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CIA IN KOREA 1946 - 1965

VOLUME I

Secret

DDO HP 283
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(b)(3)

July 1973

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This emphasis on the collection of tactical information with its exposure of agents meant that OSO operations and activities in Korea did not fulfill long-range requirements.

was a major OSO project originated	
was a major 050 project 52-5	(b)(1)
at the direction of the military theatre commander,	(b)(3)
which supported the Army by gathering tactical in	
formation. Koreans were recruited and dispatched via	
sea landings on the east coast of Korea north of the	
70+h Parallel. A number of the agents 60/	(b)(1) (b)(3)
were later captured by North Korean security forces.	(6)(3)
A special mission was organized in	(b)(1)
I transite the type and virulence of a	(b)(3)

March 1951 to determine the type and virulence of a reported epidemic in North Korea, which the latter was attributing to germ warfare. Brigadier General Crawford Sams of the FEC Public Health unit was infiltrated behind enemy lines. General Sams was put ashore by whaleboat and raft south of Wonsan. This mission was more dangerous than usual because the Wonsan area was on the alert, having detected lights at sea. The mission was successful and the disease was identified as hemorrhagic smallpox. Both Sams and

the Commander in Chief, Far East (CINCFE) were im-	
pressed with the speed and efficiency of the CIA	
operation and commended personnel engaged	(b)(1)
in the mission.	(b)(3)
OSO (FRU/FEC) personnel in Pusan also concen-	
trated on forming and reactivating agent networks	٠.
during the evacuation of Seoul. radio personnel,	(b)(3
after training were dispatched to Pusan	(b)(1) · (b)(3)
to serve as communication links with existing	(b)(1)
nets in Seoul and Pyongyang. Efforts to	(b)(3)
contact stay-behinds in the North Korean areas con-	, , ,
tinued. Line-crossers were also used extensively in	
the gathering of tactical information on enemy forces	
in the battle areas. and agent	(b)(1) (b)(3)
personnel were used in the collection of this material. $\frac{62}{}$	
The UN offensive in Korea to the 38th Parallel	
lessened the urgency for stay-behind networks for	
activities north of the Parallel. A	(b)(3)
interrogation team was organized in Pusan to inter-	
rogate prisoners and refugees.	
In late 1951 the field concentrated on trying	
to eliminate peripheral activity and on developing	

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position on the basis of his loyalty to Rhee and his assistance in establishing the Liberal Party.*

An indication of the volume of reporting from

Korea during 1951 was reflected in statistics which showed that from 1 November 1950 to 31 October 1951, (p)(3)reports were disseminated Of that number. were considered of interest to the mili-(b)(3)tary command. Of these, 50 percent (b)(3)dealt with military or tactical information, 30 percent (b)(3)with North Korean political information, 15 percent with economic intelligence, and 5 percent (b)(3)with biographic data. The reports not disseminated to the command dealt with ROK politics, CE information, or subjects in which the military command was not interested.

H. OPC Objectives and Activities

Arrangements for OPC operations in FEC were not made until the late spring of 1950 and consequently OPC was not operational in Korea at the outbreak of the conflict. The mission of OPC, which was established by the NSC in NSC 10/2 (later 5412/2), was to

*	For	further	details	on		see Attachment	A-4.	(b)(1) (b)(3)
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- 103 -

plan and execute special covert operations such as political, economic, psychological, and guerrilla warfare. Unlike OSO, OPC was not an intelligence-gathering group. In theory OPC also did not formulate policy but implemented the policies determined by the NSC as interpreted by the Department of State and the Department of Defense and was under the guidance and instructions of these two departments. $\frac{66}{}$

The OPC base of operation		
		(b)(1) (b)(3)
	was a field head-	
quarters for Korean and other Far E	astern operations.	
		(b)(1) (b)(3)

The outbreak of the war in Korea imposed on CIA broad responsibilities in the covert field. Great pressure was exerted by the militiary services to provide covert support to the tactical situation through the provision of agent assets for guerrilla warfare and evasion and escape. There was also pressure on CIA to establish long-range assets in North

- 104 -



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OPC plans to use Han's assets in the Wonsan area for	
staybehind guerrilla warfare. Later these assets were	
used in which became the mission's	(b)(1) (b)(3)
first large resistance guerrilla operation.	(b)(0)
After the Inchon landing and other UN military	
successes in late September 1950, all military and	
diplomatic headquarters moved from Pusan to Seoul.	
Several OPC personnel, including also moved	(b)(3)
to Seoul in September and in October it was decided	
to close Pusan and establish OPC headquarters, under	
as acting chief, in Seoul.	(b)(3) ·
	(b)(1) (b)(3)
	•
New staff members, including	(b)(3)
communications specialists, arrived to bolster the OPC	
operation.	
In late October an OPC base of operations was	·•
also established in Pyongyang under	(b)(3)
who concentrated on a ground approach to	(b)(3)
liberate US prisoners of war (POW's).	(b)(3)
<u> </u>	

