



~~SECRET~~  
THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

Special Handling required  
Not Releasable  
to Foreign Nationals

JCSM-233-68  
15 April 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Subject: Accelerated Expansion of RVNAF (U)

1. (U) Reference is made to the memorandum by the Deputy Secretary of Defense, dated 4 April 1968, subject: "Increase in the FY 68 RVNAF Force Level (U)."
2. The President has expressed intense interest in and has placed great emphasis on the expansion of the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces (RVNAF) to attain a posture of self-sufficiency in the near term.
3. COMUSMACV has estimated that SVN can reach and maintain an RVNAF force level of approximately 801,215 by end FY 1970. As a result of the current momentum being imparted to the mobilization of SVN manpower by President Thieu, it is possible that this force level may be reached earlier. Proposed force levels are contained in Appendices A and B hereto. In view of the possibility of negotiations with Hanoi, there may be a freeze applied to RVNAF force levels and armaments. Anticipating this situation, we should strive to bring the RVNAF to a self-sufficient posture prior to any freeze, and thus create the largest sustainable RVNAF in-being prior to a negotiated settlement.
4. The Joint Chiefs of Staff consider the further RVNAF increase of 115,475 spaces, which includes 31,475 FY 1969 pipeline spaces previously approved, is required to improve the capability of the GVN forces. This action should enable the RVNAF to become self-sufficient against a residual internal insurgency threat.
5. While the equipment requirements and dollar costs cannot be totaled precisely until final details are submitted by COMUSMACV, raw estimates of costs for the total increases are \$530 million and for full modernization of RVNAF approach an additional \$590 million.

Special Handling Required  
Not Releasable  
to Foreign Nationals

~~SECRET~~

Copy ..... of ..... Copies each  
of ..... pages each "A"

709

GROUP 2
Exempted from automatic
downgrading
by <i>W. Hallenberg</i>

Declassified by Joint Staff  
Date *1 Nov 94*

011103-709 Doc 49

6. Since equipment may not be available to keep pace with this expansion, it is planned temporarily to place personnel authorized for armor, artillery, transport, construction, engineer, and other special units into infantry-type units of the existing force structure. Basic infantry equipment can be provided from existing stocks, particularly the M2 carbine until the M16 rifle becomes available. This action has an advantage of providing unit fillers and overstrength with minimum impact on requirements for leaders and long lead-time training. As necessary leaders and the specialized equipment become available, personnel can be reassigned to newly activated units to round out the RVNAF force structure.

7. (U) The reference requested that when the proposals of the Joint Chiefs of Staff regarding FY 1969 RVNAF force levels were submitted, certain additional information concerning RVNAF force structure, combat effectiveness, equipment shortages, and studies which support the RVNAF force requirements were desired. Due to the urgency of the proposed expansion of RVNAF, this memorandum is submitted without the information you requested. This information will be developed, however, and submitted to you separately.

8. The Joint Chiefs of Staff recommend that:

a. Approval be provided for the expansion of RVNAF to a total force level of 801,215, to be reached as soon as possible.

b. Approval be provided for funds necessary to support the recommended expansion, subject to final determination of the force structure, associated equipment requirements, and detailed costs.

c. Approval be provided to furnish the M2 carbine as an interim weapon pending availability of M16 rifles.

d. Approval be provided to furnish RVNAF (including RF/PF) M16 rifles.

For the Joint Chiefs of Staff:



HAROLD K. JOHNSON  
Acting Chairman  
Joint Chiefs of Staff

Attachments

APPENDIX A

RECAPITULATION OF CURRENT AND PROPOSED FORCE LEVELS

<u>Service</u>	<u>See Def Approved FY 68 RVNAF Force Levels 1/</u>	<u>Proposed FY 69 Increases 2/</u>		<u>Subtotal</u>	<u>Proposed FY 69 Add-on 3/</u>	<u>FY 69 Total</u>
		<u>Basic</u>	<u>Pipeline 4/</u>			
<u>1. Regular Forces</u>						
Army (ARVN)	303,356	20,813	17,700	38,513	13,266	355,135
Navy (VNN)	16,003	565	1,175	1,740	163	17,906
Marine Corps (VNMC)	7,321	629	950	1,579	0	8,900
Air Force (VNAF)	<u>16,448</u>	<u>2,497</u>	<u>750</u>	<u>3,247</u>	<u>1,877</u>	<u>21,572</u>
Total Regular	343,128	24,504	20,575	45,079	15,306	403,513
<u>2. Paramilitary Forces</u>						
Regional Force (RF)	182,971	26,061	2,900	28,961	6,755	218,687
Popular Force (PF)	<u>159,640</u>	<u>11,375</u>	<u>8,000</u>	<u>19,375</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>179,015</u>
Total Paramilitary	342,611	37,436	10,900	48,336	6,755	397,702
Grand Total	685,739	61,940	31,475	93,415	22,061	801,215

