

PERSONAL ACTIVITIES REPORT

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July - December, 1960

INTRODUCTION

In beginning, it must be said that a report of this nature presents almost insurmountable difficulties of presentation. The major reason for these difficulties lies in the nature of work which consists largely of day-to-day activities of undistinguished individual consequence which, however, contribute to the accomplishment of a program of considerable consequence.

In short, my job consists of making innumerable, small decisions, of solving minor problems, or determining procedural courses of action, and finally, of keeping a program in operation. This program is the Police Participant Training Program, which includes MSUG-and USOM-Funded projects, entailing all of the procedural details of Michigan State University, the U.S. International Cooperation Administration, USOM/Saigon, several Vietnamese Government branches, the Consular Section of the American Embassy/Saigon, the Vietnamese-American Association, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, U.S. Department of the Army training facilities, and various American police training facilities. Needless to say, each of these organizations has its peculiar ways of doing things; my work is simply a matter of beginning with an objective--determined in part by myself, in part by other MSUG and USOM advisers--and bringing that objective to fruition by means of, and in spite of all the procedural thoroughfares of the many organizations involved.

This kind of work does not lend itself to simple description. What appears below is an attempt to outline the more salient activities involved.

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POLICE PARTICIPANT TRAINING PROGRAMS

At any given time, it may be said that three separate and distinct participant training programs exist in some stage of preparation, operation or near-completion. This condition obtained for the July - December period of 1960. Although it is possible to trace the administrative and procedural requirements of any one participant program from inception through completion, it may be more enlightening to comment upon the requirements of each of the three programs during the six-month period under consideration. This is best done in outline form. A much more complete presentation of this work may be found in A Report on the Police Participant Program prepared in June 1960.

FY-59 Program

By July 1960, the forty police participants had been in the United States for some six-month; twenty-one participants would return to Vietnam in October 1960, fourteen would return in February 1961, and five radio communications participants would remain for an additional ten months of training. During July, August and September 1960, the major requirement of the program was the selection of the five (of nineteen radio communication participants) who would remain for additional training. This selection entailed considerable discussion with MSUG and USOM/PSD communications advisors, and correspondence with MSU/East Lansing, and IACP-ICA/W.

During October 1960, the requirements of this program entailed meeting returning participants, conferring with them in groups, and interviewing some of them individually.

Completing administrative requirements for the FY-59 participants includes notification of the VBI regarding effective date of return to GVN payroll, tracing lost shipments of books and personal property, receiving and forwarding shipments of books and personal property receiving and distributing per diem checks, and quite a number of equally minor tasks.

FY-60 Program

By July 1960, a group of participant candidates, from which eighteen participants would eventually be selected, had been in English-language classes for approximately four months.

In finally obtaining about 30 candidates for language training, some 120 VBI nominees had been extensively interviewed, and their records subjected to close examination. The selection process continued throughout the months from July through November, when a final list of participants was prepared. This continuing selection procedure included the following:

1. Several additional interviews of all candidates.
2. Medical examination of all candidates.
3. Close observation of progress in language classes, with complete compilations and study of four major examinations and several minor tests.
4. Periodic review of candidates' records and interview reports, discussions with language teachers and VBI Training Bureau staff.

After the final selection of eighteen participants in November 1960, it remained to complete administrative requirements for their departure from Vietnam and enrollment in training programs. This entailed the following procedures.

1. A complete rewriting and amendment of all of the six PIO/P's (Project Implementation Order/Personnel), which had been originally prepared before the April 15 deadline, and at a time when it was impossible to predict which of the candidates would finally be selected.
2. The initiating and answering of much correspondence with IACP and ICA/W concerning the nature, scope and requirements of each of the six training fields. During November and December ICA/W sent to Saigon the first information available regarding stateside programming. Much of this programming was not acceptable to MSUG; new arrangements, in many cases, had to be made, with a resulting need for additional funds, modified training schedules and changes of location of training. Needless to say, each modification of the program involved concurrences from USOM/PSD, USOM/Training Section, sometimes USOM/Program Office and/Controller, VBI Training Bureau, GVN Direction General of Plan, GVN Committee on Overseas Study, IACP, and ICA/W.

3. A major portion of time was consumed in resolving a rather strange conflict. The U.S. State Department Visa List number (sent to Saigon from Washington) is a prerequisite to approval of a USOM-funded medical examination by the American Embassy/Saigon Consular Section. The medical examination is a prerequisite to the application for a GVN Presidential Decree, which expresses approval of the study plan, and opens the way for the granting of a GVN exit visa. The granting of a Presidential Arrete requires something like 30-40 security checks for independent agencies in GVN, all of which begin only after the application has been submitted. GVN requires a minimum of one month to process a Decree application, which must be accompanied also by a final ICA/W Call Forward date. The Visa List and Call Forwards were often received in Saigon from one to three weeks prior to the starting date of training in the United States. This was only one of many administrative requirements of the program. Thus far twelve of the eighteen participants have departed Saigon: six on December 21, three on January 13, and six on January 20. The remaining three participants are scheduled to depart during the second week in February.

FY-61 Program

During early Autumn, 1960, MSUG gained the concurrences of USOM/PSD and the VBI, and advanced the date of GVN's nomination of participant candidates. This was done by working in advance of the first meeting of the Committee on Overseas Study, which falls in late November or early December. As a result of this action, the FY-61 candidates were placed in English-language classes at the VAA by December 19, or three months in advance of the previous year's starting date.

Most of the FY-61 candidates have been interviewed. This selection process will continue.

Conferences between USOM/PSD, MSUG and the VBI Training Bureau have already signalled a beginning in the selection of twenty 3rd Country participants.

MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES

1. A major part of my time was expended, during July and August, in the interviewing of returned police participants. This was part a project begun in June 1960,

with the preparation of an extensive report on police participants, referred to on Page 2 of this report.

As part of the phase-out of MSUG Police Division, all returned police participants who studied in the United States will have been interviewed by March 1961, and a complete report on the results of this survey will be published in the form of an addendum to the June 1960 report. It is in the nature of a followup, or end-use survey, which provides also a history of the program, an analysis of procedural activity entailed, and an appraisal of result.

2. During July-December, 1960, I was called upon a number of times to deliver police administration lectures in the VBI High Command School, usually in the field of police records management and uniform crime reporting.
3. Another project has been the establishment of an ammunition reloading laboratory at Police and Security Headquarters. This activity offers promise because it will provide increased amounts of ammunition for police marksmanship training, and because it will release substantial amounts of factory-made service ammunition for service use rather than for marksmanship training.

The equipment needed for reloading--crucibles, sizing dies, reloading presses, etc--had been received by the VBI some time ago. After I had drawn up complete plans for the construction of a shop--workbenches, installation of machinery, new equipment for the recovery of lead alloy, etc--the work of construction and installation was discussed with VBI officials. There was then a period of several months in which the VBI was unable to carry on this project for several reasons. During this time the plans were lost. New plans were prepared, and the construction of benches and other equipment is now under way. Actual reloading of ammunition should proceed within approximately two weeks.