, development and management of training aids, evaluating instructors and maintenance of the laboratories. A chart depicting the organization of the Language Training Detachment is attached as Annex B to this report. US personnel are presently operating each of the sections listed on the chart. Every effort is being made to train Vietnamese members of the RVNAFLS staff to take over and effectively operate these sections. The specific function of each section is as explained in subsequent paragraphs below.

The testing section administers all examinations at RVNAFLS. This section, located at the school headquarters, is responsible for testing students at all 4 locations. Examinations which are administered include the English Comprehension Level, English Language Screening, and student progress examinations. The testing section enters test scores on student records and maintains a complete file reflecting the test record of each student. The testing section issues periodic reports to the other sections of the Language Training Detachment and to the Chief, Offshore Schools Branch reflecting the academic progress of all students.

The scheduling section has the responsibility of initiating and maintaining the weekly training schedule. This section also maintains the student performance record and insures that neat, correct records are maintained on each student. Instructor's comments entered on these records are closely monitored by the scheduling section to insure they are correct, precise and informative. The scheduling section coordinates with the testing section to insure marginal or academically deficient students are placed in the proper phase of instruction. The scheduling section also schedules in-service instructor training when instructors have shown a need for this training as indicated by instructor

evaluation reports. A subordinate scheduling section is operated at each location of RVNAFLS.

The training aids section is responsible for developing new teaching aids to supplement the DLI American Language Course textbooks. Since March 1969, this section has been involved in the design and production of numerous instructor flip charts which correspond to each lesson in the language course textbooks. The section has also written a complete instructor guide to effectively integrate the charts into each lesson. The training aids section supervises the instructors during language laboratory periods in order to insure correct use of the equipment. Other functions of this section include: the receiving and distribution of all audio-visual training aids, submitting requests for additional training aids, and providing a maintenance team to perform periodic maintenance on all language laboratories within the school.

The evaluation section conducts evaluations of each assigned instructor on a periodic basis to insure his compliance with DLI directives and proper methods of instruction. The section maintains a file on all instructors which provide a record of his performance while assigned to RVNAFLS. The evaluators are assigned a specific number of instructors and in addition to evaluating the instructors, they assist the instructor in resolving classroom problems such as absenteeism and tardiness. Evaluators meet with the Chief, Language Training Detachment, to discuss progress made on previous problems as well as new developments in terms of instructor training, student progress and administrative procedures.

Operations

To provide a more comprehensive view of the total annual approved program for CY69, the following is a list of the different categories of students programmed for instruction.

2,640	VNAF Pilots
3,937	VNAF Mechanics
1,980	Navy Specialists
200	Signal Offshore Candidates
2,858	Army Students (NCO Interpreters, Command and General Staff and Offshore Candidates including the carry over from CY68)
420	Special Forces Interpreters
400	Korean Students
TOTAL	12,435 Students

The CY 69 program is constantly under review by higher headquarters and several changes concerning student inputs have been recommended.

To illustrate the execution of the above program, the following is a chart depicting actual student inputs for CY69, CY68 (academic or administrative)

and CY 69 accumulative graduates. The figures shown are accurate as of 1 May 69.

	CY69 Actual Input	CY67 Accum Losses	CY69 Accum Graduates
VNAF Pilots	750	3	
VNAF mechanics	1872	157	14
Navy Specialists	430	26	
Offshore Students	340	7	270
Special Forces & NCO Interpreters	100	20*	60*
TOTAL	3682	212	964

*Includes both losses and graduates of the CY69 input which were a carry over of the CY68 program.

V - LOGISTICS

The school capacity supported by the current RVNAFLS TOE 4-023 is a total in residence student load of 400 students. This TOE is insufficient to handle the student load currently enrolled in the school. A revised RVNAFLS TOE is being prepared which will support a total in residence student load of 4000 students.

The supply section of RVNAFLS presently does not have all its authorized supply personnel positions filled. The section is short two air crew specialist, engineer specialist and signal specialist. The TOE equipment shortages mentioned in Annex C have been placed on requisition and correct supply procedures are being followed by the supply section.

As stated in Annex C to this report, the school presently has a total of 233 classrooms. 40 of the 233 classrooms are located at the Camp Frank Hung Neo Annex. The majority of these classrooms are located in temporary tin buildings which are highly unsuitable for teaching English language students. This subject is covered more thoroughly in the problem section of this report.

The Chapter 20 training support funds are provided to RVNAFLS based on a set rate per student x projected student input. The budget for CY69 was based on a projected student input of far less than the actual input currently enrolled in classes. The expansion of the school into additional facilities has caused a tremendous increase in expenditures for cleaning materials and the operation

of the school workshop in the construction of training aids and the minor repair of classroom facilities. The proposed budget for CY70 is based on the student input of CY69, and due to the high CY69 input funds for CY70 should be adequate to cover the expenditures for operating all 4 school facilities.

