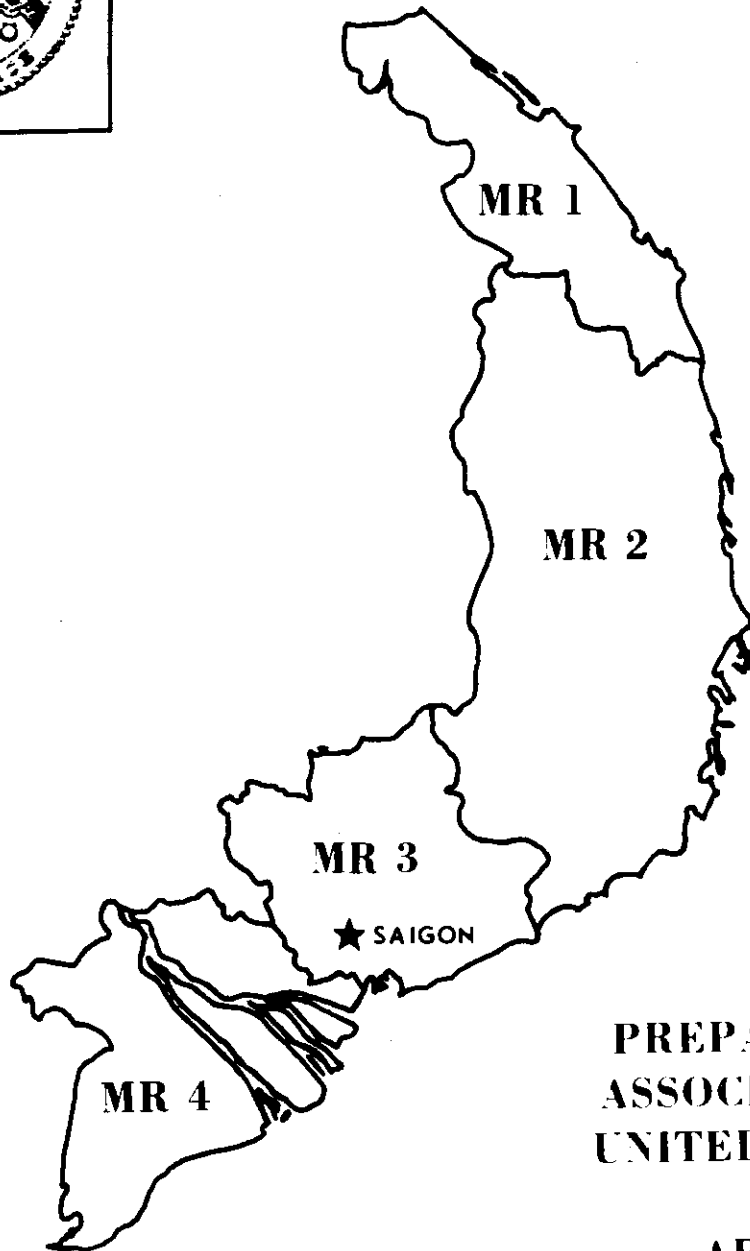
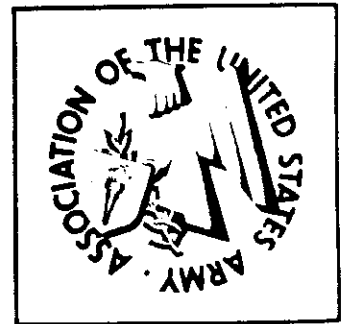


VIETNAMIZATION

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PREPARED FOR THE
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VIETNAMIZATION 1970

In July 1969, the United States initiated a program of Vietnamization designed to attain a self-sufficiency for the Government of Vietnam (GVN).

Vietnamization is a companion to the United States diplomatic efforts. For the Army, Vietnamization is now the paramount objective in Southeast Asia.

WHAT IS VIETNAMIZATION?

Vietnamization is defined as the process by which the South Vietnamese become fully capable of determining their own future by providing for their own security while they pursue economic and social development through expanding government programs. Efforts are made to insure progress in the areas of military, political, economic and internal security.

MILITARY ASPECTS OF VIETNAMIZATION

The military aspect of Vietnamization depends first of all on engaging the enemy main forces and holding them away from the civilian population. Our strategy calls for the Vietnamese progressively to take over this role. The first part of this program deals with the transfer of ground combat responsibility to the South Vietnamese. The second part deals with the transfer of fire support, logistic support, and other support to the South Vietnamese.

As enemy main forces leave an area, the local Viet Cong and guerrillas become vulnerable. Here the territorial forces referred to as the Regional Forces (RF) and Popular Forces (PF) play a vital role. As these territorial forces become proficient, they work behind the main forces shield provided by United States and ARVN troops to root out the Viet Cong, isolate them in relatively unpopulated areas, and spread the security of the South Vietnamese government throughout South Vietnam. At the same time, by taking over the task of local security, they free more ARVN units to confront enemy main forces.

Supporting the territorial forces in the local security mission are the 4 million members of the Peoples Self Defense Forces (PSDF). PSDF members defend their own families, dwelling houses, villages, and hamlets and promote community development activities for self help and local improvement.

WHAT ARE WE DOING TO FURTHER VIETNAMIZATION?

Today, the primary mission of our combat units is to work with and train the Vietnamese in combat situations. This is part of our overall RVNAF Improvement and Modernization Program.

