

FOREIGN SERVICE INSTITUTE

January 2, 1970

Mr. George D. Jacobson
Assistant Chief of Staff, CORDS
MACCORDS
c/o American Embassy
Saigon, Viet-Nam

Dear Jake:

It was a great relief to be able to talk to you on the phone on December 31 (our time) concerning the visit of Capt. Joel Gardner. I enclose copies of correspondence with respect to Gardner, and I frankly was not aware that concurrence had not been received or we would have postponed his trip. One complicating factor here is that there is considerable delay in getting messages through channels to VTC even after they arrive in Washington, and since the request for concurrence had gone out on December 10, I wrongly assumed a reply had been received.

The implications of the CINCPAC message (enclosed) were that someone in Saigon felt that we were being essentially redundant in sending people to Viet-Nam. Actually, the only redundancy, if any, occurs when people like myself, Guy Jones, or Jim May visit the country, since our scope of interests is very broad and could overlap. Our instructor personnel, on the other hand, have rather narrow objectives specifically keyed to the subject they teach in the various courses here. In that sense, I attach even higher priority to their trips than I would to my own. We try to be very proud of the fact that our instructors can tell the students "the way it is" with a fresh and realistic perspective, and indeed this is necessary since so many of our students have had previous experience in Viet-Nam. Indeed, if there is anything that sets VTC apart from other training institutions, it is the way we have been able to keep our material fresh by updating the staff. You really can count on us to prevent boondoggles and can be assured that we will not send people to Viet-Nam for meaningless purposes.

Looking to the future, Howard Levy, Chairman of the Language Division, is now awaiting your clearance. He had intended to spend the period January 7 - 21 in Viet-Nam, but we are now

holding him until we hear from you. He is a very innovative person and wants to make our language training here more directly relevant to the needs of the CORDS advisor. I agree that much can be done in this area, because many of the former students have said that the vocabulary and thrust of the language training here have been too much oriented towards the needs of an Embassy officer in Saigon, with inadequate coverage of what a District Advisor must be able to talk about on the ground. I therefore think Levy's trip will be very useful. Guy Jones has already received a message confirming his two-week visit in the first half of February (enclosed). Also in February, we would very much like to send LTC Lorne Black, the new Chairman of our District Operations Course. He was PSA in An Xuyen in 1966-67 and is a great addition to our staff, but he needs to update himself on what has been accomplished in Viet-Nam at Province and District levels since his departure.

Since you all have felt in the past that these trips are in CORDS best interests and are not unduly burdensome to you, perhaps a streamlined clearance procedure would be acceptable, and I would solicit your frank comments. I would suggest a procedure under which VTC would notify you at least 30 days in advance of a proposed trip, giving the officer's name, purpose and scope of trip, and suggested areas to be visited. The message would be slugged for you by name, and we would assume clearance unless we received word from you that the trip was not desired at that time. Under the present system, concurrence may come in shortly before the proposed departure date of the officer and then have to filter its way through the various message centers in Washington, which always causes considerable last minute nervousness, change of reservations, and the like. The 30 days advanced notice would presumably give you plenty of time to stop the trip for any reason you wanted to, and make things simpler for all concerned. In the past, the visiting officer has checked in immediately with CORDS personnel, but I think it would be an improvement to suggest that our people not only hit CORDS personnel but also specifically notify Len Maynard upon their arrival. Their movements in-country would of course be subject to the wishes of all concerned at your end. At your convenience, please let me know your reaction to the above.

The general situation in Viet-Nam certainly looks better, even from this end where opinion has long been conditioned to believe little of a constructive nature about the war. As one who has consistently preached and tried to practice "Vietnamization" for more than 10 years, it does seem as if our policies are on a sounder basis than they ever have been.

With best wishes,

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Sincerely,

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sent out 1/5/70

Ogden Williams
Coordinator
Viet-Nam Training Center

Enclosures:

1. Dept.'s 205305 to Saigon
2. Memo from Capt. Gardner dtd
10/28/69 to Mr. Williams
3. CINCPAC's 272210Z dtd 12/27/69

O/FSI/VTC:OWilliams:pak 1/2/70

OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

INDICATE: ☐ CORRECT
☐ CHARGE TO

UNCLASSIFIED

Classification

Origin

ACTION: Amembassy SAIGON

Info:

STATE

CORDS

VTC proposes visit of Captain Joel R. Gardner (USMC), Associate Chairman of the VTC District Operations Course, during period December 29, 1969 and January 19, 1970. Itinerary to include Saigon, Hau Nghia Province, Khanh Hoa Province and ~~Quang Ngai~~ ^{Quang Ngai} Province. Purpose of trip is updating on subject matter pertinent to District and Basic courses to include RVNAF organization, RD, CG, PRU, Refugees, Village Self Development, Public Works and Social Welfare. ETA will follow after Mission concurrence.