1/ COMUSMACV was authorized to adjust spaces among forces within the level of 685,739.

2/ Approved by Mission Council and CINCPAC

3/ Concurred by Mission Council and CINCPAC. This FY 69 add-on incorporates the previous FY 70 proposed increase.

4/ Release of 31,475 FY 69 pipeline spaces approved and effective on 4 April 1968 by Secretary of Defense.

TCSM-233-KR

SECRET

1

Appendix A

941103-711

APPENDIX B

RECAPITULATION OF COMUSMACV-PROPOSED INCREASES

1. Regular Forces	<u>Current Strength</u>	<u>FY 69 Basic Increase</u>	<u>FY 69 Add-on 1/</u>
<u>Vietnamese Army (ARVN)</u>			
<u>Infantry/Artillery Units</u>			
53d Regt Hq		221	-
2d Bn/53d Regt		639	-
3d Bn/53d Regt		639	-
4th Bn/53d Regt		-	662
4th Bn/15th Regt		-	639
Bn Hq & Hq Svc Co 4/43 18th Div		168	-
Bn Hq & Hq Svc Co 2/52 18th Div		168	-
Regt Recon Co		(11) 1,012	-
Arty Bn (105mm How)		(5) 2,375	(8) 3,800
Arty Bn (155mm How)		(4) 2,160	-
Arty Hq, Inf Divs*		(11) 230	-
		7,612	5,101
<u>Airborne Units</u>			
Div Recon Co (Abn)		-	170
Engr Co (Abn)*		-	45
Med Bn (Abn)*		-	309
MP Det (Abn)*		-	20
Spt Co (Abn)*		-	50
Hq, Hq Svc Btry, Div Arty (Abn)		-	200
Arty Bn Hq (Abn)*		47	-
Arty Bn (Abn) (105mm How)		(1) 475	(1) 475
		522	1,269
<u>Logistic Units</u>			
ASP Det		(2) 90	-
ORD DS Co		(1) 192	-
ORD Ammo Depot*		132	25
Office Chief Ord*		-	24
QM Base Depots*		41	171
Med Boat Co		(2) 362	(2) 362
Heavy Boat Co		-	(1) 143
Lt Trk Co		(4) 608	(3) 456
Tml Svc Bn Hq		(4) 156	-
Tml Svc Co		175	-
Tml Svc Co*		300	239
Floating Craft Repair Tm		-	(1) 8
Hwy Regulating Tm		-	(10) 80
Zone Trans Office*		-	50
Med Units*		1,016	327
Med Depots*		220	50
Field Hosp Type A		200	-
		3,492	1,935

\*Space Increase

1/ This FY 69 add-on incorporates the previous FY 70 proposed increase.

2/ Figures in parentheses indicate numbers of units.