VI - MAJOR PROBLEMS AFFECTING RVNAFLS

Shortage of DLI Personnel

RVNAFLS is currently assigned 2 DLI personnel. In order to conduct an efficient academic program at each location of the school, 23 additional DLI personnel are needed. This increase in DLI personnel is necessary to effectively supervise and monitor the effectiveness of instructors teaching the DLI American Language Course. As stated in the operations section of this report, US Non-commissioned Officers are assigned to the Evaluation Section of the Language Training Detachment and are performing the functions of DLI personnel. This situation is undesirable as these Non-commissioned Officers do not have the education and background to function as DLI representatives. Upon arrival the DLI representatives will be assigned to work at each location of the school and will be under the control and supervision of the Chief, Language Training Detachment.

Lack of Instructional Material

RVNAFLS is still short ~~of~~ tape recorders. These recorders are critically needed to effectively teach the POI of the DLI American Language Course. The tape recorders are used in conjunction with each lesson of the language course to enable students to develop more skill in fluency, speech patterns and to become accustomed to hearing different speakers. Each student study group should be exposed to the language tapes at least 2 hours daily. The number of lab positions in the school is insufficient to accommodate the increased student load and tape recorders are needed in order to provide this training.

VNAF Cadre

To support the English Language Training Program, VNAF was to have attached to RVNAFLS a proportionate number of cadre to support the VNAF student load. To date, no VNAF Cadre have been attached to the school for the purpose of controlling students. Student tardiness and absenteeism is a definite problem and seriously hinders academic progress in an intensive pace course such as the American Language Course. It is felt that control of the VNAF students by a sufficient number of VNAF Cadre will greatly reduce student tardiness and absenteeism.

Lack of Adequate Classrooms at Camp Tran Hung Dao

There is a lack of a sufficient number of adequate classrooms to accommodate the student load at the Camp Tran Hung Dao facility. A request for the rehabilitation of

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the classrooms and offices at this location was submitted by the school Commandant on 25 July 1969 and again on 17 January 1969. This FAE followed up on these requests and was recently informed that CTC requested CLC to consider these projects for the CY70 construction program. The time lag involved with this procedure is unsatisfactory as additional adequate classrooms are needed to accommodate the student load during CY69.

Lack of Vietnamese English Language Instructors

Due to the non-availability of a sufficient number of qualified Vietnamese instructors, US personnel have been teaching 90% of the total student load. In order for the school to function wholly as a Vietnamese institution in the future, a vigorous instructor recruiting program should be started at the present time.

VII - MAJOR PROBLEMS AFFECTING THE FAE

Lack of Office Equipment

The advisory team is presently short the following items of office equipment. These items were requisitioned from Headquarters Commandant Supply, MACV in January 1969.

Filing cabinet with lock	3 ea
Desk, flat, right pad	15 ea
Typewriter MP, 15" carr	6 ea
Typewriter MP, 15" elec	2 ea
Adding and subtracting machine	1 ea

NOTE: This list differs from the list shown in Annex C to this report because the 209 Copier machine and 1 electric typewriter were received on 27 May 1969.

Transportation

The advisory team is currently authorized two advisory vehicles. Presently three advisory vehicles are assigned. Due to operations expanding to a total of 4 separate locations, 2 additional advisory vehicles are required.

NOTE: This information differs from the information shown in Annex C to this report as one advisor vehicle was recently assigned to this FAE on 23 May 69.

Article 15 Jurisdiction

The procedure presently in effect for the imposition of disciplinary action against US personnel has proven extremely unwieldy and slow. Recommend the

Senior Advisor be given authority to impose Article 15 punishment directly upon all individuals assigned or attached to this FAE.

VII - CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusions

This evaluation leads to the conclusion that RVNAFLS has adequately met the challenge of expanding operations into 3 new locations while still maintaining continuity and organization. Although progress has been extensive and encouraging, many problems still remain. With continued emphasis by higher headquarters on the VNAF and VNN Improvement and Modernization program, it is imperative that RVNAFLS receives strong support from all concerned in order to accomplish its mission.

Recommendations

The following is a list of recommended action which should be taken to resolve the problems affecting both RVNAFLS and the FAE.

Shortage of DLI Personnel

Recommend MACT coordinate with the DLI English Language School to expedite the procurement of the DLI Language Training Specialists.

Shortage of Tape Recorders

Recommend MACT initiate follow-up action to procure the 04 tape recorders.

29 Dong Khanh Facility

Recommend MACT Support Division further investigate the possibility of obtaining approval and funds to seal and air condition this facility.

Lack of Adequate Classrooms at Camp Trần Hưng Đạo

Recommend MACT coordinate with CTC to obtain approval and funding to complete the re-construction of the school facilities at this location during CY69.

