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(Vietnam, 1964-72)

PEOPLES SELF DEFENSE FORCE

THE PEOPLES SELF-DEFENSE FORCES
OF
THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES MILITARY ASSISTANCE COMMAND, VIETNAM
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96222



MACCORDS-TSD-PSDF

25 NOV 1969

SUBJECT: Peoples Self-Defense Force Handbook

SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. This is an English language edition of the PSDF Handbook currently being prepared for distribution by the PSDF Directorate General, Ministry of Interior. The Vietnamese edition will be distributed to PSDF committees down to hamlet level, and to the leaders of all combat and support groups, interteams, and teams.
2. This handbook represents an accumulation of general information and guidance on all aspects of the PSDF program. It provides appropriate references to GVN Directives which establish PSDF policy, programs, and reporting requirements. While it was prepared primarily for use by village and hamlet PSDF leaders, it also serves as a comprehensive guide for advisors who monitor or assist the PSDF program.
3. Advisors are encouraged to submit recommendations for changes or additions to this handbook so that it will accurately portray the current status of the PSDF program. Comments should be forwarded to this headquarters, ATTN: MACCORDS-TSD-PSDF.

V. C. Devan

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Colonel, USA
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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1. PURPOSE

- a. The purpose of this book is to provide the reader with information concerning the Peoples Self-Defense Force (PSDF). The PSDF is not a paramilitary organization, a political party or a religious organization. It is the people organized into groups to:
 - protect their families, their homes, their hamlets and villages;
 - support the Government forces in maintaining the security and lives of the people and preserving the Vietnamese nation;
 - develop community mutual aid in the improvement of hamlets and villages.

With the policy of bringing happiness and security to the people the authorities at all levels have the responsibility to help the people in organizing into groups to protect themselves and to provide the material necessary to carry out this task.

- b. The PSDF has about two million members who play a major role along with the Regional Forces and the Popular Forces in territorial security. The people through participation in this program are demonstrating that they will defend their families and hamlets against the enemy.
- c. The present PSDF program began in July 1968. It is still in the process of development and expansion. As the program matures and the security situation in the country improves, some changes in the nature and employment of PSDF can be expected.
- d. The basic authority for PSDF is contained in Law No. 003/68 dated 19 June 1968, which promulgated general mobilization. Decrees and directives which have been issued on PSDF have been used in writing this handbook. The most important are listed for reference in Appendix I.

- e. Arming the people under the PSDF concept is a clear application of the principle of mutual cooperation among the people themselves and mutual cooperation between the people and the Government. Arming the people creates a reciprocal confidence between the people and the Government and leads to popular interest and involvement in matters which are for the welfare of all the people. Through people defending themselves and with the mutual confidence, cooperation, and involvement that results, the countryside will become peaceful and the people can live in happiness.
- f. The task of people defending themselves starts at the hamlet and village. Hamlet and village defense has two important tasks: (1) defense of the entire populated area against infiltration by small, armed enemy elements, and (2) defection and elimination of enemy cadre (VCI) and other persons who actively support the enemy. The thorough accomplishment of these two tasks will bring about security on a permanent basis. Only when there is day and night security, including freedom from enemy terrorism, freedom from his taxation, and freedom from his bullying, can the people go about developing their hamlets and villages.
- g. The responsibility for hamlet and village security has been delegated to a large extent to local officials. For example, the principal village security elements, including Popular Forces, Police, RD/STRD Cadre and Peoples Self-Defense Force (PSDF) are now under the control of the village chief. The village government has the responsibility to coordinate the activities of each of these security groups to insure a unified program. Experience in many villages shows that there is great improvement in security conditions when local security groups are closely coordinated, work together, maintain close ties with all the people, and when they have assurance of support from district and province officials when it is needed.
- h. It is only through the people organizing and becoming involved in PSDF that lasting security can be achieved. Non-involvement has been shown not to be a safe-guard. It is in the best interest of all the people to join together to resist enemy exploitation. In unity there is strength--without it there

is weakness and misery.

i. The individual person living in a hamlet or village needs to know that:

