IV. B. 2.

EVOLUTION OF THE WAR

Strategic Hamlet Program

1961 - 1963
UNITED STATES - VIETNAM RELATIONS
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EVOLUTION OF THE WAR

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8. Ibid., p. 5.


12. Letter of Transmittal to President Diem and President Kennedy, n.d. (June 1961), Joint Action Program Proposal by the Viet Nam-United States Special Financial Groups (S).

14. Letter, President Kennedy to General Maxwell D. Taylor, 13 October 1961 (c)


16. Ibid., p. 2

17. Ibid., p. 3

18. Ibid., p. 8

19. Ibid., pp. 6-7.

20. Ibid., p. 9

21. Ibid., p. 7

22. Ibid., p. 14

23. Ibid., See also pp. 11-15.

24. Ibid., pp. 11-12

25. The plan, cited hereafter as CIP-1960, is contained as an inclosure to Despatch Hr. 276, Saigon to State, 4 January 1961, Counter Insurgency Plan for South Vietnam. (S)

26. Despatch Hr. 276, Saigon to State, op. cit., p.3

27. See for example, Ibid., Annex B.


33. See, for example, Telegram, Saigon to State Nr. 1465, 16 March 1961 (S), and Aide Memoire, McGarr to Diem, 3 July 1961, Review of Military Situation and Recommendations for Continued Improvement (S).

34. Telegram, Saigon to State, Nr. 502, 18 October 1961 (S).


36. Ibid.

37. Ibid.

38. Copies of Thompson's covering letter and memorandum to Diem are enclosed with msg, Saigon to State, Nr. 205, 20 November 1961, Thomson Mission Recommendations to President Diem (S). The memorandum is cited hereafter as Thompson Memorandum.

39. Ibid.

40. Ibid., letter of transmittal. (Emphasis added).


42. Ibid.

43. Ibid.


46. Department of State, Bureau of Intelligence and Research, 2 February 1962, A Strategic Concept for South Vietnam (S); on the President's interest and Thompson's effect on Kilsman, see Roger Hilsman, To Move a Nation: The Politics of Foreign Policy in the Administration of John F. Kennedy (New York: Doubleday, 1967), pp. 427-39.
47. *A Strategic Concept for South Vietnam*, op. cit., pp. 9-14. The third principle is Kilman's own contribution, drawing heavily on his personal experiences with the OSS during World War II.

48. Ibid., pp. 15-19.

49. Ibid., pp. 15-24.

50. Ibid., p. 9


52. HQCINCPAC, 16 December 1961, Transcript, First Secretary of Defense Conference, pp. 1-2 (S).


54. Memorandum, McGarr to Mr. Thu, 18 December 1961, Civil Government, Paramilitary Infrastructure (Organization) Required as Integrated Part of Military Phase of Pacification Effort (S).

55. Ibid.

56. The GVN plan and actions are not well documented but are referred to in U.S. NAAG Vietnam Report, 31 July 1962, Lessons Learned Mr. 19.


60. Ibid., pp. 5-1 - 5-5.


62. Telegram, Saigon to State, Nr. 1031, 10 February 1962 (S).

63. Donnell and Hickey, op. cit., pp. 3-4.

The U.S. proposals are recorded in National Security Action Memorandum No. 111, 22 November 1961, First Phase of Vietnam Program (TS).

Telegram, Saigon to State Nr. 687, 22 November 1961 (S).

Telegram, Saigon to State Nr. 708, 25 November 1961 (S).

Telegram, CAS New Delhi to Director No 9941, from Ambassador Galbreith for the President, 21 November 1961 (TS).


Telegram Saigon to State Nr. 1367, 22 May 1962 (S).

Telegram, Saigon to State Nr. 133, 8 August 1962 (C); Airgrams, Saigon to State, Nrs. A-85 and A-110, 9 August and 27 August 1962 (C).


Rufus Phillips, A Report on Counter-Insurgency in Vietnam, 31 August 1962, p. 5 (C)

See, for example, Department of State, Bureau of Intelligence and Research Research Memorandum RFE-27, 18 June 1962, Progress Report on South Vietnam (S/HF).

