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6/71

NLF	file	ADM	subj.
6/71	date	sub-cat.	

005557

PLAF PARA MILITARY TRAINING - Rach Gia CC

June 1971

HISTORY OF THE VIETNAM WAR ON MICROFILM

GUIDELINES FOR THE 1971-1972 TRAINING
PLAN FOR LOCAL FORCES

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The present situation requires a change of our strategy to counter the US and its henchmen's pacification program and their Vietnamization plan.

The present situation requires further ((improvement)) in the leadership ability of cadre and the combat capabilities of our military and paramilitary forces including the ((staff)) agencies.

The fulfill our mission requirements, it is necessary to continually improve the skills of cadre of military units and agencies in the military, political, ideological indoctrination and administrative fields, thus strengthening the combat capabilities of our forces from province to the lowest echelon.

I. OBJECTIVES:

1. Train detachments and agencies on the conduct of coordinated and independent attacks to enable them to effectively support the people's uprisings and fulfill their combat missions under all circumstances. They should be capable of breaking the enemy's control, destroying his oppressive forces, consolidating and developing our revolutionary organizations in order to change the balance of forces in our favor, gain the initiative in villages, and destroy the ((RVNAF)) pacification support forces. As for province local force battalions, they should be capable of destroying a Regular Force company or a Regional Force battalion. They should be trained on attacking enemy troops, overrunning posts B and C ((possibly posts defended by a platoon or a company sized units)), and attacking sub-sectors. District Local Force units should be capable of destroying a ((RVNAF)) platoon on open terrain, an ((RVNAF)) company in its defensive fortifications, and be able to overrun Posts B and post C. Village and inter-village fulltime guerrilla units should be capable of destroying an entire ((RVNAF)) squad on open terrain or an entire ((RVNAF)) platoon. They should be able to apply raid tactics in conjunction with the deployment of fifth columnists to overrun posts A and B ((possibly posts defended by a squad or a platoon)). Hamlet guerrilla forces should be capable of encircling enemy posts using various tactics and destroying an ((RVNAF)) cell or squad on open terrain.

2. Infantry units should be experienced in both infantry and sapper tactics so that they can fulfill their assigned combat missions and achieve greater success in the destruction of enemy forces.

3. Sapper units should improve their professional skills relying on infantry tactics so as to be able to completely destroy an entire enemy unit during each battle (capture weapons and PW's, and gain the initiative on the battlefield).

Artillery and engineer units should be skilled not only in the techniques and tactics of their branch but also in the infantry tactics.

4. Basic military training should be conducted repeatedly for each individual. In addition, we should conduct basic training for our forces at low levels.

The above training tactics are aimed at meeting the requirements of the military and paramilitary forces both in combat operations and other activities designed to frustrate the enemy's pacification program. It is further intended to prepare friendly forces for a combined attack or campaign to be participated in by the three ((main, local, and guerrilla)) forces during a climaxing phase or normal situation.

II. PURPOSES AND REQUIREMENTS:

1. Purpose: The purpose of the training is to urgently improve the combat effectiveness and task performance of the personnel of the province military and paramilitary forces. It is also designed to improve the leadership of cadre, especially leaders of the ((people's)) movement and commanding officers of combat units. The third purpose is to provide refresher training for cadre in every field so that they can effectively lead their subordinate personnel to conduct successful combat activities and complete every task, including the training of low-level cadre.

2. Requirements:

a. Ideological leadership and tactical guidelines:

((Cadre)) should fully understand the mission and guidelines of frustrating the enemy's pacification program.

They should improve their skills to lead local forces and hamlet guerrillas.

They should fully understand the strategic guidelines, combat leadership, and various methods of attacking and destroying the enemy.

They should continually improve the combat effectiveness and task performance of the military and paramilitary forces in the entire province insuring that they are thoroughly trained in ambush, raid and outpost encirclement tactics and in the application of proper methods to destroy the withdrawing enemy troops. They should know how to creatively combine these tactics with the enemy and military proselyting efforts to destroy or wear down enemy forces in a large area. They must skillfully and competently conduct effective coordinated and independent operations as well as assemble and disperse troops.

b. Techniques:

Cadre and soldiers who entered the service before 1971 should be familiar with or an expert in basic technical subjects.