Lack of Vietnamese English Language Instructors

For FY70, 5 spaces per quarter at the instructor training branch of the DLI English Language School, Lackland AFB, Texas, have been approved for the training of Vietnamese instructors. Recommend MACT, Offshore Schools Branch, program an increase in this authorization from 5 per quarter to 10 per quarter for FY71.

Lack of Office Equipment

Recommend MACT coordinate with Headquarters Commandant in order to expedite the procurement of the needed office equipment.

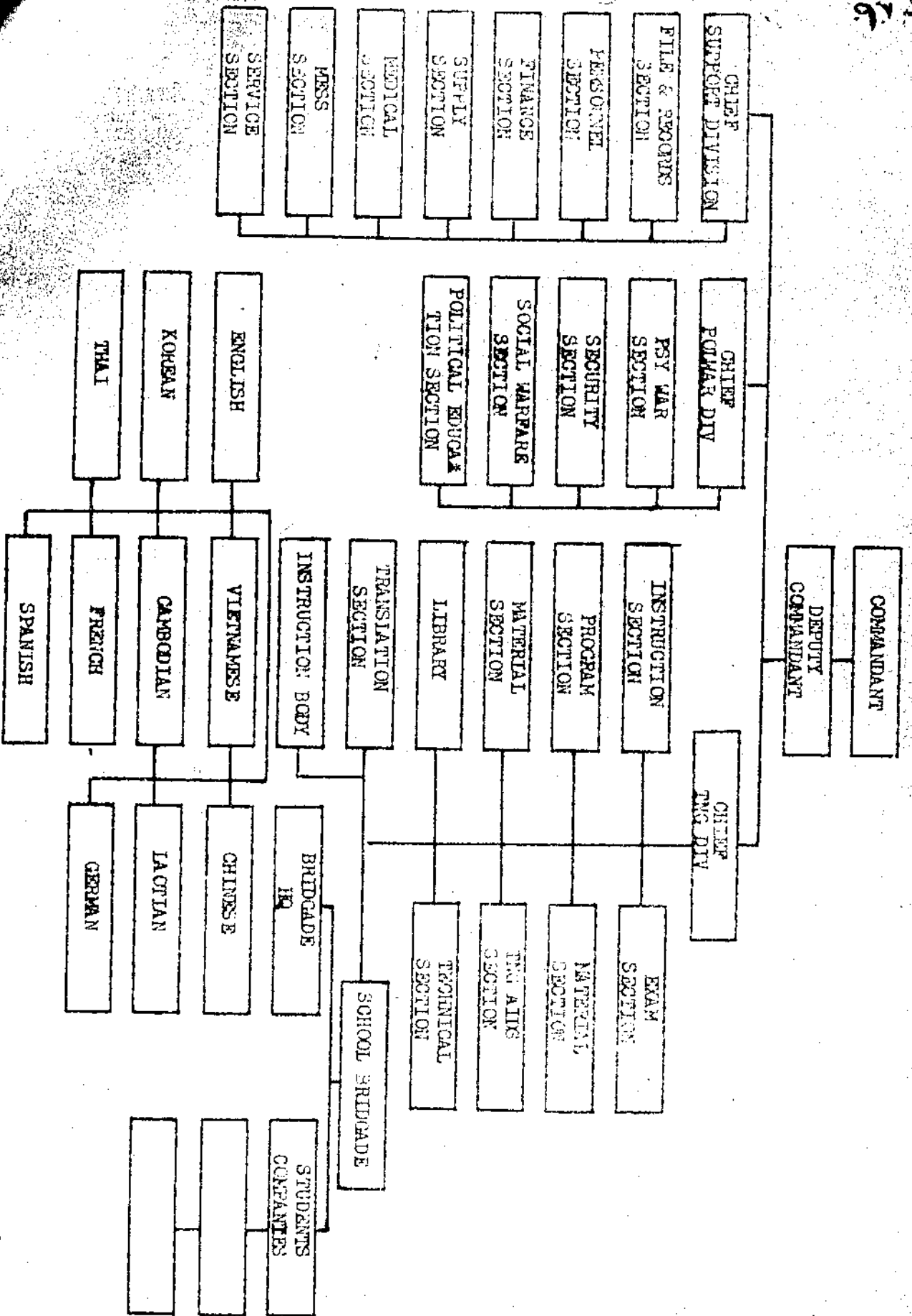
Transportation

Recommend MACT Support Division take action to provide the two additional advisor vehicles.

Article 15 Jurisdiction

Recommend MACT discuss with Air Force Advisory Group the possibility of obtaining authority for the SA, RVNAFLS to impose article 15 punishment upon all Air Force personnel assigned or attached to RVNAFLS.

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ACADEMIC STAFF ORGANIZATION CHART

