

## MUNICIPAL POLICE

Three cities in Vietnam, Saigon, Da Nang and Dalat are controlled by an administration appointed Mayor. In theory, control of the Municipal Police descends from the Minister of Interior, through the Mayor, to the Chief of Police. In application this procedure applies to Saigon, only, and this is of very recent date.

In actual practice all Municipal Police in cities in Vietnam, except Saigon, are under the technical control of the Director General of Police and Security (General La). Administratively, the Municipal Police are under the Province Chief. All three cities are <sup>now</sup> supported by city taxes.

Saigon has been separated from the jurisdiction of the VBI by a decree signed by the President, March 23, 1959. This decree clearly places the Saigon Prefectoral Police under the direct authority of the Prefect, or Mayor, and the Director of Police is appointed by the President.

From time to time this decree has been brought to La's attention but he has, so far, refused to recognize it and still feels that he is in full control of the Saigon Police.

In general, the Municipal Police services of Vietnam have

been the forgotten men. Province Chiefs and the head of VBI are changed frequently and they have little if any interest in Municipal Police.

Each Municipal Police department has a head, whose rank depends upon the title he holds within the Civil Service. As an example - Chief of Police Duc of Kontum. His civil service rank or slot in the civil service police hierarchy is Urban Inspector - Principal - 2nd class - about equivalent to Lieutenant, in the states. The rank in Saigon does not mean too much. In Kontum, as Chief of Police, he commands great respect not only from his men but also from the population. Small fry in Saigon - King Bee in Kontum.

All administrative heads of the Municipal Police throughout Vietnam are appointed from the Administrative service lists of the government and not by promotion through the lower ranks of the police service. For example Police Commissioner Bay of Precinct 2 has the police civil service rank of Principal Commissioner 2nd class and yet 9 years ago he transferred to the police service as a senior redactor from a secretary's job at the mayors office. Persons can be transferred to or from the police services to general administrative services at the will or whim of the administration.

Promotions up to the rank of Urban Inspector - Sergeant -

are made from the ranks - above that are made from the administrative services list. Education being the dividing line. In theory:

- C. 1. Elementary school education - entry as Assistant Inspector - Probationary - He can, with hard work rise to Assistant Inspector Principal - 10 steps.
- B. 2. High School Education - 1st baccalaureate - entry into police service as Urban Inspector - Grade 5. Can be promoted through ranks to Urban Inspector - Principal. 20 steps to top of bracket.
- A. 3. Second baccalaureate, or a University degree, entry at Commissioner Grade 5, level, 19 steps to top.

Total 49 steps.

In actual practice - during the last five years - some promotions have been made from one category to another through special decrees. This manner of promotion is subsiding.

With the exception of Saigon since the 1959 decree, all Municipal Police are national<sup>in</sup> scope and can be transferred at will.

Saigon Municipal Police:

The City is divided into 8 precincts which closely follow the 8 political areas of the city, and a Police Headquarters

located within the confines of precinct 2.

The head of <sup>SAIGON MUNICIPAL POLICE</sup> this organization comprizing 5500 men is Tran Van Tu. He has one assistant named Ca whose title is Secretary General. Ca is in charge of 7 Bureaus:

- 2.
1. Secretariat - Mail dist. - Monthly reports
  2. Personnel office
  3. Material office
  4. Chief of Post of the Directorate
  5. Chief of armament and radio
  6. Medical section
  7. General Information office.

Director Tu also commands the suburb police departments of GiaDinh and Tan Binh for an approximate population of 2 million people.

Tu has a

Commissioner of Secretariat (Records)

" of Traffic

" of Research, Investigation and Training.

8 Precincts Commissioners, and

Commissioners of GiaDinh and Tan Binh.

reporting to him at all times. He has never delegated authority and I don't believe will ever delegate authority to any of his subordinates. None of these men can do one thing <sup>out of the ordinary</sup> without first asking for permission from Tu. They submit daily reports to Tu and he reads each and every one of them.

14 men reporting to him daily.