Cadre who entered the service in 1972 should understand all basic techniques and be able to use these techniques skillfully.

c. General Subject:

Professionalism in the administration of a unit in all aspects with emphasis placed on a good sense of organization and discipline.

d. Importance should be attached to the maintenance and improvement of the health of the unit's personnel.

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III. GUIDELINES AND METHODS:

1. Although the training program must cover all subjects such as military, political, ideological guidance and unit administration, emphasis must be placed on certain areas in each phase.

Attention must be first paid to the weak areas or the necessary and basic points in order to meet immediate requirements and to prepare for a long range training plan.

2. A Local Force company and platoon or a guerrilla platoon or squad should be used as a training unit to train each member, cell, squad, and platoon.

3. The focal point of the training is the improvement of the cadre's skills. This should be closely coordinated with the training of units.

4. Basic training should be conducted in conjunction with the teaching of lessons to help trainees fully understand the lessons and apply them creatively and actively.

5. Instructions should be realistic and easy to understand and remember and to practice. They should cover simple subjects in each part first then move to more difficult and complicated subjects.

6. Make the best use of time to give classes in all areas. Concurrent training should be conducted to study the lessons learned.

IV. CONTENTS:

A. Armed units subordinate to the Province Unit

1. Infantry units: Study the schemes and methods used by the enemy to implement his pacification program in the military, political, economic, and social fields, citing specific examples in the Province or in a specified area.

Fully understand the fundamental directives of the higher echelon and the local Party committee concerning counterpacification measures, the classification of villages and hamlets, the division of the province into areas, and the methods of operation and changing areas.

Fully understand and know how to apply flexible combat and operation guidelines to disrupt the enemy's pacification activities; the methods of supporting villages and hamlets to remove the enemy's oppressive control of a large area; the methods of coordinating with other forces and of conducting three-prong attacks in a campaign to establish penetration bases and expand liberated areas.

Study the arts of propaganda and motivation of the people and the use of district local forces, and guerrilla and militia units of villages and hamlets to carry out military proselyting activities in support of counterpacification efforts.

Urge cadre and soldiers to study and thoroughly understand combat leadership, the attitude to be displayed during combat, and six basic combat concepts ((sic)) which may be successfully applied in every situation.

Tactical training:

Study the techniques of attacking a post, the combination of infantry and sapper tactics, the conduct of raids with support from fifth columnists, and the coordination with sapper units to attack district seats and sub-sectors.

Requirements: ((Units)) should be able to completely destroy B posts ((posts manned by platoon sized units)), conduct successful attacks against C posts ((posts manned by company sized units)), and to attack sub-sectors.

Conduct successful raids against enemy troops stationed in open areas with or without relatively solid fortified positions.

Requirements: ((Units)) should be skilled in attacking the enemy under any circumstances and on any terrain features. They should be able to completely destroy an enemy company.

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They should also be able to ambush enemy troops moving on roads and on rivers or conduct ambushes or hit-and-run raids against enemy elements in open fields and in strategic hamlets as well as to intercept the enemy sweep operations by counterattacking enemy assault elements in the enemy areas of operations and enemy airborne troops.

Requirements: The main point is to continually improve the skills during concentrated attacks against the enemy's company-sized units when they are moving or bivouacking. Friendly cadre should be trained on how to conduct effective attacks on the enemy's platoons, companies, and battalions, particularly companies and battalions. Therefore, they should familiarize themselves with the tactics of dispersing troops into platoons to attack the enemy, and provide effective guidance for the district forces and village and hamlet guerrillas to stay close to the enemy to attack him.

Technical training:

Study the basic points in marksmanship, the handling of various types of weapons available and weapons captured, the methods of using various types of explosives, the manufacture and use of various types of rudimentary weapons.

Study the technique of constructing camouflaged fortifications; throwing grenades a short or long distance, destroying enemy boats, mechanized vehicles, and aircraft (helicopters) using infantry weapons. Study the various basic sapper techniques.

