

FIELD TRIP REPORT

VIETNAMESE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
(CONG-AN)

December 10-11, 1959

LONG AN, KIEN HOA, AND BINH DUONG PROVINCES

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PURPOSES OF THE TRIP

1. To discuss training problems with the heads of the VBI in each province.
2. To examine American Aid equipment.
3. To develop information regarding security conditions.

PROVINCE: Long An. City of Tanan.

DATE VISITED: December 10, 1959

OFFICIAL INTERVIEWED: Deputy Province Chief, Le Duc Nhan
VBI Chief, Doan Dinh Tu

INTERVIEWERS: Paul M. Shields, J.H. Hemmye, and Toan, interpreter.
Simek and Wiener, observers.

I. GENERAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION.

On Thursday, December 10, 1959, the combined MSU-USOM team contacted Deputy Chief Nhan. Mr. Nhan advised that the province chief, Major Mai Ngoc Duoc, was on a field trip. Mr. Nhan advised that he was a graduate of the National Institute of Administration and also had completed a one year study tour at Michigan State University. Mr. Nhan stated the population of the province is 445,000. The principal resources of the province are rice, which has two crops a year. He advised that much sugar cane is grown in the province. Mr. Nhan stated that the province was divided into eight districts, of which the centers are Binh Phuoc, Tan Tru, Can Duoc, Can Giuoc, Ben Luc, Due Hoa, Thu Thua, Duc Hue, and Tanan.

II. EQUIPMENT.

Chief Tu advised that he has received 3 new Jeeps, 1 new Dodge truck, and has one older Jeep. He advised that he receives a gasoline allotment of 300 liters per month per vehicle, but that if he needs more gasoline, he can obtain this from the province chief. He further advised that he has received 45 Smith & Wesson revolvers and has an ample supply of carbines and submachine guns. He added that he has enough ammunition for all of these weapons.

III. TRAINING.

Chief Tu stated that he has been a member of the VBI since 1947 and that he has been chief of this province for about 19 months. He stated that he has 98 agents attached to his field office, of which 28 are graduates of the National Police Academy. Mr. Tu advised that he has training classes every night and that he has received a supply of Training Manuals from the VBI in Saigon. He further advised that his deputy chief is now enrolled in the High Command School at VBI Headquarters in Saigon, and that he is satisfied with the training that the men receive at both the National Police Academy and the VBI High Command School in Saigon.

IV. SECURITY.

Chief Tu advised that in his province there is an average of one assassination per month by the Viet Cong. He added that the assassinations take place against

people who the Viet Cong believe have informed against them. He stated that other Viet Cong activity is principally propaganda in the villages. He stated further that there is some smuggling in his province and that he receives very good cooperation from the Civil Guard in all activities.

PROVINCE: Kien Hoa. City of Truc-Giang.

DATE VISITED: December 10, 1959

OFFICIAL INTERVIEWED: Le Van Thao, Assistant Chief VBI.

INTERVIEWERS: Shields, Hemmye, Toan interpreter.
Wiener and Simek observers.

I. GENERAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION.

Mr. Thao advised that this province has a population of 350,000, and that the principal industries were the growing of rice and coconuts and fishing. He advised that the roads were not generally good and due to the many rivers in the province much of the transportation was by boat. He stated that the province is divided into seven districts of which the centers are Ea Tri, Binh Dai, Giang Trom, Mo Cay, Ham Long, Thanh Phu, and Truc Giang. He stated that the chief of the Surete is Mr. Le Xuan Khanh and that 74 VBI agents are assigned to this province.

II. EQUIPMENT.

Mr. Thao advised that he has received 3 new Jeeps, 1 new Dodge truck, and has 2 older Jeeps. He added that these vehicles are kept in a public garage and that he is having battery trouble with the 3 new Jeeps. He added that he has received 37 Smith & Wesson revolvers and that he does not have enough ammunition for these guns and the other weapons such as carbines and submachine guns. He states that he receives 300 liters of gasoline per month per vehicle, but that he can get extra rations from the province chief if needed.