- 108 -

city	only	one	day	before	it w	as	abandor	ned.		(b)(1) (b)(3)
										(b)(3)
										(b)(1) (b)(3)
										(6)(3)
										•

- 114 -

on staybehind programs with emphasis on support of organized resistance from which pilot programs of E&E, sabotage, and guerrilla warfare could be developed. Stress was placed, therefore, on developing an E&E program based on general resistance groups which it was believed would have greater ability to receive local support and to stay behind the lines indefinitely. Approximately was requested in September 1951 for arms and equipment to supply CIA-sponsored Korean guerrillas.

According to an agreement with EUSAK G-3 (McGee), North Korea was divided in 1951 by a north-south line through the center with guerrilla responsibility in the western half falling to EUSAK G-3, while the eastern half was assigned to CIA (OPC). From January 1951 to April 1952 CIA representatives briefed EUSAK G-3 controlled guerrilla forces operating off North Korea's west coast in E&E requirements and techniques. One OPC representative during the summer of 1951 was assigned to the island of Paengyong-do as an advisor on E&E techniques. In addition to the guerrilla units also collected agents and trained them in the establishment of E&E nets.

(b)(1)

(b)(3)

- 118 -

Among the claimed accomplishments of this guerrilla program were the destruction of four bridges, five factories, a railroad station, a warehouse, and a transformer station. At least 600 casualties were inflicted on the enemy.

inflicted on the enemy.	•
	(b)(1) (b)(3)
The 8086 AU of the G-3 Miscellaneous Group was	
set up to encourage, direct, and control guerrilla	
activity in the coastal regions of western North Korea.	
five intelligence services,	(b)(1) (b)(3)
G-2, G-3, Air Force, ROK/ONI and CIA, engaged in con-	•
ducting covert activities without any coordination.	
four other services and principally the	(b)(1) (b)(3)
8086 AU under McGee had created such a "hodge-podge"	
of insecure, inefficient resistance-guerrilla programs	
	(b)(1) (b)(3)

- 122 -

that existing assets could not be used for secure postceasefire activities. Some agents were even being used simultaneously by two or more agencies

agonetes.	
A maritime support operation was developed in	•
early 1951.	7
	(b)(1)
	(b)(3)
	L
The worsels	
tured a number of annual	
tured a number of enemy boats, together with crews, pas-	
sengers, cargo, and documentation, established safehouses	
in the Sinuiju-Antung area, and operated as supply ves-	
sels for advance E&E bases. 88/	
In the summer of 1951 CIA urgently needed safe in-	
filtration routes into North Korea to supplement aerial	
resupply. A raider team was recruited and trained	(b)(1) (b)(3)
by a Navy Underwater Demolition Team (UDT) specialist dur-	
ing July and August 1951. Between August 1951 and Octo-	•
her 1052 this 4	
ber 1952 this team carried out amphibious reconnais-	(b)(1) (b)(3)
sance and raider operations along the east coast of North	(6)(0)
Korea. successful landings were made.*	- (b)(1)
J. OSO-OPC Relations	(b)(3)
	!
Unlike a number of other CIA at at a	į

A stations, there is

- 123 -

^{*} For additional information on maritime operations see CSHP 71, History of Maritime Activities Korea (1950-1956).

October 1951 attended by representatives of CIA, G-2, FEC, and G-2, Eighth Army, Ridgway, CINCFE, on 28 November 1951 ordered the establishment of Covert, Clandestine and Related Activities in Korea, better known as CCRAK (later CCRAFE) Headquarters at Seoul. The purpose of CCRAK was to achieve better coordination among the various US intelligence services that were active in Korea.

The letter order published by CINCFE dated 28 November 1951, establishing CCRAK, stated that the Korea CIA mission (JACK) would come under the command of the commanding officer, CCRAK, for those operations in the field of NSC 10/2 activities and intelligence that were in "direct support of combat and intelligence of US Forces in Korea." The words "direct support of combat operations" were significant since CIA interpreted this to mean that long-range unilateral FI operations under NSCID/5 were the sole responsibility of CIA and excluded from $\frac{99}{\text{CCRAK}}$ control.