~~The Police officer.~~ *Responsibilities:*

Not only does the police ~~officer~~ have similar responsibilities to those had by stateside police but in addition:

1. Assist, in fighting fires (Force of 180 men in Fire Dept.)
2. Collect taxes on merchandise and products
3. Inspects persons, luggage. Contents of trucks and buses for explosives and contrabrand materials.
4. Health and sanitation inspections.
5. Fire prevention inspections.
6. Collect, rent from sidewalk merchants.
7. Inspect, food, wares, etc - check against fraud.  
(Inferior quality good - selling at correct prices, etc)
8. Collect, traffic fines as well as fines for miscellaneous offenses.
9. Census taking - issuance of identity cards.
10. Guarding offices, homes of embassies, ~~A~~mericans, etc.
11. Collection of "head" tax on foreigners.
12. Business application investigations

Precincts:

1. Police Commissioner, 1 or 2 assistants.
2. Chief of Post - in charge of Police patrols and the active force.

3. Chief of research - in charge of criminal and political investigations.

Each precinct has several outposts or substations out of which patrols operate. Each has a Chief of Outpost and is responsible for the patrolling of streets or fixed posts in that area.

#### Three Special Units:

1. Traffic Police Section! Only the traffic police have full authority for all matters concerning traffic. The regular policeman does not have the authority to work traffic at scene of accident. *This matter has been frequently taken up with the Dept not true.*

2. Morals Section! Prostitution, vice and movie censorship -
3. Intervention squad which handles gambling and rackets.

Women searchers - As the name implies these women are used only for searching women. There are no policewomen <sup>search</sup> in Vietnam.

#### Equipment:

Saigon police had 79 vehicles which included

- 4 light passenger cars
- 14 Jeeps
- 12 Land Rovers
- 4 Trucks

18 light trucks

27 motorcycles.

10 of the 12 Land Rovers were in good condition. The remaining equipment was in poor condition. Most of ~~the~~ <sup>it</sup> dating back to 1945.

Regarding firearms - This situation was even worse. Many of the machine guns rifles and automatic pistols were in very poor condition and were composed of cast off weapons from the French and Vietnamese armies. The weapons offices had to inventory 13 different types of catridges for the various weapons.

Police training was nil. Recruits were sent out with older, experienced officers. When a patrol group would come off duty in the morning they were required to spend one hour in drill and minor training.

This is a General picture of the Saigon Police.

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Shelby developed a basic training program for the Saigon Police. *Now functioning as a recruit school one term and in-service training the next term. 3 months.*

Made arrangements with other branches of the Vietnamese government and secured approval for training of men in radio and weapons repair.



Developed a mobilization and riot control program and remained in Vietnam long enough to this group well organized and trained.

Suggested plan for revolver distribution, when the revolvers finally arrived. No ammo given precincts until personnel trained in basic safe practices of weapon. *4500 men trained - classroom & range with weapon.*

Developed a firearms depot and repair center at Headquarters - Tell of weapons exchange.

Radio repair center.

Drew up a manual of instruction on use and care of tear gas equipment. (Served purpose at the time).

Field trips to cities in provinces for survey purposes and to demonstrate tear gas equipment.

Developed a uniform vehicle accident report form for national use. Wonderful - just what we need - never used.

Made suggestions for use of vehicles and <sup>foot</sup> ~~man~~ patrols as done stateside. *There is now a slight trend toward this practice.*



The cities throughout Vietnam were, and still are, in much worse shape than Saigon.

Later advisors - Saigon

Submitted a set of rules and regulations for the department. A police board reviewed these recommendations, revised them to meet the Vietnamese concept and submitted them for approval to the Minister of Interior's office. More than a year has elapsed and nothing done.

A pilot fingerprint and photography lab. set up at precinct 2. Take fingerprints and photos of prisoners instead of using Filippini street facilities. Free men and vehicles - also to be set up in remaining precincts.

Study of Records made at Precinct 2 and recommendations made for modernization. Being carried out slowly.

Recommendations for reorganization along modern police lines. No action.

Yet - great improvement in courtesy, efficiency and conduct. Cleanliness of personnel and headquarters and precincts, noted.

*Director - has never called a meeting on his own - always at instigation of advisors. Only voluntary contact is when he wants something. Tell story of wells at Boy Scout Camp.*

*Field trips - Equipment not always assigned according to agreements. Shooting trophies - Boy Scouts at Long Hai -*

Municipal Police Section

Status

Photographing and Fingerprinting of all Arrested Persons in the Various Precincts of Saigon Police Department

In Progress

Municipal Police Firearms Range

In Abeyance

Recommendations for the Training of Additional Traffic Specialists

Under Study

Municipal Police Reorganization

Pending

Traffic Section

Installation of New Electric Traffic Signals

In Progress

Development of Increased Use of Stop Signs, One-Way Streets, and Other Traffic Engineering Improvements

In Progress

Consultation With the Saigon Bus Company in Order to Solve Existing Public Transportation Problems

In Progress

Consultation With the Department of Reconstruction and Urban Planning

In Progress

Vehicle and Traffic Code

In Progress