- (1) he will be supplied with adequate means (weapons, ammunition, training and support) to defend his interests;
- (2) his neighbors and friends are dedicated to the PSDF objectives and he does not stand alone;
- (3) he and his neighbors will be allowed to defend their interests against terrorism;
- (4) the self defense force of which he is a member is truly one of the people---a Peoples Self-Defense Force, and that it represents the determination of the people to preserve security;
- (5) through participation in the PSDF he can find a realistic way of defeating enemy oppression and exploitation.

j. The task does not end with organizing and arming people. Self-Defense draws all of the people into it. Youth, old men and women can be trained to report information of intelligence value and to warn of suspicious developments. Boys and girls can perform valuable service as runners and ammunition carriers and can help to establish and maintain an intra-hamlet system of barriers and firing positions. Beyond these security tasks, PSDF members will promote the family and community welfare through giving aid to orphans and refugees, participation in community improvement projects, fire fighting, first aid and like activities.

2. WHAT ARE THE PEOPLES SELF-DEFENSE FORCES?

- a. When the enemy attacked during the 1968 TET, thousands of Vietnamese citizens asked the Government to give them arms so that they could defend themselves, their families and their property from attack. The Government answered the appeal of the people by furnishing them weapons through the Peoples Self-Defense program, which was established by the Mobilization Law of June 1968. Thus the PSDF came about through the spontaneous demand of

the people for it and it represents a cooperative program between the people and their Government. All able-bodied men in the age groups of 16-17 and 39-50, except those joining RVNAF on a voluntary basis, and males between 18 and 38 deferred from military service on grounds other than physical disability are required by the Mobilization Law to be members of PSDF. Women and youth together with older men can volunteer for the PSDF and thousands have responded. All previous militia type organizations in existence before the Mobilization Law, like Combat Youth and Popular Militia, are now a part of PSDF.

b. The basic objectives of the PSDF are:

- (1) To provide the people with the means to defend their families, homes, and hamlets/villages in both rural and urban areas;
- (2) To assist the National Police and Armed Forces of the Republic of Vietnam in maintaining security and public order;
- (3) To promote community development activities for self-help and improvement of hamlets/villages in both rural and urban areas;
- (4) To assist the police in indentifying the enemy.

3. MEANING OF THE INSIGNIA.

Peoples Self-Defense Forces have a distinctive insignia which is shown in Figure 1. It consist of a blue back-ground with black figures of 3 men holding weapons in front of the national flag. The group signifies the popular uprising of the people to protect their homes. The lower part of the insignia shows the name (blue letters on white background) of the capital city (Saigon) or the province or autonomous city of which the PSDF member is a resident. In order to standardize the PSDF insignia throughout the country, MOI made and distributed the insignia the first time. Subsequently, each province, city, and the Capital produce their own.



FIGURE 1

CHAPTER 2

PERSONNEL

SECTION I. GENERAL.

1. Scope.

The people constitute the personnel of the Peoples Self-Defense Force. Citizens serve under the provisions of the Mobilization Law. The PSDF cadre and certain designated officials serve on the policy making committees. This chapter discusses recruitment; awards and decorations; discipline, law and order and other personnel policies applying to all citizens who are concerned with the PSDF.

SECTION II. PERSONNEL RECRUITMENT.

2. National PSDF Strength.

A national goal of two million PSDF members by the end of 1969 has been established by the Central Pacification and Development Council (CPDC) in their Pacification Guidelines. Of these members at least 1,600,000 are to be trained, as combat groups and in support functions. Corps commanders are responsible for allocating their membership goals among the provinces and autonomous cities within their zones as appropriate to the population and security status. Provinces, in turn, will sub-allocate to district. Within any given hamlet, the number of PSDF members will be determined by the number of available individuals in the eligible age groups and the number of volunteers from the other age groups.

