

Ba Xuyen Province

Mr. Howard W. Hoyt
Chief, Police Administration Division
Mr. Raymond C. Johnston
Research and Training Section
Field Trip to Civil Guard Training Centers at Dinh Tuong,
Ba Xuyen and Phong Dinh

November 8, 1958

A survey field trip was conducted on November 3, 4 and 5, 1958 for the purpose of studying province and regional training centers of the Civil Guard. The training centers visited were at Dinh Tuong, Ba Xuyen and Phong Dinh Provinces. The following report covers only observations as to the training facilities and personnel of the various schools. A detailed report covering general observations and general commentaries on the various Civil Guard situations is being presented in conjunction with this report by Mr. Updike. It is not necessary to include information on geography, population, etc., since this information is at this time a matter of record in the Research and Training Section.

Originally it was determined to make a separate study and report on all the training schools visited on this trip. As the trip progressed, it became very apparent that the problems of one school were the problems of the other schools, and in only slightly varying degrees. Therefore, in order to make this report as concise as practical, it has been decided to present a discussion of the problems and observations of all the schools combined rather than separately.

All the schools were extremely lacking in the basic training and physical plant facilities. Most of the schools were originally used

by ARVN and then turned over to the Civil Guard. We were advised that most of the removable items such as pipes and wiring had been removed at the time ARVN turned the physical plants over to the Civil Guard. It was observed that many of the pipes, for example, running to the wash basins from the well and water reservoir were in fact missing. Also the electrical wiring was generally not in good condition, inadequate, and much of it appeared to be missing. Obviously, we had no way of knowing when this particular equipment was removed or in many instances if it actually existed at any time. There is no question that it should be replaced and brought up to minimum standards.

Each school was equipped with a water supply. In all cases the water supply was very inadequate. Most of the schools at this time are not operating to full capacity and will not be until January 2, 1959 when the new training courses go into full operation. Even with the materially reduced personnel strength, the water supply was inadequate. Usually one well supplied the needs for a training school. The wells observed were in a poor state of repair and sometimes collapsing inside, and all were uncovered and the water appeared to be extremely dirty.

The sanitation facilities such as urinals or latrines were not of an acceptable quality or quantity. Generally they were non-existent. At one location there was a latrine consisting of many bricks placed loosely upon the ground with no surrounding walls. This particular latrine was located approximately fourteen feet from the well used as the water supply for the school.

Sleeping quarters or barracks for the students were in all cases clean and well maintained. In all cases they were inadequate. No

ventilation was available. Usually the buildings or thatched huts were in need of major repair. The quarters of the cadre or instructors were little if any better. They also were very clean.

The classroom facilities of each school were inadequate to house even a portion of the regular sized school enrollment. They all had desks and chairs or benches, and were serviceable, although again lighting and ventilation were well below minimum standards. Consequently much of the training and instruction is done at outdoor training sites where the students sit on the ground. For the majority of the training received by the Civil Guard students this is not a particular disadvantage.

Dining facilities were very basic but apparently adequate, although large school enrollment would stretch their capacities.

The weapons available to the schools for training purposes were almost exclusively of French make, of obsolete but serviceable vintage, and all were well greased and appeared to be in very good condition and very well maintained.

Training aids such as sighting devices, obstacle courses, charts, maps, etc., seemed to be in relatively adequate supply for small groups but not for large attendances. It is understood that in almost all instances this sort of equipment is secured by the students, cadre, instructors, or with some help from the Province Chief. Little if any assistance is rendered to the schools by the headquarters in Saigon. Each school had only a bare minimum of training aids, but the ones they did have were in a very good state of repair and appeared to be used in the training courses.

A briefing was presented by the commanding officer of each school and in all instances it was well prepared, well delivered, extremely informative, and reflected marked credit on the commanding officer.

The cadre and instructors of the various schools were also present and generally appeared to be intelligent and alert men. All have received training at one of the Civil Guard schools such as the one at Cap St. Jacques.

The general morale in all instances appeared, at least on the surface, to be good. In all instances we were urged to do all possible to secure additional assistance to the schools either through our own offices or through suggestions to Headquarters in Saigon.

At all schools training was actually in progress, and the students seemed to be interested and anxious to learn. The instructors observed while teaching seemed to be well trained in techniques of instruction, and according to their diagrams, statements, etc., appeared to have a good grasp of the subject being taught.

All the schools were very neat and clean, as were the personnel, but they lacked necessary sanitation facilities, and adequate space. However, they appeared to be doing remarkably well with what they had available to work with.

Lieutenant Colonel Khanh, our counterpart and host, is obviously a very well educated and capable administrator. He is a true gentleman and has a remarkable grasp of the problems of the Civil Guard as regards the field of training. There is no doubt that he is an attribute to his organization whether it be Civil Guard or his own organization -- ARVN.