

*Ex- personal*  
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HEADQUARTERS  
UNITED STATES MILITARY ASSISTANCE COMMAND, VIETNAM  
APC 143, San Francisco, California

MACJ5

3300

Ser: 0109

1 Feb 1963

SUBJECT: Clear and Hold Operations

TO: Chief, Military Assistance Advisory Group, Vietnam  
APC 143, San Francisco, California  
Senior Advisor I Corps  
Senior Advisor II Corps  
Senior Advisor III Corps  
Senior Advisor IV Corps

1. The GVN Strategic Hamlet Program was initiated in September 1961. Since that time over 4000 hamlets, varying in quality, have been constructed using primarily local resources. MAP equipment to support this program is now arriving in quantity and will be distributed throughout the Provinces of SVN in accord with Province Rehabilitation Plans. These Province Rehabilitation Plans are designed to ensure that US material and funds are fully and properly utilized in support of the GVN Strategic Hamlet Program. Each of these Province plans provides for a Clear and Hold Operation using RVNAF forces as well as Civil Guard, Self Defense Corps (SDC) and hamlet militia.

2. In areas secured by military force, the United States Operations Mission in Vietnam (USOM) is supporting the GVN in an accelerated effort to bring government services such as health, education, agricultural services and good administration into the hamlets. The USOM program is based on and is an integral part of each Province Rehabilitation Plan. The United States Information Service in Vietnam (USIS) is also supporting the GVN in their effort to inform the rural population of the purposes of the Strategic Hamlet Program and win the peasant over to full support of the GVN. The activities of USOM and USIS are an essential part of the pacification effort in SVN. Unless their efforts to improve the life of the peasant and win him over ideologically to the GVN are successful, the use of military force will never be conclusive.

**DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;  
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS**

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3. Millions of dollars in MAP and AID funds and material have been provided for Province Rehabilitation in SVN. It is absolutely essential that the military resources of the RVNAF be properly applied in Clear and Hold Operations to support this Province Rehabilitation effort which I consider to be at the core of the pacification of SVN.

4. I desire that you direct your attention to the Clear and Hold Operations in progress and planned within your area and make every effort to insure that military forces provided are adequate, operational plans are sound, MAP supplies are properly utilized and continuous coordination is effected between the US military and US civilian agencies involved.

PAUL D. HARKINS  
General, United States Army  
Commander

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