

To ~~John O'Donnell~~
RA/KL
101

UNCLASSIFIED

PROVINCIAL REPRESENTATIVES REPORT FORM

By JOHN O'DONNELL

PROVINCE Long An

DATE

7 August 1963

Month covered by report June, July

1. General Narrative on Progress. (See RA Memo No. 63-13 for guidance. Do not use ball-point pen in filling out this form)

The Provincial Rehabilitation program in Long An province suffered some severe set-backs during the past two months. Viet Cong activity has picked up considerably - concentrating on attacking strategic hamlets to tear down walls and fences, kidnapping young men, assassinating hamlet officials and in general destroying the morale and will to resist of the rural population. The hamlet militia have not performed well; the Viet Cong have entered completed strategic hamlets with trained and armed militia squat and have encountered no resistance. Why aren't the hamlet militia standing up to the Viet Cong? There appear to be a number of reasons: 1) The militia do not appear to have confidence in their ability to resist the VC - rather than test their ability they are avoiding the enemy 2) In many hamlets the militia do patrol the defensive perimeter, lay ambushes and stand guard - but only until 2300 or 2400 at which time they all go to sleep, enabling the VC to penetrate with ease in the early morning hours. This situation may be corrected by the recruitment and training of additional militia who can then share the defensive assignments, allowing a rest period during patrols, guard duty etc. This problem has been discussed with the new province chief, Major Ninh, who plans to set up an additional militia training center which will double the present provincial training capacity. 3) Long An province is suffering from a critical shortage of troops - the limited number of provincial troops are committed in great part to static defense (district towns, bridges, posts) and security for hamlets under construction. Offensive operations against VC safe areas have been curtailed thus allowing the enemy a breathing spell to regroup and then strike at known government weak points. Because of the shortage of troops, few are available for reaction against V.C. attacks at night. The militia have come to realize that they will have to stand or fall alone, which has done nothing to improve their morale. The assignment of additional troops to Long An (at least one battalion) would do a great deal to improve the military situation and laterally the morale of the militia.

Another important factor in the present situation in Long An province is the accelerated rate at which the establishment of strategic hamlets is being carried out. It appears that the massive relocation effort in March and April and May and the surge in Hamlet construction during this period have over-extended the provincial capabilities. There is a great need for consolidation activities in hamlets reported as completed. It has been strongly recommended to the new province chief that he recruit and train high calibre cadre to operate in small teams in completed hamlets to 1) examine hamlet defenses and defense plans, recommend improvements in current operating procedures 2) examine hamlet development prospects and advise hamlet residents on self-help projects, M.A.C.C. loans, collective development projects, etc. 3) serve as personal representatives

of the province chief to study the morale of the hamlet residents and their attitudes towards the local and provincial administration - to report-directly to the province chief any cases of corruption or misconduct on the part of Gov't officials, to advise hamlet committee members on improvement of hamlet administration etc. The province chief agreed with the need for this type of activity and is presently drawing up a plan for recruiting, training and deployment of such teams.

Early in July, Major Nguyen Viet Thanh, province chief, was reassigned to Can Tho as IV Corps, G-3. Major Nguyen Ngoc Xinh, former district chief of Sadec District in Vinh Long province was named as his replacement. Major Xinh does not possess the military abilities of Major Thanh, but is much more civic action oriented. He is very concerned with the people and intends to introduce programs which aim directly at winning their loyalty.

2. Strategic Hamlets: Total now planned 450
Total approved by IMCSH 400
Total USOM funded 282
SH completed during period June - 33
July - 36
Total completed End of Month (EOM) 224
Number SH you visited during month _____
Under construction EOM 50
Population in completed SH 217,426
Percentage of total population of province 4.4%
Families _____
Is IMCSH/MAAG/USOM meeting required Yes
When September

3. Refugees: Total number of refugees during month:

Highlander _____ Lowlander _____

Cumulative total of refugees received in province:

Highlander _____ Lowlander _____

Number of refugees not receiving adequate care _____

Have sufficient foodstuffs been allocated for refugee families _____

Are plans existing/underway to resettle these families _____

4. Chieu Hoi: Qui Chanhs returning provincial control during period June - 107
July - 41

Total Qui Chanhs to date 339 since 1 January; 252 since 17 April

Qui Chanhs at provincial center EOM 82

Qui Chanhs sent out of province during month 1

Nguyen Van Quang
VC Battalion Commander
from North Vietnam

Returned to hamlets during period ?

Total returned to hamlets 257 since January

Narrative (impressions of program):

(if more space needed, continue
on reverse side)

Chieu Hoi Program

The provincial Chieu Hoi Center is a converted village communal house (pagoda) located across the river from Tan An. The province spent approximately 32,000 piastres to reinforce the structure, put up woven bamboo walls, set up a kitchen area and latrine. The center is situated in the middle of a rice field, and with the advent of the rainy season the area around the center is now under 1 to two feet of water. This definitely restricts physical training recreation, crop raising etc. In addition the center was planned to house 50 Qui Chanh; at last count there were 82 returnees sharing the cramped quarters.