General training subjects:

Troop management: ((Lessons on)) the performance of various functions including the comprehension of the chain of command and the administration of ideological guidance, organization, tactical and technical training, personnel strength, weapons, ammunition, equipment, and other types of national property.

Improve the working attitude of the local troops and increase their combat readiness and vigilance.

Study the plans and regulations concerning bivouacking, moving, training, fighting, patrolling and guard duty.

Study the methods of assessing and determining the pattern of activities of the enemy troops in the operational areas of the unit.

2. Sapper: Province and district sapper units must strive to improve their tactical and technical skills to increase their combat effectiveness. They must improve their techniques of infiltration and deployment of troops for assaults inside the target areas.

They must know how to work out sapper combat plans and carefully study the infantry tactics and techniques, including raids on enemy bivouacking sites, countersweep operations, and firing at enemy aircraft.

Requirements: ((They must be)) capable of attacking the enemy posts defended by an enemy platoon or company-sized unit, or attacking a district seat, a sub-sector, a storehouse, an airfield, a key agency, or an artillery position. Strive to meet the combat requirements of each battle, each phase, or climaxing phase.

In addition to the above training, they must also study the management of the unit in order to strengthen the sapper force, thus guaranteeing their combat capabilities and meeting the requirements concerning the destruction of enemy strength, his posts, and war facilities.

Local forces and guerrillas must also be trained on sapper techniques.

3. Artillery: (Including the artillery elements detailed to key positions)

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Study gun assembly, survey and firing techniques.

Study the direct and indirect firing theory.

Study the methods of shelling an enemy objective.

Study the methods for combat coordination between the infantry and sapper units including the conduct of fire support missions for them.

Study the infantry tactics and techniques, the methods of conducting effective attacks, ambushing, intercepting enemy sweep operations, and firing at enemy aircraft.

General training subjects: (Study the same subjects as the infantry units studies)

Requirements: Artillery units must be skilled in techniques and tactics and capable of fighting independently or in coordination with the other units. Artillery soldiers must be well trained on how to destroy the enemy objective during each attack.

The artillery elements detailed to key positions should study the methods of conducting propaganda, indoctrination, and motivation of the masses so as to gain their support to successfully accomplish their missions.

4. Engineer Units: Engineer units must be improved to support the people's struggle movements and counterpacification activities. They must be trained on the employment of various types of explosives, even the rudimentary ones.

They must reconnoiter and conduct effective attacks on bridges, routes, ports, boats, and fortifications.

Training on the infantry tactics and techniques:

Firing rifles and submachine guns; firing at enemy aircraft, using infantry weapons.

Tactics of raiding an enemy bivouacking site in open terrain, counterattacking (ambushes) and an enemy unit conducting a sweep operation.

Study the propaganda, indoctrination, and motivation of the masses and the recruitment of agents.

Requirements: Engineer units must be well trained on how to provide effective guidance for the Local Forces and guerrillas in matters concerning engineering techniques.

5. Strengthening of agencies:

Staff activities: The staff sub-sections must improve their internal activities, appoint capable cadre to proper positions, avoid confusion and constant changes of cadre, and improve the professional skills of staff assistant cadre. All agencies must strive to perfect their working procedures and the attitudes of cadre. They must comply with all regulations, adhere to the combat and training principles, and submit reports including a monthly, quarterly and annual recapitulative report to and timely request guidance from higher echelons. All agencies must maintain their regular meetings to study lessons learned and improve their professional skills.

6. Training schools subordinate to the provinces:

a. Organization:

Reorganize the politico-military training schools and appoint capable training cadre to perform their tasks.

The school will consist of: A management committee with one political officer and one assistant political officer.

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One tactical training cell

One technical training cell

An adjutant, medics, liaison agents, and from 12 to 15 comrades who can assume other training missions.

b. Missions:

Conduct training for the ((squad)) leaders of the provincial local forces, district forces, village and hamlet unit cadre, and guerrilla squad leaders.

Conduct additional training for cadre of B ((platoon)) and C ((company)) level of the provincial local forces and district forces, and leaders of village units and guerrilla platoons.

c. Training courses to be conducted:

From eight to ten training courses every year.