Department of State, Bureau of Intelligence and Research, Research Memorandum RFE-62, 5 December 1962, Saigon's Strategic Concept for Counter-Insurgency and Progress Report (S/HF).
81. Visit to Southeast Asia by the Secretary of Defense, 8-11 May 1962, p. 5 (S), Inclosure to Memo, CJCS to SecDef, 14 May 1962, Visit to Southeast Asia.

82. Vietnam: Free-World Challenge in Southeast Asia (Department of State Publication 7383), pp. 16-17.


85. Ibid.


88. Visit to Southeast Asia by the Secretary of Defense, 8-11 May 1962, op. cit., p. 2

89. Bureau of Intelligence and Research, RFE-27, 18 June 1962, op. cit.

90. MAAG Lessons Learned Nr. 19, op. cit.

91. COMUSMACV Message DA TII 262536, 8 September 1962, Province Rehabilitation Program (S).

92. MAAG, Lessons Learned Nr. 19, op. cit.


95. Hillsman, To Move a Nation, op. cit., p. 453.

96. Visit to Southeast Asia by the Secretary of Defense, 8-11 May 1962, op. cit.

97. Memo, ASD/ISA to SecDef, 9 August 1962, Funding of Strategic Hamlet Kits, Vietnam.

98. See, for example, JCS: 734-52, 22 September 1962, Funding of Strategic Hamlet Kits, Vietnam.
99. CIA Memo for SecDef, 23 September 1962 (S).

100. Department of State, Bureau of Intelligence and Research, RFE-42, 27 May 1963, Implications of GVN Difficulties in Vietnam (S).


102. See, for example, USCH Rural Affairs Office, 1 September 1963, Second Informal Appreciation of the Status of the Strategic Hamlet Program, Incl. to Memorandum, Michael V. Forrestal to Secretary McNamara, 20 September 1963, Vietnam, SecDef Control Nr. 497.


104. Thompson, Defeating Communist Insurgency, op. cit., p. 136.


107. See, for example, Department of State, Bureau of Intelligence and Research, RFE-102, 20 December 1963, Trends in the War Effort in South Vietnam (S); See also William A. Highsawnger, Rural Pacification in Vietnam.
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7. See letter, J. F. Dulles (SecState) to Charles E. Wilson (SecDef), 11 October 1954 (TS).


11. See memo, Director CIA for SecState, 16 December 1955 (S).


14. The President's Committee to Study the United States Military Assistance Program, Report, Volume II, passim.

15. Ibid., Volume III (Classified Studies), Study No. 4 by the Committee Staff, "Mirror Imaging," pp. 115-117.


19. The plan is contained as an inclosure to message, Saigon to State 276, 4 January 1961, Counter Insurgency Plan for South Viet-Nam (S), cited hereafter as CIP.


21. CIP, pp. 4-5.

22. Ibid., p. 5.

23. Ibid., pp. 7-8.


28. See message, Saigon to State 212, 24 July 1959 (S); Saigon to State 2446, 18 February 1960 (C); CINCPAC Command History, 1960, pp. 162-63 (TS/NF).