End

FOR OC/T USE ONLY

Drafted by:

O/FSI/VTC:DLQuaid, Jr:jj:12/10/69

Clearances:

Tel. Ext.

70713

Telegraphic transmission and

classification approved by:

O/FSI/VTC:OWilliams

[ROGERS]

UNCLASSIFIED

Classification

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : O/FSI/VTC - Mr. Ogden Williams

FROM : O/FSI/VTC - *Joel R. Gardner*
Capt Joel R. Gardner, USMC

SUBJECT: Proposed Viet-Nam Visitation

DATE: October 28, 1969

I returned from my last Viet-Nam tour on May 17, 1968, and was initially assigned to Headquarters, Marine Corps, and then reassigned to the Viet-Nam Training Center on May 9, 1969. A normal tour for officers of my rank is three years, although there is a possibility of assignment to an intermediate-level school in Quantico during the last six months. Therefore, I foresee no reassignment prior to January 1971 at the earliest.

The main goal of my visiting Viet-Nam would be to update myself on the particular subject matter for which I am either the prime or backup instructor in the District and Basic Courses. These are RVNAF organization, RD, CG, PRU, Refugees, Village Self Development, Public Works, Social Welfare, and DIOCC.

Proposed Dates of Visit: 28 December 1969 - 17 January 1970

Proposed Itinerary:

1. Trang Bang District, Hau Nghia Province, III Corps. The objective of visiting this district would be to update myself and the rest of the District Course staff on the village of Gia Binh, which is the subject of the Village Exercise. Areas of interest are village government, self development, taxation, and security, to include PSDF training by RD, PF, and MATS; public health, agriculture, and DIOCC. Proposed length of visit, a minimum of 10 days.
2. Khanh Hoa Province, II Corps. I would like to visit this province, where I was the RD/CG/PRU advisor, because I can better evaluate the performance of these programs, past and present, in a province with which I am familiar. Proposed length of visit, 4 days (including travel time).
3. Binh Son District, Quang Ngai Province, I Corps. A visit with Marine CAP units in this area would be useful to compare methods and effectiveness of training employed by them and the MATS teams for PF and PSDF. I would also like to visit the refugee resettlement hamlets on the Batangan Peninsula to get more detailed information on refugee resettlement and social welfare at the district level. My first tour was spent primarily in this area. Proposed length of visit, 4 days.



4. During my visit I would also like to visit Vung Tau to observe training of village officials and to observe the training exercise given to DIOCC advisors. (This exercise is being presented in the DOC course in a modified version to fit the district we study.)

In order to get an in-depth view and to gather the vast quantity of information we would like to have for the DOC course, I will require 21 days in country (to include arrival, departure, and traveling dates).

cc:

O/FSI/VTC:RGJones

O/FSI/VTC:JAMay

O/FSI/VTC:DLQuaid

O/FSI/VTC:JRGardner:kj



Department of State

TELEGRAM

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ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 PM-04 INR-07 /018 W

P R 272041Z DEC 69
FM CINCPAC
TO SECSTATE
INFO RHMSMVA/COMUSMACV

103827

UNCLAS

VISIT OF CAPT GARDNER

- A. SECSTATE 102247Z DEC 69
B. COMUSMACV 70285/240212Z DEC 69 (NOTAL)
1. REF A DISCUSSED PROPOSED VISIT OF CAPTAIN JOEL R. GARDNER, USMC, ASSOCIATE CHAIRMAN OF THE VTC DISTRICT OPERATIONS COURSE IN RVN. SAIGON.
2. REF B ADVISED OF NON-CONCURRENCE IN THIS VISIT BY AMEMB SAIGON AND COMUSMACV. NON-CONCURRENCE GIVEN BECAUSE MR. JAMES MAY, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE VTC, DEPARTED VIETNAM 10 DEC AND HE WAS EXTREMELY SUCCESSFUL IN COLLECTING INFORMATION FOR THE VTC PROGRAM.
3. REF B SUGGESTS CAPTAIN GARDNER VISIT VIETNAM IN MARCH WHICH WOULD BE A MORE OPPORTUNE TIME.

O/FPI/VTC-
VH PL 2nd

- State-12
- Khanh-Hoa
- Lang-Lang
Jan 7-21

Action Assigned to _____
Action Taken _____
Date of Action _____
Action Office Symbol _____
Name of Officer _____

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