Each training course should last one month and be participated in by 30 to 50 trainees.

In addition, five refresher training courses should be conducted every year. These refresher training courses are to last from 15 to 20 days. The number of trainees attending a refresher training course should be from 30 to 40 persons. The refresher training courses should be conducted in conjunction with the main training courses.

The province unit should strive to conduct six practice courses every year for cadre of C ((companies)), D ((battalions)), and those of the district units. These courses must last from 15 to 20 days.

d. Program for the main training courses

(1) Training:

Basic instructions on marksmanship.

Firing lessons No. 1, 2 and 3 and the three firing positions.

Camouflage of fortifications and grenade throwing.

Techniques of attacking boats, armored vehicles, and aircraft with infantry weapons.

Assembly and disassembly, common repair work, and maintenance of weapons, ammunition and explosive charges.

Use of explosive charges

Basic sapper tactics

(2) Tactics:

Action to be taken by individuals and cells on different terrain features and tactical situations. Searching for the enemy, squad or platoon in ambushes or hit-and-run raids and a squad or platoon in raids.

Raids against enemy positions conducted by a platoon or company.

Intercepting an enemy sweep operation or attack; holding a fixed position; and conducting counterattacks.

(3) General training subjects:

Management of squads and platoons

Guidance for daily activities and the implementation of other policies.

Patrol and guard duty, plan for movement and bivouacking, and training and combat activities.

Technical and tactical training for squads and platoons.

e. Advanced training:

An advanced training program should be prepared in accordance with the specific requirements and cover the most needed subjects.

Special attention should be paid to the improvement of the cadre's combat leadership, the management of their units, and other command functions.

B. Armed units subordinate to the District Unit.

Based on the current enemy and friendly situation, the following training plan is recommended for two categories of district units.

1. Those district units which are required to temporarily attach their local force units to hamlets and villages because they still have many weak hamlets and villages.

2. Those districts which are still capable of holding on to their areas of operations and conducting concentrated or separate attacks.

Districts with many weak villages and hamlets.

Based on the specific situation in the district, we must organize and redeploy the armed forces according to their requirements, aiming at changing the present status of hamlets and villages ((in the VC favor)). The armed action units must strictly observe guidelines and regulations. They must stay close to the people to conduct propaganda and motivate them to struggle against the enemy. They must recruit secret political and military personnel, kill tyrants, develop the guerrilla warfare movement, and positively support the people in their uprising for the seizure of power. After the strengthening of in-place ((guer-rilla)) forces, the ((attached)) district local force units must resume their proper combat role.

Training program:

Study political and military schemes of the enemy in districts, villages and hamlets.

Fully understand the resolutions and policies of the District Party Committee and District Unit concerning the counterpacification program such as the missions of the Party members and the Party chapters in the frustration of the enemy's pacification program, and other missions of the village and hamlet guerrilla units. The local forces assigned to an area must fully understand the operational regulations of the local guerrilla units.

Study the propaganda, motivation and military and civilian proselyting tasks in the frustration of the enemy's pacification program.

Techniques:

Master the use of all types of weapons available. Equip local forces with captured weapons. Study the basic points in marksmanship.

Study the method of preparing and using explosive charges and rudimentary weapons.

Study the basic sapper techniques.

Study the techniques of hiding in underground tunnels.

Tactics:

Attacks conducted by small cells. Assassination of enemy tyrants or policemen.

ambushes laid by each cell or each squad to destroy the searching enemy units by applying proper disguise methods.

Countering ambushes during the day and night.

Raids conducted by cells or squads.

Attacks conducted by sapper ((units)) against watchtowers and small posts. Coordination between the military proselyting and political ((task)) for the destruction of enemy posts.

Use of snipers' fire to wear down the enemy forces when they return from their sweep operations.

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General training subjects:

Insuring good management of units operating in enemy ((GVN)) controlled areas; proper execution of policies, and successful accomplishment of missions; plans for troop movement and concealment and for combat activities; and assessment of the enemy ((RVN)) activity plans as well as his pattern of activities in the local areas.