Under the general staff supervision of the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, FEC, CCRAK Headquarters assumed direction of all clandestine activities of

the Army, Navy, Air Force, and CIA in Korea in direct support of combat operations of US forces. Guerrilla operations in Korea remained a staff responsibility of the G-3, Eighth Army. Provision was made in the letter order for preserving the organizational integrity of members units "to extent required." In the case of CIA, the channel of command was to continue to proceed from the Senior Representative

(b)(1) (b(b)(3)

to the chief of the Joint Korea

(b)(3)

Mission. The Senior Representative's approval was to be required for CIA participation in any "joint task force" operations mounted by CCRAK. The chief of CCRAK was initially Colonel Washington Ives. The chief of the CIA mission, Korea, became deputy chief of CCRAK, in addition to his CIA duties.

The formation of CCRAK was viewed by Headquarters as well as the field, as a continuation of the struggle by G-2, FEC, to control CIA activities in the area in such a manner as to preclude the performance of clandestine tasks clearly within the jurisdiction of CIA. Station officers believed there was no reason for the existence of CCRAK in the first place and that G-2's authority to coordinate, which it possessed

was also initiated. This resulted in better coordination of station activities. $\frac{109}{}$

In March 1952 the Korea Mission (JACK) had moved its main headquarters to the Traymore Hotel in Seoul. The magnitude and complexity of the CIA installations in Korea in October 1952 were reflected in the total physical plant which included four major installations; Joint Korea Mission at Seoul (JACK) and the Seoul, Inchon, and Pusan bases, plus | training or launching or reception points, offices or safehouses, vessels of varying sizes and a staff of indigenous per-This staff of indigenous employees later rose sonne1. in number to approximately by July 1953. Americans with an admini-October 1952 there were strative and housekeeping staff of Koreans assigned to the Joint Korea Mission (JACK). In addition to the operations sections, JACK had complete support facilities, including sections for service and supply, registry, security, personnel, reports and requirements, medical, finance, and mess and billeting. The Seoul Operating Base, which existed prior

(b)(3)

(b)(3)

(b)(3)

(b)(3)

(b)(3)

(b)(3)

The Seoul Operating Base, which existed prior to the move of the Joint Korea Mission to Seoul, played a more restricted role after the transfer. This base

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142 =

had a staff of Americans and Koreans. It ran	(b)(3)
Projects	(b)(1) (b)(3)
.* The cover desig-	(2)(3)
nation of the Seoul Base was changed in May 1952 to	
Far East Command Department of the Army Research Unit	
(FE/DARU) from the Department of the Army Liaison	•
Detachment (DALD).	
Inchon Base, developed primarily to provide as-	
sistance and support to the E&E program for the west	
coast of Korea, was located nine miles southeast of	
Inchon	(b)(1)
	(b)(3)
This base, which had a	
staff of Americans, was concerned particularly with	(b)(3)
the and projects.** The goal of	(b)(1)
these projects was to contact and recruit agents	(b)(3) $(b)(3)$
in North Korea for the purpose of establishing E&E	
nets for downed UN airmen.	
The Pusan Base, formerly headquarters for the	
* These projects are described in detail in CSHP 339, Infiltration and Resupply of Agents in North Korea (1952-1953).	·
** These E&E projects are described in detail in CSHP 339, Infiltration and Resupply of Agents in North Korea (1952-1953).	

- 143 -



into North Korea were low level and possessed only a minimum of resistance training superimposed on a background of guerrilla warfare for which they were more suited and inclined.

During 1952 and 1953 approximately 20 percent	
of the teams launched into North Korea failed to make	
any report whatsoever. At the end of 1952, radio-	(b)(3
contact teams were operating in North Korea, of	(b)(3
which were holdovers from 1951. After the July 1953	
Armistice only agent radios were contacted. As	(b)(3
of 1 January 1954 this number had diminished to	(b)(3
and all were believed to be enemy controlled.	,
Chief, Intelligence Branch, stated	(b)(3
in September 1952 that the mission's E&E teams had	
almost no chance of success, the cover was almost	
uniformly bad, the mission was vague and indefinite,	
the problem of communication had not been properly	. •
solved, the agents were going in with articles of	
clothing and equipment which would blow them, and	••
they did not understand the nature of resistance work.	
He predicted that they would be captured in a very	
short time and that the majority of them would be $\frac{145}{}$	
doubled.	

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All of the resistance programs also suffered, according to because of the inability of the Korea Mission to get documents reproduced by the TSS unit The severe North Korean winter also limited many of the unconventional warfare operations, particularly those of OPC to those few months with a favorable moon phase, and in the case of air or sea infiltrations to favorable climate conditions. The necessity to communicate through interpreters also affected almost every aspect of recruitment, training, planning and control for unconventional warfare projects.