29. Enclosure to SM-1394-61, 19 December 1961, Project BEEF-UP (TS)


35. Ibid., p. 3.
36. Ibid., p. 11.
37. Ibid., p. 4.
39. Memo, WMR to the President, 12 April 1961, no subject (S).
41. Memo, SecDef for DepSecDef, 20 April 1961, no subject (S).
42. Memo, DepSecDef for President, 27 April 1961, Program of Action for Vietnam (TS).
43. Ibid.
44. Memo to Members of Task Force on Vietnam, 3 May 1961 (TS).
45. NSAM 52, 11 May 1961 (TS).
48. Ibid.
49. NSAM 52, 11 May 1961.
50. Ibid.
51. Ibid.
53. Memo, Vice President Johnson for President Kennedy, 23 May 1961.
54. Ltr, President Diem to President Kennedy, 9 June 1961. (Emphasis added.)
55. Ibid.
57. Msg, Saigon to State 421, 1 October 1961.
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59. Study, Concept of Intervention in South Vietnam, n.d., discussed at
    NSC meeting, 11 October 1961.
60. SNIE 10-3-61, 10 October 1961, Probable Communist Reactions to Certain
    SEATO Undertakings in South Vietnam (TS)
63. Ibid., pp. 6-9.
64. Msg, Saigon 537, General Taylor to White House, State, Defense, JCS,
    25 October 1961 (TS/Eyes only) (Emphasis added); See also Msg, Baguio 005,
    1 November 1961, Eyes Only for the President from General Taylor (TS).
67. Ibid., p. 11.
68. NSAM 111, 22 November 1961, First Phase of Vietnam Program (TS).
69. Msg, Saigon to State 687, 22 November 1961 (S); Msg, Saigon to State 708,
    25 November 1961 (S).
70. Taylor Report, op. cit., pp. 9-10. (Emphasis added.)
71. Ibid., Appendix G (Unconventional Warfare), Memo, BG Lansdale for
74. Hq CINCPAC, 16 January 1962, Record of Second Secretary of Defense
    Conference (TS), pp. 4-1 - 4-4.
75. Ibid., p. 4-4.
76. Ibid., pp. 4-5 - 4-6.
77. DF, Distribution Division, DCSPER, DA to Multiple Addressees, 5 October
    1961, Improvement of Personnel Continuity and Effectiveness in Short
    Tour Overseas Areas (S).
78. Study, ODCSOPS, DA for Chief of Staff, U.S. Army, 15 September 1965, Time Phased Build-up of Unit Advisory Effort in RVN (S). Cited hereafter as Time Phased Advisory Build-up.

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80. Ibid.

81. Ibid.

82. Ibid.


88. NSAM 273, 26 November 1953 (TS).

89. Ibid.

90. Ibid.


92. Ibid.

93. Ibid.

94. Ibid.

95. Ibid.

96. Memo, DIA for SecDef, 17 April 1964, Status of the Vietnamese Hamlet Survey (TS).


98. Ibid., Reports on Critical Provinces.


100. Ibid.
101. Msg, Saigon to State 2338, 28 May 1964 (S).


103. Msg, JCS to COMUSMACV 6448, 22 May 1964, Vietnamese Civil Guard and Self Defense Corps (S).

104. Ibid.

105. Msg, CINCPAC to JCS 230418Z May 1964, Vietnamese Civil Guard and Self Defense Corps (S).

106. Ibid.


108. Ibid. (Emphasis added.)

109. Ibid.

110. Msg, COMUSMACV to CINCPAC 4259, 270045Z May 1964 (S). (Emphasis added.)

111. Msg, CINCPAC to JCS, 270805Z May 1964, Vietnamese CG and SDC (S).

112. JCSM-464-64, 30 May 1964, Pilot Program for Provision of Advisory Assistance to Paramilitary Forces in Seven Provinces (S).

113. JCSM-465-64, 30 May 1964, U.S. Advisory Assistance to the Vietnamese Civil Guard and Self Defense Corps (S).

114. Ibid.

115. JCSM-466-64, 30 May 1964, Provision of U.S. Advisors to Company Level Within Vietnamese Regular Ground Forces (S).


117. Ibid.

118. Msg, White House to Saigon (Personal for General Paul Harkins), 27 May 1964 (C).

119. Msg, CCUSMACV to JCS, MAC J32 5380, op. cit. (Emphasis added.)

120. Memo, DepSecDef for CJCS, 22 April 1964 (U).
121. See, for example, the papers in Secretary of Defense files, Vietnam 361 (16 January 1964) for July-September 1964.


123. Ibid.

124. JCSM-665-64, 4 August 1964, Additional Support in RVN on Accelerated Basis (S).

125. Msg, COMUSMACV to JCS, MAC J1 7044, 28 July 1964, Personnel Augmentation (S).

126. JCSM-665-64, op. cit.


128. Msg, COMUSMACV to CINCPAC, MAC J3 7738, 11 August 1964, Additional Support RVN (S).

129. Msg, JCS to CSA, CNO, CSAF et al, JCS 7953, 15 August 1964, Additional Support in RVN (S).

130. Msg, COMUSMACV to JCS, MAC J1 7044, op. cit.

131. MACV Msg 19118, op. cit.


133. MACV Command History, op. cit., p. 60.


137. Memo, SecDef to CJCS, 4 June 1965.

138. Msg, MACV to CINCPAC and JCS 19118, 7 June 1965.

139. Dod Message 151233Z April 1965 (TS).

140. Department of State message 2332, 15 April 1965, 3:46 p.m. (TS-NODIS).

141. 1965 MACV Command History, pp. 81-82.