Disputed districts (where our ((VC)) forces still control some areas):

In execution of the resolutions from higher echelons, ((disputed districts must)) expeditiously reinforce subordinate units based on their TOE.

Based on the enemy and friendly situation and our ((VC)) political requirements in the district, concentrate or disperse our troops in a flexible manner to attack ((GVN)) pacification groups and assist hamlet and village guerrillas in clinging to their areas of operations or inciting the people to rise up.

Training program:

Study the enemy's ((SVN)) military and political schemes in his pacification plan.

District unit and District Party Committee members should fully understand their leadership role and missions in countering the enemy's pacification plan. Study missions and combat guidelines and improve combat methods of Local Forces.

Fully comprehend the characteristics of the propaganda, popular motivation, and military proselyting task and the strengthening of guerrilla forces.

Promote the combat leadership role and combat spirit and improve combat skills.

Technical training subjects:

Basic points in marksmanship.

Lessons 1, 2, and 3 on three firing positions. Firing practice on all weapons available in the unit.

Assembly, maintenance, and repair of weapons.

Skillful use of all types of weapons issued to the unit or captured from the enemy.

Use of explosive charges and rudimentary weapons.

Techniques of attacking enemy ships and armored vehicles and shooting down enemy aircraft with infantry weapons.

Tactical training subjects:

Combat tactics commonly used by individuals or cells.

Ambushes and hit-and-run raids conducted by A, B, or C ((squads, platoons, or companies)).

Methods of conducting raids against enemy troop concentration points in the field and surprise attacks against his military posts by A, B, or C.

Actions to be taken against enemy counterambushes and raids against activities of Biệt Kích ((RVN Special Forces)) and forces staying close to the people.

Methods of conducting countersweep operations in coordination with raids.

General training subjects:

Effective administration of a unit including its troop strength, equipment, organization, political indoctrination and ideology, as well as its technical and tactical training.

Complete understanding of each functional position and the chain of command, relations with higher and lower echelons.

Preparation of plans for troop movement, training combat and security guard service.

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Reconnaissance activities

Understanding of the patterns of activities of the enemy activity in the local areas.

Strengthening of agencies in district units:

Consolidate all cells in each agency and insure the wide dissemination of resolutions and plans concerning political indoctrination and military training among agencies.

Improve the working procedures of agencies and specialized skills of cadre, so that they can be fully aware of their responsibilities. (Avoid frequent replacement of cadre).

Properly comply with agency regulations concerning the submission of preliminary or recapitulative reports and requesting instructions from higher echelons.

Maintain regular meetings among specialized agencies.

C. City and town special action units:

Training programs of these units are the same as those of the disputed districts. However special attention should be paid to staying close to the people, clinging to enemy base areas in areas surrounding cities and towns, recruiting agents in these areas, executing deep thrusts, and keeping activities secret, so that the people can create favorable conditions for the people to rise up to break the enemy's ((GVN)) oppressive control, eliminate tyrants, and directly struggle with the enemy in every field and at the same time provide support for guerrilla warfare movements in fringe and urban areas.

D. Village and hamlet units:

1. Villages and hamlets having cadre, secret guerrillas, single contact agents, and armed action units:

a. Activities:

Emphasis will be placed upon staying close to the people and recruiting agents among them.

((RVNAF)) soldiers' dependents should be contacted and motivated to serve as ((VC)) fifth columnists. to suppress tyrants, policemen, and local ((GVN)) administrative personnel. At the same time, the people should be motivated to rise up and destroy or loosen the enemy's oppressive machinery.

b. Technical training subjects:

Study the methods of manufacturing and using explosive charges and rudimentary weapons.

Use of all types of weapons.

Sapper techniques

Techniques for constructing secret tunnels.

c. Tactical training subjects:

Combat tactics against tyrants, policemen, and local ((GVN)) administrative personnel applied by individuals or cells.

Methods of conducting raids or ambushes by troops disguised as legal ((GVN)) force.

Attacks against ((GVN)) military posts conducted by military proselyting forces in coordination with forces from the outside ((VC areas)).

2. Disputed villages (composed of liberated hamlets)

Carefully study the enemy's political and military activity plans in the local areas.