3. Recruitment Procedures.

Recruitment of PSDF personnel will be accomplished through the assistance of family chiefs, inter-family chiefs, religious and political leaders. The government also uses servicemen, civil servants and policemen to assist in organizing and training the Peoples Self-Defense Force units. Civil servants, ex-servicemen and individuals employed in important establishments are particularly desirable for early induction into the PSDF so as to draw additional citizens into the organization. In those hamlets where RD Cadre Groups are located, PSDF are organized and trained by the cadre groups themselves. In other rural areas, RF and PF assist in this task. In urban areas, the national police share in the training responsibility of the PSDF.

4. Deferment for Medical Reasons.

Citizens who were given draft deferment for health reasons are subject to PSDF service during the period of their deferment. Individuals may receive exemption from or deferment of PSDF duties if in poor health. The prefecture, provinces and municipalities will set up special committees with local Public Health Service Chief as chairmen to review these cases.

SECTION III. PERSONNEL ACTIONS.

5. Awards and Decorations.

Outstanding service of PSDF members can be recognized by means of letters, certificates and appropriate decorations. Recommendations are initiated at village level and are forwarded through channels to the echelon authorized to present the award. The Province Chief, who is concurrently the Chairman of the PSDF Committee, can issue letters of commendation and recognition. The award of the Gallantry Cross must be approved by the Chief of the Joint General Staff. At the national level, the National PSDF Committee will award letters of commendation and recognition and appropriate honor medals. Award of the Peoples Self-Defense Medal is reserved for the President of the Republic of Vietnam, who has delegated authority to the Prime Minister and Minister of Interior. Each year a number of outstanding individuals will be selected by the Ministry of Interior based upon recommendations of subordinate echelons and will be presented PSDF medals.

6. Leadership Selection.

The leaders and deputy leaders of PSDF groups, interteams and teams are elected. The individuals filling these offices are selected by the local PSDF members in elections organized by local authorities.

SECTION IV. DISCIPLINE, LAW AND ORDER.

7. Legal Jurisdiction.

The PSDF are civil not military or para-military forces and are, therefore, subject to civil not military law. Under the civil law they have no special provision for legal immunity for offenses committed in the performance of their duties, and they must exercise the same precautions against civil violations as any citizen. Further, they

are not authorized to impose the law by making arrests but must turn information on legal violations over to the police for enforcement.

8. Disciplinary Actions.

Under the provisions of Decree Law 137/SL/CT, 6 May 1964, any citizen who does not perform his PSDF duties (in the decree termed civil defense duties) will either be fined from VN\$500 to VN\$10,000, or be imprisoned for a term of 15 days to 6 months. Second offenders are to be punished by imprisonment and can not elect payment of fine.

SECTION V. PSDF CADRE.

9. Mission.

The National Assembly, in the interests of the nation, has provided for PSDF Cadre who will help the people organize and carry out the PSDF program. They must accomplish the following specific tasks:

- a. Help to organize the people into groups.
- b. Assist the authorities in training and arming.
- c. Assist the members in electing their leaders.
- d. Provide guidance to the members in accordance with the national guidelines.
- e. Assist in the development, reinforcement, and morale building of the organization.

10. Recruitment.

The Ministry of Interior has been authorized to recruit 1249 PSDF Cadre for cities, provinces and districts in 1969 and plans to recruit an additional number during 1970. The Cadre will be recruited from the location in which they will serve. Applicants will be chosen, generally from PSDF members, although other individuals will be considered if necessary to achieve required strengths. Applicants must fulfill certain qualifications of age, education, completion of military service and health, and are required to agree to serve for at least one year. Province and district chiefs will select the authorized number of applicants and forward them for approval to the PSDF Directorate of the Ministry of Interior.

11. Leave.

Peoples Self-Defense Force Cadre are allowed 7 days leave for each six months of service or 15 days leave for one year. However, leave must be taken in the year in which accrued and can not be carried over into the following year.

12. Awards.

If recommended by the government echelon where they are assigned and approved by the Minister of Interior, the PSDF Cadre who have performed meritorious service can be awarded with:

- (1) A letter of commendation and VN\$200;
- (2) A certificate of recognition and VN\$300;
- (3) A citation and VN\$400;
- (4) An honor certificate and VN\$500;

13. Disciplinary Action.

PSDF Cadre can be disciplined for violations by punishments ranging from warning to discharge without pay depending upon the seriousness of their violation. Authority to award punishment is vested in the Director of the PSDF Directorate, Ministry of Interior, and for more serious offenses, by the Minister of Interior.

