

UNITED STATES ARMY AND AIR FORCE
JOINT MILITARY POLITICAL SECTION
OF STRATEGIC HAMLETS

(August 1963 Preliminary)



Introductory Notes:

1. The figures on the attached preliminary report were compiled from the reports submitted for the month by the USOM Provincial Representatives, or by persons acting in that capacity, in each province. Although they represent the best available data in most categories, they must still be treated with reserve, since the information in many categories has been obtained from the province chief who has a vested interest in submitting the largest possible figures in such matters as the number of Strategic Hamlets completed. These latter figures are known to be grossly inflated in some instances, but there is no available mechanism for obtaining the true figures. This is, in fact, one reason that the consolidation aspect of the program is now being pushed -- to insure that hamlets listed as complete actually do exist and are an asset to the counter-insurgency program.

2. In the categories of Chieu Hoi and Security the figures will usually be much smaller (and less accurate) than those reported through other channels, since the accumulation of data in these categories is not a responsibility of the USOM Provincial Representative. They do provide a useful check on other reports however, and occasionally reveal attempts by provincial officials to withhold accurate data from Saigon.

3. The figures for attacks successfully repelled by Strategic Hamlets, as well as for hamlets overrun can be particularly illuminating on conditions in the provinces. It is hoped to secure better coverage of these two items in future. It should be noted that any attack on a Strategic Hamlet where significant damage was done, or where the VC entered the hamlet, with or without resistance being offered to them, is believed properly to be considered a hamlet overrun -- if the VC were not driven off before they completed their mission.

4. It should also be remembered, in considering the data presented in this preliminary report, that July data was used for several provinces (indicated by asterisks) for which August data are not yet available.