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DTP
Training Prog
Status
Problems + Acc.

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20 April 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR: DC/SR

SUBJECT : Discussion re SR/DOB type training vs. use of ISOLATION for AEDEPOT training

1. Training of AEDEPOT type students cannot be done in a secluded area such as OTR's ISOLATION for the following reasons:

a. All AEDEPOT candidates are approached on the principle that this sensitive program is designed and geared by the U.S. Army for hot war preparation, i.e. after they have signed Secrecy Agreements. The processing is handled by SR/DOB on a very personal basis, interviews are conducted by case officer personnel, the processing and assessment of the candidates, previous to selection include medical, technical interviews, psychological, and--again, if found qualified according to such criteria--the candidate is given the pitch. Local letter drops, because of the size of the city, are feasible and appropriate in correspondence with potential trainees. Letters on Army stationery are used to contact the employers of potential students to obtain releases from their jobs. Follow-ups necessary to keep secure the activity, the trainee and CIA sponsorship, are much more conveniently handled in the dozens of personal problems that come up in an association between the trainee and DOB staffer because of the vast Washington area.

b. Training the AEDEPOT type students in the manner we are presently executing in this kind of an assignment allows much more simplicity in security factors, messing, bedding, time off when away from training, such as evenings and weekends.

(1) Security -- the students are given strict security indoctrination and do not leave the premises for the first three weeks or until we are satisfied that they can handle themselves according to our standards when away from the post.

(2) Ft. Meade area offers public transportation to and from the cities of Baltimore and Washington where they can go freely on their time off without escort or feeling that they are being guided in their personal lives.

(3) Personal attention is given them around the clock re family situations or other emergencies concerning them -- easy to get in and out of area without stringent bureaucratic and sometimes unnecessary security rules.

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(4) Morale is high because their training takes them out to various open areas -- Camp Pickett, para-military and field problems, Camp Drum para-jumping, LZ and DZ problems and comprehensive exercises, personal meeting arrangements in downtown Washington and Baltimore, visit to nearby NIKE and missile sites for observation and reporting, easy access to PX items through use of SR/DOB military personnel. Students do not get feeling of claustrophobia or confinement. By our methods because of uses of various areas including ISOLATION for one week during the course, giving instruction in demolitions, a genuine esprit de corps exists. Too much of ISOLATION-type living (sixteen weeks) would dent the trainees' proficiency and efficiency, i.e. personal touch, etc. of the instructors. Trainees send home money orders every pay period which our project and finance people handle for them, giving them services to alleviate time-consuming and burdensome chores which would involve more than normal use of transportation if each individual had to be taken to different post offices, not to mention the many security hazards that would be entailed since they know each other and instructors by aliases only.

(5) Following graduation, assessment by Commo, DOB instructors, staff and contract, as well as project and case officers compile completed reports and then follow up with re-contracting on a retaining basis and for eventual advanced training courses.

c. Based on the experience of DOB staffers and some OTR personnel now assigned to the training of AEDEPOT personnel, ISOLATION with all its restrictions and restricted areas, including the restricted use of the name of the camp, nearby town and staff personnel being trained there, is not only inappropriate but not conducive to acceptance of AEDEPOT-niks who would actually be limited in their personal freedom during a training period and would or could "blow" staff-type training and trainees as well as area.

d. The cost in terms of dollars, personnel, transportation, economics and effort would be exorbitant, not to mention the impracticality of such an operation away from the immediate Washington area.

Chief, SR/DOB