

STRATEGIC HAMLET PROGRAM

DEFINITIONS

(Approved by US Committee on Provincial Rehabilitation as of Sept., 1963)

STRATEGIC HAMLET PROGRAM: A GVN national program designed to physically and ideologically separate the people from the VC and to win them over by providing them security and by introducing democratic processes and economic development. It is described by the GVN as a National Revolutionary Movement to defeat the three enemies of the RVN: Communism, Disunity and Underdevelopment. The Strategic Hamlet Program encompasses Province Rehabilitation, Clear-and-Hold Operations, and ultimately, those Area Development Centers developed under the Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) program.

PROVINCE REHABILITATION: The execution of nationally approved civil-military plans prepared at province level which support the GVN Strategic Hamlet Program and upon which the allocations of funds, material and military resources to the provinces are based.

CLEAR-AND-HOLD OPERATIONS: A military operation in direct support of province rehabilitation with the mission of clearing the enemy from and denying the area to the enemy. The enemy is either destroyed in place or forced to withdraw; subsequently, security of the area is maintained and defended against enemy harassment until local defense forces can assume this responsibility. Normally, RVNAF forces are employed for an extended period of time and are commanded by the RVNAF force commander with the Province or District Chief acting as political deputy and charged with the responsibility for implementing political, economic and social programs. The Clear-and Hold Operation allows for more rapid expansion of the Strategic Hamlet Program than would be possible if the Province Chief were forced to rely entirely on his own assigned forces.

"A", "B" AND "C" ZONES: Areas designated by GVN military authorities representing the following (Strategic Hamlets located in these areas are designated accordingly):

- a. "A" Zone: Geographical area considered relatively secure by the GVN (also referred to as "white" area).
- b. "B" Zone: Area contested by the GVN and VC (also referred to as "pink" area).
- c. "C" Zone: Area generally controlled by the VC (also referred to as "red" area).

STRATEGIC HAMLET: A hamlet located in either an "A", "B" or "C" Zone which is or will be fortified with surrounding defensive works; is defended, primarily, by the inhabitants of the hamlet; and is or will be embarked upon a planned social, political and economic development program. Also, it is used to refer to those organized, defended hamlets usually located in "A" or "B" Zone security areas wherein primary emphasis is placed in improvement of living conditions and development of social, political and economic programs. Secondary emphasis is on security.

COMBAT HAMLET: A strategic hamlet usually located in a "C" Zone. Primary emphasis here is placed on physical defense and security. Secondary emphasis is on social, political and economic development and improvement programs.

AGROVILLE: An agricultural rehabilitation center, usually located in an "A" Zone, which may eventually be integrated into the province's Strategic Hamlet Program. The inhabitants, during their stay in the center, farm designated small plots of land, receive military and political supervision, and live there at night under the protection of local forces.

LAND DEVELOPMENT CENTER: An agricultural center usually located in a heretofore underdeveloped highlands area or an area previously populated and currently unoccupied such as the Cambodian border delta area, wherein the inhabitants are given title to land which they develop into arable land. The inhabitants normally come from distant areas such as the central VN lowlands, permanently resettle, receive military and political indoctrination supervision, and are supported by the Land Development Center until they become self sufficient. Strategic Hamlets may be established in or near these centers.

SELF HELP PROGRAM: The introductory development effort which is the bridge between the Hamlet Establishment and Hamlet Development Phase of the Strategic Hamlet Program. It is a program which responds with money and material to undertake social and economic construction projects which the hamlet people themselves select and feel are necessary.

(Definition Approved by US Agencies, June '64)

CLEARED AREA: "Area to be considered cleared when VC main force and regional force driven out, when precinct organization is instituted with population control (census, I.D. cards, curfew), when adequate paramilitary forces are on call, and conditions created for initiation of emergency relief and economic development. Clearing will be followed by increasing security through elimination of VC infrastructure by going through area with fine toothed comb."