Fully comprehend missions of Party chapters and members in countering enemy pacification activities.

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The mission of the village and hamlet guerrilla units in countering the enemy's pacification activities, guidelines, and attack tactics to be applied by guerrillas.

The propaganda task, motivation of the people, military and enemy proselyting tasks.

Technical training:

Theoretical instructions on rifle and submachine gun marksmanship,

Firing lessons 1, 2, and 3.

Skillful use of assorted weapons,

Maintenance of weapons, ammunition, and explosives.

Fabrication and use of explosives, rudimentary weapons, and spikes.

Firing at aircraft with infantry weapons and attack of ships and vehicles.

Sapper and engineer techniques of digging fortifications, and throwing grenades.

Tactical training:

Individual and combat cells tactics during attacks and in counter-sweep operations.

Squad and platoon tactics during an ambush and hit-and-run raids.

Squad and platoon tactics during raids against the enemy elements on open terrain.

Methods of countering an enemy ambush, or a raid by enemy Special Force elements or an enemy sweep operation in a populated area.

Method of destroying the enemy's watchtowers and posts by using raid, sapper, and military proselyting tactics.

Method of pursuing and wearing down an enemy force which is returning from a sweep operation to its base.

Methods of besieging and sniping at posts and pursuing a withdrawing enemy element.

V. THE DURATION AND RATIO OF POLITICAL AND MILITARY TRAINING:

1. Training ratio:

a. Military training: 60%

Political training: 40%

b. The military training program consists of:

Technical training: 25%

Tactical training: 60%

General subject training: 15%

2. Duration:

a. For the provincial Local Force: Four months

For the District Force, city and town special action units: Three months.

For the guerrilla units: Two months

For the various agencies: Two and a half months per year

b. The training will last from 1 Oct 71 to the end of Dec 72 (including the 31st of December).

c. Daily training period: Eight hours with one hour for review

d. In the provinces:

The provincial local force must undergo political and military training for 152 days as follows:

Military training: 91 days

Political training: 61 days

The military training consists of:

Tactical training: 54 and a half days totalling 436 hrs

Technical training: 22 and a half days totalling 180 hrs

Training on general subjects: 18 days totalling 112 hrs

The District Force, city, and town special action units are to undergo political and military training for 114 days.

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Military training: 68 days

Political training: 46 days

The military training consists of:

Tactical training: 40 and a half days totalling 324 hrs

Technical training: 17 days totalling 136 hrs

Training on general subjects: 10 and a half days totalling 84 hrs.
The guerrillas will undergo military and political training for 76 days.

Military training: 45 and a half days

Political training: 30 and a half days

The military training consists of:

Tactical training: 27 and a half days totalling 22 hours

Technical training: 11 and a half days totalling 92 hrs

Training on general subjects: 8 and a half days totalling 52 hrs

Various agencies are to undergo military and political training for 91 days.

Military and professional training: 54 and a half days

Political training: 36 and a half days.

The military and professional training consists of:

Tactical and professional training: 32 and a half days totalling 260 hrs.

Technical training: 13 and a half days totalling 108 hrs

Training on general subjects: 8 and a half days totalling 68 hrs

The province's politico-military school:

Training courses:

Military training: 60%

Political training: 40%

Advanced courses:

Military training: 70%

Political training: 30%

e. The military region and province units are in charge of establishing the training program for every quarter of the year.

The battalions and district units are in charge of establishing the monthly training program.

The companies, village, and hamlet units are in charge of the daily training as planned by higher echelons.

VI. MEASURES TO BE TAKEN:

The province and district unit coordination and operations committees, Party Committees, and battalion command committees should make a resolution for the respective training activities.

The villages, hamlets and companies should implement the plan worked out by higher echelons.

Initiate **completion** of the strengthening of the units and agencies.

Set up regulations for the monthly and quarterly inspection of agencies.

The following guidelines concerning the training of cadre must be observed: "The higher echelons should train the lower echelons; the commanders should train their units; and the chiefs of agencies should train their personnel."

Gain experiences to systematize the training plan and submit all training reports on time.

Improve key cadre for them to take charge of the military and political training of cadre of all levels in the province.

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