Through this program, we have made it possible for the South Vietnamese to expand their armed forces. The number of South Vietnamese in the regular and territorial forces has grown from about 700,000 in April 1968 to over 1,000,000 today -- an increase of over 40 percent in 2 years. Particularly significant is the growth of the territorial forces -- from 315,000 in April 1968 to over 500,000 today.

Within the ARVN the emphasis now is on improving the quality of leadership and on building up the combat support. These support units frequently require longer training, but their development is essential if the RVNAF are to become self-sufficient and capable of independent operations.

A key factor in the development of a self-sufficient RVNAF is a sound logistical base. To assist the Vietnamese in building a sound logistical base for their armed forces, the US Army has 1,500 advisers assigned to the area logistics commands, the technical services, the logistics management school, divisions, corps, and as advisers to Vietnamese units.

In April 1969, MACV approved PROJECT BUDDY, a new program designed to provide on-the-job training to ARVN personnel. The name reflects the fact that the ARVN members work, live and train with American units. They can learn any of a variety of skills ranging from fire fighting to rock quarry operations to electronics repair. As of today, over 38,000 Vietnamese have received this training and over 600 are currently participating in 161 courses under PROJECT BUDDY.

We are continuing to upgrade the equipment of Vietnamese forces. The M-16 rifle has been distributed to the ARVN and to substantially all the RF and PF as well. Other equipment being provided includes artillery, vehicles and communications equipment.

The United States is providing assistance in support of RVNAF training centers and service schools. The in-country ARVN training base is substantial and is capable of meeting the major ARVN training requirements. This base includes 25 service schools and 33 training centers. In-country training facilities currently have an annual student training load of over 600,000, up 27 percent from 1969 and up over 50 percent from 1968.

The United States also provides direct training of RVNAF personnel in-country and in CONUS. During 1970, over 7,000 Vietnamese military personnel will be trained in a wide variety of advanced skills in the United States, compared with approximately 2,600 last year and 1,900 in 1968. Over half of the 1970 Vietnamese student load in the United States will consist of helicopter and fixed wing pilots and helicopter mechanics.

One of the most important Army contributions to Vietnamization is the on-going Lines of Communications (LOC) Program, a task which provides for the establishment of a network of modern all-weather highways connecting the population centers and strategic areas in Vietnam. One of the objectives of this program is to stimulate the economic development of the country by providing for the movement of foods and goods from farms and factories to market places in the cities.

PACIFICATION

Although only part of the total effort, pacification is perhaps the most important part of the overall struggle. During 1969 the main objective of pacification was to expand and improve security in the rural areas and to restore the village as the basic echelon of local government. Progress in this effort is indicated by the fact that the share of the Vietnamese population considered secure from Viet Cong attack has grown from 29 percent in December 1969 to more than 75 percent on 31 July 1970.

POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT

Governmental reform has proceeded steadily. In the past 3 years, the Vietnamese have adopted a new constitution, elected a president and national legislature and cast their votes in local elections. They have gone to the polls in over 2,000 villages and 9,900 hamlets. Ninety-five percent of Vietnam's villages and hamlets now have elected officials. These officials have been granted increased responsibility and authority, including the power to allocate self-help funds and operational control over local security forces.

The government, with American support, operates a National Cadre Training Center at Vung Tau to train village and hamlet officials, pacification teams, PSDF cadre, PF instruction cadre and village technical cadre. Approximately 25,000 Vietnamese are trained each year.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

In 1970 a sweeping land reform statute ended tenant farming by authorizing the transfer of land from non-operating landowners to operating farmers. The new law will benefit 500,000 farm families by making available to them more than 2 1/4 million acres, nearly half the country's riceland. The government will compensate the former owners.

FOOD PRODUCTION

As a result of the introduction, with US help, of IR-8 rice, South Vietnam should become self-sufficient in rice production for the first time since 1964. The new variety increases yields up to three times those of ordinary rice.

MEDICAL CARE

A coordinated military-civilian health plan is greatly increasing the availability of medical care throughout the country. For example, during 1969, 20 million smallpox, cholera and plague immunizations were administered as compared with 16 million the previous year.

EDUCATION

Expansion of educational facilities has been impressive. Elementary schooling is now available to about 85 percent of the school age population, with about 80 percent actually enrolled in public and private schools. Secondary school enrollment has increased 13 percent over the last school year, while the number of secondary school teachers has increased 16 percent.

CAMBODIAN OPERATIONS

The combined operations of US and RVN forces in Cambodia were a military success and impact directly on the continued safety of US forces and the progress of Vietnamization. The operations that began on 29 and 30 April 1970 captured enemy stores and supplies, disrupted Communist logistics and communications capabilities, and prevented the enemy from using sanctuary areas to build his forces in preparation for attacks in South Vietnam.

US ADVISER OPERATIONS

As Vietnamization progresses and US troops are redeployed, the US advisory effort assumes increased importance.

The adviser must be not only an outstanding military leader, but also a diplomat-soldier who understands and likes the Vietnamese. This is why we make the greatest possible use of volunteers in the adviser program.

SUMMING IT UP

Vietnamization is practical. It is working. The Vietnamese forces still need more experienced officers and NCOs, and training these leaders will take time.

Political leadership is in short supply. Thousands of lower ranking administrators and political officials have been assassinated by the Communists. With more than one million men in uniform, the government is critically short of manpower for the civil economy.

Vietnamization is not an easy choice, but as President Nixon has stated, "It is the right choice. We are dedicated to making Vietnamization succeed."