SECTION VI. IDENTIFICATION.

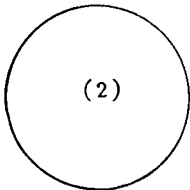
14. Purpose.

In addition to the insignia worn by each PSDF member, an identification card is issued as an official means of identifying each individual as a PSDF member. The card is to be maintained in the possession of the member at all times.

15. Implementation.

Identification cards will be produced by each province and issued to all PSDF members, regardless of whether they are combat or support members. The cards will be produced in the format shown in figure 2.

PSDF IDENTIFICATION CARD

VISA 1st Quarter of 196... (3)	VISA 2nd Quarter of 196...	People's Self-Defense (1) MEMBER CARD 
VISA 3rd Quarter of 196...	VISA 4th Quarter of 196...	

FRONT

... (1) (4) ... No. . .		People's Self-Defense ---- MEMBER CARD
Photo (4 x 6)	Name I.D. Card No Place of issue Born on day ... Month Year At Address Is the PSDF Member of ... (5) Day Month year (6)	
	Chairman of PSDF Committee	

REVERSE

- (1) Name of Province, City, or Town.
- (2) PSDF Insignia.
- (3) Signature and seal of District PSDF Chairman or Commander.
- (4) District name.
- (5) Name of Village, District, and Province.
- (6) Signature and seal of Province PSDF Chairman or Commander.

Figure 2

CHAPTER 3

ORGANIZATION & OPERATIONS

SECTION I. GENERAL.

1. Concept of Employment.

The Peoples Self-Defense Forces are organized, trained and equipped to be capable of maintaining the internal security of their village or hamlet and defending it against attack by small enemy units. Defense against larger enemy attacks will require the presence of or prompt reinforcement by other territorial security forces. Operating in cooperation with the National Police in relatively secure areas (A & B Hamlets) the PSDF can maintain security against terrorist activities and against small groups of enemy infiltrators. They also assist in maintaining public order. In less secure areas the PSDF should be organized and trained only in villages and hamlets that are protected by other territorial security forces. As the area becomes more secure they will assume the full security role and replace the RF and PF as these units are moved into other areas to expand GVN control.

SECTION II. ORGANIZATION.

2. Local PSDF Commanders.

The positions of PSDF Commanders at the capital, provinces, cities and districts are temporarily assigned to the Deputy Mayor (at the Capital), Deputy Province Chiefs, Deputy Mayors and Deputy District Chiefs, respectively. These individuals are the formal heads of the PSDF forces in their areas. They are not expected to exercise tactical command since it is not intended that PSDF forces of this size will engage in large-scale tactical operations.

3. Group Organization.

- a. A combat group organization has been developed which is applicable to both rural and urban PSDF. The basis group has a strength of 107 members, consisting of three 35 man interteams, each of which is further broken down into three eleven member teams. The team consists of a team leader and assistant, and three member cells. Women may be organized to bear arms, and added as a fourth cell

in each team, raising the total authorized group strength of 134 members. The actual size of the organization on the ground will depend upon the number of citizens available to serve. The complete combat group organization is shown in Figure 3.

- b. PSDF has many activities, and thus all citizens can participate. All citizens from young children to old men can perform specific tasks and are organized into various support groups. Each person participates on the basis of what he is able to do. Each support group by age or sex category has the following specific function. The various support group organization is shown Figure 4.

