

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

1967 Action Program - Attack on VC Infrastructure

Year-End Report to ICEX Committee

1. Program Objectives.

The principal objectives/tasks of the 1967 ICEX program were to:

- a. Set up parallel US and GVN "management" structures, beginning with the US side, to stimulate and coordinate a sustained, concerted attack on the VC infrastructure (VCI).
- b. Promulgate a basic ICEX(MACV) directive and follow through with the necessary implementing instructions, briefings, written guidances, and reference and training materials on a continuing basis.
- c. Provide for necessary augmentation of field coordinating elements with trained military personnel.
- d. Actively address the manifold problems of screening, interrogation, control, judicial processing and coordinate emergency action to provide a first-phase increment of additional detention facilities.
- e. Design and institute a management reporting system for qualitative and quantitative evaluation of the attack on the VCI, and review related reporting requirements and systems.
- f. Generate (1) more sharply targeted VCI intelligence collection; (2) improved collation and dissemination; (3) offensive, "rifle-shot" action and reaction operations in which available resources are marshalled for timely exploitation of VCI intelligence; concurrently, contribute to the production and utilization of tactical military intelligence for local security, for security of pacification programs and for offensive military operations.

Incl #1

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~**2. Accomplishments and Current Status.**

- a. Attention is invited to Memorandum for ACofS, CORDS, 4 January 1968, subj: Project TAKEOFF Year End Report - Attack on VC Infrastructure. That memorandum reports that "... the action program... has accomplished its primary organizational objectives for the US side, set an example for and promoted the involvement of Government of Vietnam agencies at all levels, and building on existing intelligence and action programs has moved gradually into its operational phase. Less satisfactory progress has been made, however, in the broad area of arrest, control, exploitation, judicial processing and detention of VC civil detainees..."
- b. The Prime Minister's PHOENIX instruction of 19 December 1967 is making its way from national to district level, although its distribution was not completed - so far as was known - as late as 17 January 1968. The National Police, and more particularly the Special Police Branch, are engaged in urgent reorganization planning which, hopefully, will better enable the Police to meet their central responsibility for elimination of the VCI and to provide effective leadership to those other GVN agencies which have been assigned PHOENIX supporting roles. The US side is sufficiently well established to guide and assist the GVN side through its organizational phase, and simultaneously to increase the present momentum of coordinating and operational activity already achieved with GVN elements at local levels. Further statistical summaries, derived from a special year end reporting effort by the US field Coordinators, will be presented to the ICEX Committee to illustrate the present state of the art.

**3. Major Problem Areas:**

Many and varied problems continue to confront the ICEX PHOENIX Community, such as program funding, administrative and logistic support to advisory personnel, elimination of duplicating and nonessential reporting, and so on. But the two major problem areas are each with its many ramifications:

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

First, mounting an adequate and decisive offensive against the VCI, closely integrated with military offensive operations and pacification, that will both eliminate the VCI and provide the basis for a GVN internal security system which can prevent resurgence in any form.

Second, establishing a system of screening, interrogation control, judicial processing and detention of VC civil suspects which will ensure detention of identified and apprehended VCI, and which will provide for their political reeducation and rehabilitation prior to their release to rejoin the free society.

And implicit in both of these is the overall commitment by the Government of Vietnam to the accomplishment of the PHOENIX objective. Despite the issuance of the PHOENIX instruction and despite the growing Vietnamese participation in the operations, the major effort thus far has been US-sponsored and US-generated. And the real accomplishments have been made essentially by Vietnamese elements under strong US control or influence -- the PRU, Static Census Grievance and RD. Assuming that the GVN will make this commitment, it will be incumbent upon the US side to meet its commitment to PHOENIX in terms of technical and advisory support, and funding and materiel support through counterpart programs or through the ICEX mechanism.

SECRET

CONFIDENTIAL



3  
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~