~~SECRET~~

<u>Log Units (Cont'd)</u>	<u>Current Strength</u>	<u>FY 69 Basic Increase</u>	<u>FY 69 Add-on</u>
Hq, Hq & Svc Co DS En	(5)	750	(5) 750
EOD Tms	(5)	40	-
Office Chief QM*		10	-
QM Gps	(5)	175	40*
Med Trk Co		-	168
Branch Trans Off	(3)	36	-
Engr Br (Const)	(2)	1,214	(2) 1,214
Dredge Co		-	(1) 120
Well Drilling Tm	(4)	28	-
ALC*		401	-
Commissary/PX*		104	-
Log Mgt Scol*		22	21
40th Engr Spt Base		243	-
Firefighting Det*		26	-
Engr Gp Hq		-	90
Engr Dump Trk Co		-	111
		<u>3,049</u>	<u>2,514</u>
<u>Other ARVN Units</u>			
Armd Cav Sqdn	(2)	1,356	(2) 1,356
Spec Forces "A" Det	(9)	126	-
MP Bn	(2)	812	-
MP POW Camp Co	(4)	640	-
924th Intel Gp*		118	-
Spec Forces*		371	-
Strategic Tech Directorate*		435	-
Disciplinary Camps	(1)	123	(2) 246
Signal*		283	800
Interpreters*		829	-
IG Office*		72	-
Mil Courts*		40	-
WAFPC Tng Ctr*		30	-
Postal Units*		50	-
Radar Units		16	-
Mil Prisons	(3)	135	(1) 45
Scout Dog Plts	(2)	50	-
Records Ctr		13	-
Deputy for Opns JGS		16	-
J-3/JGS*		36	-
POL War Dept*		159	-
Misc		428	0
		<u>6,138</u>	<u>2,447</u>
TOTAL ARVN		20,813	13,266
TOTAL ARVN PIPELINE		17,700	-
TOTAL ARVN		<u>38,513</u>	<u>13,266</u>
TOTAL ARVN FY 69		51,779	

~~SECRET~~

021103-713

		FY 69 Basic Increase	FY 69 Add-on
<u>Vietnamese Navy (VNN)</u>			
Coastal Groups (decrease)	(2)	-94	(3) -213
Patrol Craft, Escort (PCE)		-	(2) 180
Patrol Craft, Fast (PCF)		70	-
Patrol Craft, Gun/Missile (PGM)		-	(1) 26
Landing Craft, Med (LCMM)	(6)	24	-
Landing Ship, Tank (LST)		-	(1) 110
River Assault Gp Boat Replacements		56	60
VNN Element, S.T.D.*		50	-
Intelligence LNO*		24	-
Third Riverine Area Staff Support*		40	-
Maintenance Light Const Tm*		114	-
Saigon Base Maintenance/Port Control*		98	-
Supply Depots*		126	-
Fleet Cmd, Admin Support		40	-
Salvage Capability		11	-
Naval Tng Center		6	63
		<u>VNN Basic Increase</u>	<u>163</u>
		VNN Pipeline Increase	-
		<u>TOTAL VNN Increase</u>	<u>163</u>
		TOTAL VNN Increase FY69	1,903

<u>Vietnamese Marine Corps (VNMC)</u>			
Reorganize Div & Regt Hq*		409	-
Arty Bn Roundout (+1 -105 How Btry)		220	-
		<u>VNMC Basic Increase</u>	<u>-</u>
		VNMC Pipeline Increase	-
		<u>TOTAL VNMC Increase</u>	<u>-</u>
		TOTAL VNMC Increase FY69	1,579

<u>Vietnamese Air Force (VNAF)</u>			
Helicopter Sqdns (inc Maint)	(4)	928	(4) 928
TACC/DASC*		137	-
COMM/Elect*		110	125
AC&W Sqdns*		281	-
Maint*		213	-
Misc		828	824
		<u>VNAF Basic Increase</u>	<u>1,877</u>
		VNAF Pipeline Increase	-
		<u>TOTAL VNAF Increase</u>	<u>1,877</u>
		TOTAL VNAF Increase FY69	5,124

2. Irregular Forces

<u>Regional Force (RF)</u>			
RF Co's		17,712	4,674
CIDG Conversions (16/FY68)	(30)	(3,690)	(28) (3,444)
RD Territorial Security	(96)	(11,808)	-
Railroad Security	(13)	(1,599)	(10) (1,230)
RF Bn	(1)	560	(1) 560
River Patrol Co's (6/FY68)	(6)	414	(4) 276
Subsector Med Disp	(66)	990	(83) 1,245
TOE Impl* (Sect/Subsec RF/PF Gp Hq A&DSL)		5,710	-
Command-Control* (Due inc RF/PF)		1,290	-
		<u>RF Basic Increase</u>	<u>6,755</u>
		RF Pipeline Increase	-
		<u>TOTAL RF Increase</u>	<u>6,755</u>
		TOTAL RF Increase FY69	34,816

<u>Popular Forces (PF)</u>			
PF Plts	(325)	11,375	-
		<u>PF Basic Increase</u>	<u>-</u>
		PF Pipeline Increase	-
		<u>Total PF Increase</u>	<u>-</u>
		TOTAL PF Increase FY69	19,375

201103-714