(b)(3)

(b)(1)

(b)(3)

(b)(3)

The failure to employ in Korea the extensive experience gained in guerrilla warfare during World War II was reflected particularly in the inadequate air support for the Korea Mission during the war. It is estimated that approximately agents were deployed into North Korea by air from 1951 through 1952. At times the CIA agent was only one of several drops to be made during an Air Force flight, which also made flare and leaflet drops, thus compromising the security of the agent. The Air Force provided one flight, called B-flight, to support various intelligence activities.

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- 173 -

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Crew members, however, were never taught the finer techniques of clandestine air support. Little stress was placed on accuracy of altitudes, speeds, and drop-The main aim was to get in and out of North Korea regardless of the quality of service rendered.

The main technique was to penetrate during the moon phase in clear weather and make drops on a light pattern. Since the same technique was used during every moon phase, a defense of hill watches was set up, and numerous fires in various type patterns would appear on the ground whenever a plane flew overhead. As a result, air crews were dropping supplies and even personnel without any certainty that they were over the right drop pattern and not a trap. tons of rice and other items as well as (b)(1)personnel were dropped into North Korea from 25 June to 27 July 1953.

Т. Criticism of Coverage of South and North Korea

The Rhee government increasingly became a oneman show operated along personal dictatorial lines. Rhee's position had strengthened considerably, partly

information which would please their American cus-	
tomers. All too often the case officer dealt with	
the principal agent and accepted the operational data	
without further investigation. There was, for example,	
"no shred of information supporting the existence of	
so-called strategic penetrations, "which	(b)(1) . (b)(3) ·
included purported high-level North Korean officials	(5)(5)
and military officers. stated further that	(b)(3)
intelligence was not only fallacious, but	(b)(1)
his trading with the enemy was an immense financial	(b)(3)
benefit to them since his American intelligence con-	
nections served to facilitate widespread traffic in	
narcotics amounting in value probably to many millions of dollars. $\frac{188}{}$	
CIC's knowledge of commercial activi-	(b)(1)
ties was so extensive, according to that the	(b)(3) (b)(3)
former CIC commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel	
Barrows, would not allow any cooperation by his organi-	•
zation with the Korea Mission. Only with his depar-	
ture was it possible to develop a cooperative rela-	
PM Chief in Korea from July 1952 to	(b)(3)
August 1953, has also stated that	. (-)(-)
the large majority of the intelligence	

- 191 -

gathered in 1952 and 1953 through infiltration and exfiltration operations was fabrication or controlled by the North Korean and Chinese Communist Forces security services. The remaining intelligence not so exposed was low level by CIA standards of that period. 190/

also stated that although the Agency (b)(3) had the responsibility for clandestine operations in support of E&E of downed UN airmen and POW's from North Korean territory, no airman or POW was known to have been assisted by CIA-sponsored clandestine mechanisms.

chief of the Korea

Branch (FE/I) in Headquarters, expressed similar views in a January 1954 report:

staff officers ... agree emphatically that E&E operations as conducted by CIA in Korea were not only ineffective but probably morally reprehensible in that the number of lives lost and the amount of time and treasure expended was enormously disproportionate to attainments therefrom. 191/

In addition, insofar as the Korean experience was illustrative, special mission groups, special action teams, and caching missions also proved ineffective and wasteful both of personnel and funds. One of the greatest deficiencies in the Korea Mission's program, according to was to attempt to convert

(b)(3)

(b)(3)

- 192 -

guerrilla warfare assets into resistance assets.

"The lesson learned was not to use burned assets whatever the previous investment in them." $\frac{193}{}/$

The Agency had spent, over a 4-year period,	٠.
some on unconventional warfare activities	(b)(3
in Korea under the umbrella of Project A1-	(b)(1) (b)(3)
though in the early stages of the Korean War some	(5)(5)
operational successes resulted from activities carried	
on under this project, in the later stages of the war,	
and particularly after the battlefront solidified and	
enemy security increased, there was little appreciable	
effectiveness from the substantial sums spent and the	
numerous Koreans sacrificed in what proved to be a	
basically futile attempt to set up resistance cells .	
and E&E capabilities in North Korea. Consequently,	
nearly all of the activities covered by were	(b)(1)
terminated, with only a few transferred to formalized	(b)(3)
individual projects, and on 30 June 1955 Project was terminated.	(b)(1) (b)(3) (b)(3)
To cite a few of the failures in subprojects	•
of conducted resistance activities,	(b)(1) (b)(3)
	(5)(5)

^{*}For additional information see CSHP 339.