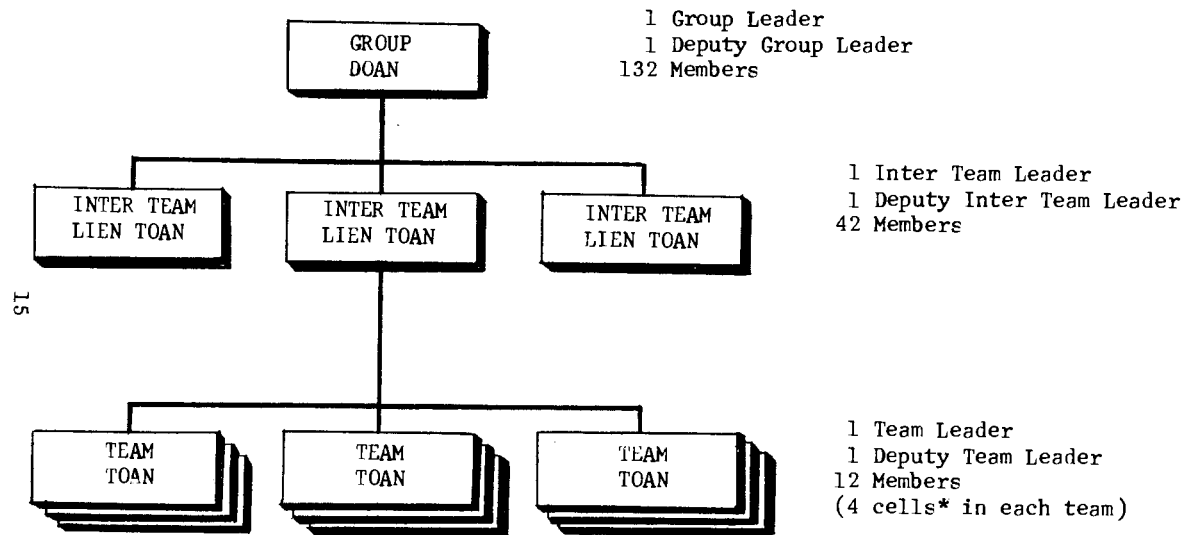
- (1) Female Support Group. Eligible ages for this group ranges from 16-50 on a voluntary basis. They are organized into the following teams of 5 to 11 members.

- (a) Medical Education Team. Takes part in medical activities, publicizes knowledge in disease prevention, treatment, and first aid, assists in evacuation of wounded.
- (b) Social Welfare Team. Joins in social welfare activities, takes care of the children, takes care of the needy families.
- (c) Musical Entertainment Team. Teaches and performs drama and music shows.
- (d) Economic Development Team. Raises livestock, and engages in handicrafts such as embroidering, weaving, sewing.

- (2) Elders Group. Old men above fifty may participate voluntarily in this group. They may be divided into the following teams according to their ability, age, and interest. Each team may range from 5 to 11 members.

- (a) Medical Education Team. In addition to the duties in paragraph 3b(1)(a) above, acts as advisor and guide in the common education movement, to eradicate illiteracy, the Four Corruptions (opium, prostitution, gambling, and drinking),

PSDF COMBAT GROUPS



* One cell per team may be women.