III. TRAINING.

Mr. Thao advised that he has 20 men who have graduated from the National Police Academy. He further stated that he has no in-service training classes, but that a few meetings are held each week on the subject of government policy. He stated that about one month ago an instructor from the VBI Saigon visited his headquarters and had firearms instruction; that his men could only fire 6 rounds of ammunition. He advised that he finds some improvement in the men who have attended the NPA, such as discipline and ethics, but he felt that the men needed more training in "inquiries and investigation."

IV. SECURITY CONDITIONS.

Mr. Thao advised that there were 2 assassinations by the Viet Cong last month. He further advised that a few Viet Cong infiltrated the province by boat and he said most of the members of the Viet Cong are local people in the villages. He advised that in the month of December he arrested 204 members of the Viet Cong and all were convicted. He stated that in the month of November he had 6 cases of robbery and that smuggling cases were handled by the Gendarmerie. He further stated that during the months of February and March he confiscated 50 guns and thousands of grenades from the Viet Cong.

PROVINCE: Binh Duong. City of Phu Cuong (Thudaumot)

DATE VISITED: December 11, 1959

OFFICIALS INTERVIEWED: Nguyen Cong Thanh, Province Chief (Deputy)
Nguyen Van Hiem, VBI chief and Canh Sat chief.

INTERVIEWERS: Shields, Hemmye, and Toan interpreter.
Vernon and Simek observers.

I. GENERAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION.

Mr. Thanh, deputy chief, was interviewed at the province headquarters and he advised that the population of the province is 170,000. He further advised that the principal product was rubber and that half of the province was forest. He further advised that the roads were not in good condition but were passable. He stated that the province was divided into 5 districts of which the centers are Dau Thieng, Cu Chi, Ben Cat, Lai Thieu, and Phu Cuong. Mr. Thanh stated that in the province there are approximately 800 Civil Guard members and about 1100 Self Defense Corps.

II. EQUIPMENT.

Mr. Hiem, chief of the VBI, advised that he has received 3 Jeeps and one new Dodge truck; that he has 3 older Jeeps. He further advised that he has received 30 Smith & Wesson revolvers, and has 5 Colt 45 automatics, some carbines and submachine guns. He states that he has enough ammunition for all of his weapons. Gasoline ration for the vehicles is 300 liters per month for each vehicle.

III. TRAINING.

Chief Hiem stated that he has 105 VBI agents assigned to his province. He said 25 agents are assigned to the Re-Education Center located three miles from headquarters. He stated that these men are attached to the special police service. He further stated that he is chief of the Canh Sat (municipal police) and he has 130 men assigned to him; that being head of both organizations keeps him very busy. He stated in regard to the VBI training at the National Police Academy, he believed the level of training was too high for the background of the students. He stated that he has sent 20 men to the National Police Academy and 3/4 of his men failed the examination and were fired. He stated that he has sent 2 men to the VBI Command School in Saigon and that one dropped out because of his health and the other failed his examination. He stated that he has received 5 Training Manuals from VBI Headquarters in Saigon. He has no in-service training, that he doesn't have enough personnel and those that he does have are working 20 hours a day. He felt that the greatest need in training for his men was in the subjects of investigation and surveillance techniques. He added that the men who returned from the NPA, in his opinion, do not show much progress; he later stated that he saw some improvement in discipline and ethics but not in practical work.

IV. SECURITY CONDITIONS.

Chief Hiem advised that he has approximately 30 to 40 cases per month of a political nature. He stated that the Viet Cong method of operation in his province is in propaganda techniques and that he has had no armed raids in his province for some time. He stated that the VBI works very closely with the Civil Guard and the Army and that the Self-Defense Corps is in very poor condition. He advised that they have one gun for each 5 men and that the guns rarely work. He advised that the Canh Sat is principally engaged in watching the operations of smuggling, gambling, prostitution and robbery. He stated that he has approximately 4 or 5 cases per month of each.