

July 14, 1970

General William C. Westmoreland  
Chief of Staff  
United States Army  
Washington, D.C. 20310

Dear General Westmoreland:

As you know, the Viet-Nam Training Center has for some time been providing training to all of the Province Senior Advisor and District Senior Advisor candidates assigned to Viet-Nam. MACV has informed us on numerous occasions that this training is considered to be extremely useful and valuable.

Recently, we have inaugurated special one-week or two-week programs tailored to the particular needs of top-level officials going to Viet-Nam. For example, the DEPCORDS-designate for II Corps, a Class 1 Foreign Service Officer, and the Assistant DEPCORDS-designate for I Corps are at the present time receiving special presentations by our staff. We have designed programs to suit each man's particular needs, including bringing in former incumbents, arranging special briefings by officers who have served on the staffs in these Regions, and designing certain of our regular lectures which would be particularly applicable to give the officer a more sophisticated understanding of the struggle in Viet-Nam and the roles of the various organizations involved, both U.S. and GVN.

The purpose of this letter is to suggest for your consideration that key senior military personnel of comparable ranks to the DEPCORDS and other higher civilian officials whom we now train might wish to attend instruction at the Viet-Nam Training Center for periods of time consistent with their individual schedules, prior to entering on duty in Viet-Nam.

General officers who are moving from a CONUS or other overseas assignment into positions in the CORDS chain of command or who will have supervisory responsibility over CORDS activities could, we believe, benefit immensely from an exposure of even a week or two to our special curricula.

We note the recent assignment of a new Commander to I Corps. Since we already train all of the Province and District Senior Advisors who will serve under him, not to mention his senior CORDS personnel, it might have been highly desirable to have exposed him to perhaps one week of concentrated and individually tailored instruction here.

It is recognized, of course, that detailed briefings are conducted within the Department of Defense. Nevertheless, there may be available at the Viet-Nam Training Center a depth of continuity and expertise equal to anything available elsewhere, particularly as regards pacification and the CORDS programs. You might wish to consider sending such senior personnel to us in the future. I think we can assure that they would find the experience both enjoyable and professionally useful.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,

Ogden Williams  
Coordinator  
Viet-Nam Training Center