The new province chief, Major Xinh, has proposed that the Chieu Hoi Center be moved to another area with more space for housing, recreation area, crop raising, demonstrations etc. This matter has been discussed with Lt Col Bohannan who intends to visit Long An with a representative of the Ministry of Civic Action to consider this proposal.

* Late... estimate. 5,000 families
relocated in one district (Thanh
Duc) - 1,000 piastres cash provided
to each relocated family.

5. Relocation/resettlement:

No. of Highlanders families relocated/resettled into strategic
hamlets during period:

cumulative: _____

No. of Lowlanders families relocated/resettled into strategic hamlets
during period:

cumulative: 12,000 (estimated) *

6. SH Construction Teams: Cadremen trained during period - 0 -

Total cadremen operating EOM 268

7. Hamlet Militiamen: Trained during period June - 423
July - 386
Total trained to date June - 2470
July - 2856

Armed during period _____

Total armed to date July - 1565

Total militiamen in hamlets trained and armed EOM 1565

8. SH Committeemen. Number of hamlet committees elected (cumulative) 224

Number committeemen completing training during period June - 272
July - 0

Total elected chiefs and committeemen trained EOM 634

Total number hamlets with elected, trained officials 177

9. Security: Number VC incidents reported during period June - 130
July - 153

Number SH attacked during period June - 77
July - 75

* See attached list of
hamlet incidents -
July 1963

Attacks successfully repelled 8

Hamlets ~~penetrated~~ 69

10. Emergencies: Describe action taken as result of emergencies (hamlet attacks,
typhoons, floods, fire, starvations, etc.)

11. Self-Help (Province Agreement Funded):

Applications approved during period - 0 - Disapproved - 0 -

Self-Help Projects started during period - 0 - Completed 1

Total number of strategic hamlets having commenced one or more projects 31

12. Other Self-Help or Hamlet Development Projects including PL 480, Title III:

Started during period - 0 - Completed - 0 - Total to date. - 0 -

Number projects receiving PL 480 assistance - 0 -

13. <u>PL 480 ordered:</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Quantity</u>
To date	<u>Self-Help</u>	<u>Cooking Oil</u>	<u>3,000 gallons</u>
To date	<u>Self-Help</u>	<u>Bulgur</u>	<u>60 metric tons</u>
To date	<u>Self-Help</u>	<u>Corn</u>	<u>40 metric tons</u>
To date	<u>Relocation</u>	<u>Bulgur</u>	<u>90 metric tons</u>

PL 480 received: _____

June	<u>Relocation</u>	<u>Bulgur</u>	<u>1,322 100lb sacks</u>	<u>(60 metric tons)</u>
To date	<u>Relocation</u>	<u>Bulgur</u>	<u>90 metric tons</u>	
July	<u>Self-Help</u>	<u>Shortening</u>	<u>6,000 cans</u>	

PL 480 Total in Province stock Relocation Bulgur 12.6 metric tons

Self-Help shortening 6,000 cans

(Item 13, PL 480 continued)

PL 480 distributed
(List types of activities
i.e., SDC/CG, etc.)

14. Receipt and Utilization of other commodities:

1. Water froiler - was received on 11 June in unserviceable condition - full of holes. Has been sitting in province public works yard since arrival. Rainy season has started so no need for water trailer - will be repaired for next dry season.
2. 1,000 sacks cement - Received in July. 110 bags released to NCAD team Chief for construction of 2 four-classroom schools in Ben Lec and Tan Jru district. Remaining 890 sacks in warehouse.
3. 500 sheets aluminum roofing - received 30 July. Presently stored in warehouse.
4. 1 2½ ton dump truck - Presently utilized by NCAD team for transportation of construction materials.

15. Provincial Development:

(a) Agricultural Programs:

(b) Health Programs:

57 hamlet health workers received 30 days training during July. Since all students were from outlying districts, provincial rehabilitation committee (QMV/VS) agreed to provide per diem of 20VN\$/day during training from activity 06 (Miscellaneous) of provincial rehabilitation budget.

(c) Public Works Programs: U.S. Army SCAD team has been active-supervised fabrication of bridge with materials supplied through joint efforts of MAG and USAM. Team presently working on Construction of two schools in Tan Tru and Ben Luc districts. Cement provided by USAM and materials purchased with SCAD team funds.

(d) Education Programs: Hamlet Teacher training under Asia Foundation sponsorship currently underway at Khanh Hoa Teacher training center. School sites have been selected and are being cleared.

(e) Information Programs: Information program to date has been very weak. New province chief, Major Kinh, is determined to improve information coverage of provincial activities and has given province information chief much needed boost in rear. Plans now being studied for newspaper (similar Kien Hoa) or photo sheet.

(f) Other:

16. Coordination and Cooperation with Other Agencies (MAAG, etc.)

Coordination with MAAG Sector Advisor continues to be good. Major Fields is firm advocate of strategic hamlet program and has been most cooperative and helpful.

17. Progress ARVN/Civil Guard/SDC/Civic Action activities:

18. Administrative:

Translation, record keeping, end-use observation, detailed follow-up requirements are becoming difficult to meet in both Long An and Kien Hoa. If regular USCM provincial representative for Long An not available at present, could one more Area Assistant be assigned to me.

19. Other Comments:

Signature of person making report