FIGURE 3

PEOPLES SELF-DEFENSE FORCE SUPPORT GROUPS - - - - GENERAL ORGANIZATION

16

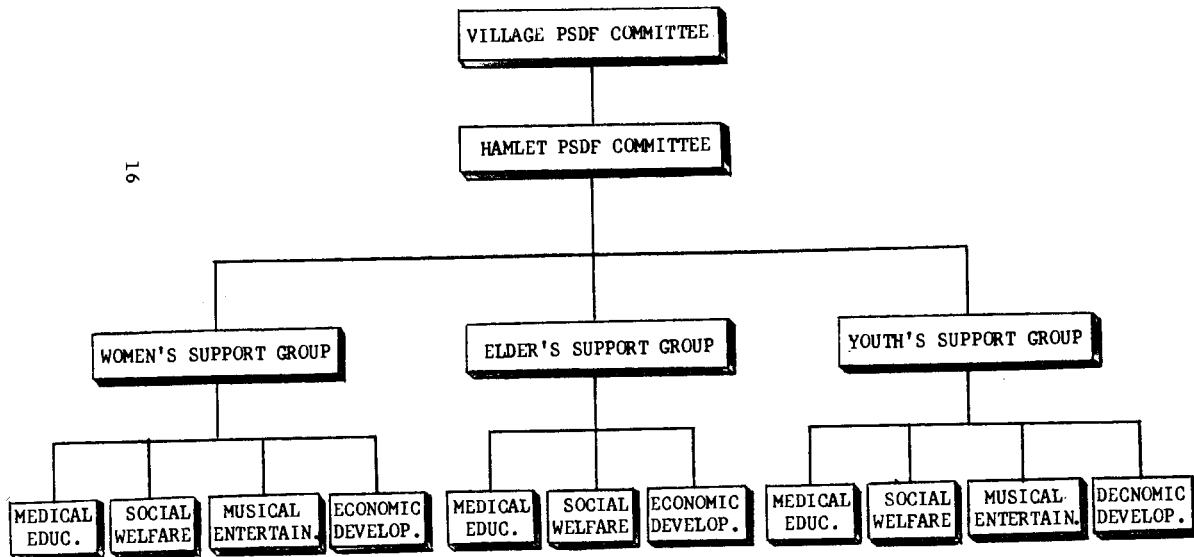


FIGURE 4

and superstition.

- (b) Social Welfare Team. Guides and assists the PSDF members in joining social welfare activities, and nourishes morality and traditional ethics.
 - (c) Economic Development Team. Advises and urges participation in projects to enhance the economic development of the hamlet, such as raising livestock, farming, and handicrafts.
- (3) Young People's Group. Participation in this group is available to all volunteer citizens, male and female, between the ages of 13 and 15. According to their ability and interest they may be associated with the following teams, whose strength may range from 5 to 11 members.
- (a) Social Welfare Team. Joins in the light activities of charitable social welfare, instigates public sanitation campaigns, distributes gifts, and encourages the PSDF combat members.
 - (b) Sports Team. Participates in sports and games, and organizes excursions and encampments.
 - (c) Information and Communication Team. Spreads information and news in the village and acts as communication link among PSDF units.
 - (d) Musical Entertainment Team. Joins entertainment activities with singing, folk dancing, and drama shows.

SECTION III. OPERATIONAL MISSIONS.

4. Tasks. The specific tasks assigned the PSDF are to:
- a. Establish guard posts and warning systems;
 - b. Conduct limited patrols;
 - c. Defend the inhabited area;

- d. Provide intelligence;
- e. Conduct fire prevention and fire fighting;
- f. Support community Self Development projects;
- g. Provide first aid.

SECTION IV. OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES.

5. Conduct of Operations.

a. Operations in Rural Areas.

- (1) **Command and Control.** The chairman of the village administrative committee (village chief) is the commander of all forces assigned to the village in addition to PSDF. He has operational control over the National Police, Popular Forces, and RD Cadre Groups, unless the district chief has specifically retained control of the Popular Forces. A deputy village chief for security performs the detailed planning for the use of these forces in conjunction with the PSDF. A village military commissioner, who must be a PF platoon leader, exercises, on behalf of the village chief and the deputy village chief for security, operational control of village PF. In hamlets, the hamlet chief exercises operational control of the hamlet PSDF through a deputy hamlet chief for security, who has a military assistant under his supervision. Coordination of the hamlet PSDF with the village is effected by the hamlet chief through the village security structure described above.
- (2) **Forces Available.** The specific functions and responsibilities of the forces that may be available to provide security to a village are as follows:
 - (a) **Peoples Self-Defense Forces.** The PSDF operates inside and on the edges of hamlets. They should not be used outside of the hamlet except in emergencies and only then if they are well trained and equipped. PSDF members should be deployed inside and on the periphery of the

hamlet or village at night in small groups (two or three men) so that they may interdict the enemy guerilla fashion, making maximum use of the element of surprise and thus ensuring the greatest effectiveness of their firepower. Plans for such deployment should be developed by PSDF leaders in consultation with the military commissioner and the village chief. The PSDF deployment pattern should be changed frequently to avoid disclosure to the enemy. PSDF units should not group together at night in a single place, e.g. post or outpost, where they are apparent and easy targets for the enemy.