142. JCS message 0936, 16 March 1965 (TS)
143. COMUSMACV Message 1566, 21 March 1965 (TS).
144. JCS Message, 142228Z May 1965.
146. Msg, CINCPAC to JCS 3027, 260332Z May 1965 (TS).
149. Memo, Vincent Puritano to James P. Grant, "Joint Provincial Sign-Off Authority," with attachment, 25 Sep 65. (Both officials were with AID, Vietnam Section.)
150. State Department message 1039, October 16, 1965; Saigon message 1324, October 18, 1965.
152. Puritano Memorandum, op.cit.
158. Memo, SecDef for the-President, 20 July 1965.
159. Draft Memo, SecDef for the President, 3 November 1965 (TS).
160. 1964 MACV Command History, p. 68.


164. 1965 MACV Command History, p. 245; Memo, MACJ3, Rural Construction Cadre (S).

165. Memo, Ambassador Lodge to General Lansdale, 15 December 1965, Roles of Different U.S. Agencies in the Three Phases of Rural Reconstruction, i.e., Military Clearing, Pacification, and Development (C); quoted in 1965 MACV Command History, pp. 245-46.

166. Memo, Robert W. Komer, 7 August 1966, Giving a New Thrust to Pacification. (Emphasis in original.)

167. A similar plan was, however, espoused by an influential study by a select group of officers on the Department of the Army General Staff. See Study, Program for the Pacification and Long-Term Development of South Vietnam (Short Title: PROVN), March 1966. Cited hereafter as PROVN Study.

168. Lodge's definitions do not agree with this explanation but it is a fair oversimplification of his views.


170. MajGen JCF Tillson (J-3, MACV), Briefing to Mission Council, 8 Aug 66.


172. Msg, State to Lodge 83699, 12 November 1966 (Emphasis added.)


175. State Department message 1039, October 16, 1965; Saigon message 1324, October 18, 1965.


177. Puritano Memorandum, op. cit.


180. See, for example: Memo, SecDef for President, 20 July 1965; Draft Memo, SecDef for President, 1 November 1965.


183. Ibid., p. 67.


186. Ibid., p. XI-4.


188. Msg, Saigon to State 7113, 19 September 1967.


190. SEA Hamlet Evaluation System Data Book, through December 1967, pp. 1-1 and 1-4; OASD/SA, SEA Programs Directorate.


194. Msg, MACV to CINC PAC 15064, 7 May 1967.

195. Ibid.

196. Southeast Asia Statistical Tables, OASD/SA SEA Programs Directorate, Table 4A (as of January 1960).

197. Ibid.

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Embassy Saigon message 22895, For the President from Bunker, June 14, 1967 (S-NODIS).

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ASD(SA) Alain Enthoven Memorandum for the Secretaries of the Military Departments, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Assistant Secretaries of Defense, 14 Aug 67, Subject: Southeast Asia Deployment Program #5 (TS); refers to SecDef decision memorandum, 10 Aug 67.


OASD(SA) Memorandum for the Secretary of Defense, 30 Aug 67 (S-EYES ONLY).
216. Information in the paragraph is from "Information on MATs (Mobile Advisory Teams) and MALTs (Mobile Advisory Logistics Teams)," 8 May 68, working paper prepared by the ACoFS MA, MACV.

217. JCSM 530-67, 28 Sep 67, Subject: Increase in FY 68 RVNAF Force Level (S).

218. Secretary of Defense Memorandum for Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, 7 Oct 67, Subject: Increase in FY 68 RVNAF Force Level (S) and attached OASD(SA) Memorandum for the Secretary of Defense, 5 Oct 67 (S).