- (b) RD Cadre Groups. RD Cadre Groups are operating in every province in the Republic of Vietnam. In certain provinces in I, II and III CTZs, Son Thon or Highlander RD Cadre Groups are assigned. The RD Cadre are organized into 30-man groups and work in the village under the direction of the Chairman of the Village Administrative Committee. Son Thon RD Cadre are usually assigned to more remote areas and for this reason they normally operate in 70-man groups for greater security. One of the four basic missions of the RD Cadre and the Son Thon Cadre is the organization of the peoples self-defense forces in the hamlet to which they are assigned. The first step is a hamlet census to identify all persons who are able to participate in the program. Following the hamlet census, the RD Cadre will encourage the people of the hamlet to participate in various PSDF activities. Natural leaders will be selected to lead the PSDF. They, together with the RD Cadre, will organize the PSDF into combat and other groups. Training, as outlined in Chapter 4, will be given. Practice alerts and operations together with critiques will take place at least twice a month. The RD Cadre will help the PSDF to establish procedures to use available communication means and to coordinate their activities with PSDF in adjacent

hamlets. They will also provide advice on the clearing of undergrowth and fence lines around the hamlet boundaries. In the event of an attack by the enemy on the hamlet the RD Cadre will become part of the force at the disposal of the village chief.

- (c) PF Platoon. The PF Platoon provides security to the village and hamlet by operating patrols, ambushes, and outposts in an area outside the village inside of the area of operations of the RF. Elements of the platoon can also be retained as a reaction force. PF assigned to the village/hamlet are under the direct command of the village military commissioner. When this is not feasible, operational control is exercised by an RF company, an RF/PF group headquarters, or by the district chief. In addition to screening the village with patrols and outposts, the PF platoon is a part of the close-in villages defenses.
- (d) National Police. Deployment of National Police will be to a sub-district headquarters located in the village. The NP assigned to a village will be under the operational control of the village chief. The basic NP responsibility is to maintain law and order, set up intelligence nets, establish resources and population control, and perform such other duties as may be required. Village police must be responsive to the technical guidance of the district police chief.
- (e) RF Company or Platoon. The RF company supports but is not an assigned part of the village defensive forces. It will assist in providing security for the village by conducting operations against enemy company or platoon-sized units. Usually, the area of operations is at some distance from the village and outside of the areas of operation of the other village defensive forces. Patrols, ambushes and search and clear operations

in this area will screen the village and prevent the enemy from assembling for attacks. The RF company or elements of the company will also constitute a portion of the available reaction forces to be called to the assistance of hard-pressed village PSDF. The company is capable of assuming responsibility for an assigned area of operations and of exerting tactical command and control of the RF platoons and paramilitary forces within this assigned area. The company will be responsive to requests from the deputy village chief for security or, if necessary, hamlet officials, but will remain under the command of the district chief.

- (3) Rural Area Communications. The ability to call for reinforcements or support is critical to the defense of a village and hamlet using PSDF and other lightly armed local forces. Communications are limited and careful plans for their use must be made to insure contact with reaction forces. Within the hamlet or village, control of the defensive operations must depend upon prior planning and nonelectronic communications, such as messengers, sound or acoustical devices, pyrotechnics, if available, and other such simple signaling devices. For communications with higher echelons the following may be available:

- (a) Village and Hamlet Radio System (HT-1, TR-5);
- (b) Province and District Military Nets (PRC-10, PRC-25);
- (c) National Police Nets (HT-1, TR-5);
- (d) Revolutionary Development Cadre Radio Net (HT-1);
- (e) US Advisory Net (PRC-25).

The only radio net that can be depended upon to be available in the village and hamlet is the village and hamlet radio system. The presence of the other communications given above

in a particular hamlet or village will depend upon the presence of the forces possessing the radios. Every effort must be made to locate the nearest radio and to make arrangements for its use in emergencies.

- (4) Tactical Concept. The deputy village chief for security is responsible for organizing the defense of the village using PSDF and those forces assigned to the control of the village chief. The PF forces are under the direct command of the village military commissioner. The most efficient defensive concept for the village and hamlet involves a defense whose outer, warning perimeter is at a sufficient distance from the defended area to allow time to alert defenders. Patrols, listening posts and small ambush teams are placed on likely enemy avenues of approach. These groups provide early warning and may be capable of delaying the approach of an enemy party. They are usually manned by the RF or PF if these forces are located in the village. The positions should be occupied after dark and changed in location frequently. If attacked the personnel operating the patrols and listening posts should fall back on the village. A reserve force is held centrally and should be ready to move to a number of previously reconnoitered positions on the village perimeter to meet the threat. Rehearsal and practice by the reserve force is essential so that positive and rapid defensive actions can be taken. Inner security posts and interior patrols should be the responsibility of the PSDF when other forces are present. Where insufficient arms are available to equip all defenders, surveillance locations can be manned by the unarmed members. Within a village, each hamlet should have an area of responsibility which has clearly defined boundaries. The hamlet forces provide security patrols and collect information. Hamlet areas of responsibility should be coordinated to prevent clashes between friendly forces.
- (5) Fire Support. Village and hamlets should have prearranged fires for the support of the defensive forces, if possible. This fire sup-

port is provided by ARVNAF and FWMAF artillery and helicopter units, territorial artillery, and US and VNAF Air Force units. Fire support can be arranged through the District Chief or through the RF Company Commander in whose area of responsibility the village or hamlet falls.

b. Operations in Urban Areas.

- (1) Overall concept. Operations in urban areas are conducted differently from those in rural areas because they do not involve defense of isolated inhabited areas such as the rural villages and hamlets. In most autonomous cities and province capitals, significant numbers of conventional forces are assigned the responsibility of defending against major ground attacks from outside of the city limits. The PSDF and the local police are oriented, therefore, toward internal protection against enemy infiltrators and terrorist activities.
- (2) Forces Available. The functions and responsibilities of the forces involved in the defense of urban places are as follows:
 - (a) PSDF. The PSDF are responsible for the defense of their individual Khoms. They establish stationary posts and conduct patrols within their Khoms. They maintain day and night vigilance to prevent terrorist attacks. Through being alert to the movement of strangers in the Khom they can detect the presence of infiltrators and report them to the police. They are not expected to provide reaction forces outside of their Khom but, in certain operations, will operate jointly with forces operating within their Khom.
 - (b) Municipal Police. The municipal police are assigned the role of providing internal security for the city and are expected to control any civil or enemy disturbances to the limit of their ability before calling in military reaction forces. They are assigned at various echelons down to Khom level. One NPFF battalion (six companies) is assigned to the Saigon Municipi-

pal Police Department (SMPD). The companies of this battalion are assigned to precincts of Saigon. In some cases elements of these companies are further allotted to sub-precincts. In either case they are under the control of the police service to which they are assigned. The units are employed in population control and security of key installations. They constitute the principal police element for the control of civil disturbances in the Saigon area. They are also employed in conjunction with the Special Branch Police in reaction to intelligence on the VCI. The use of NPFF in the city of Saigon is not illustrative of NPFF employment in other autonomous cities and in provincial capitals.

- (c) Regional Forces. Deployment of these forces is limited to a few units whose area of operations is confined to areas located within the city limits that have rural characteristics. They conduct conventional search and clear operations in these areas.
 - (d) Conventional Military Forces. These forces are responsible for providing a protective ring of defenses and patrols outside of the city limits to prevent the approach of major enemy forces and to limit infiltration of small units and individuals. Within the City of Saigon other conventional military forces are also assigned static defensive missions at key installations and are not intended to be used as a mobile reaction force. Certain conventional forces designated as alert companies are held under the control of Special Zone Commanders. They are physically located throughout the Special Zone for rapid response to enemy threats.
- (3) Urban Communications. Military radio communication exists between the Headquarters, Saigon Capital Sub-region Command and each of the eleven special zone special headquarters. In

some, but not all cases, a radio net also connects these headquarters with the subordinate Phuongs. Military radio communication does not extend below Phuong level. There is a police radio net that parallels the military net and, in a very few cases, extends down to the Khom level. Further, telephones are usually available down to Phuong and in certain instances down to Khom. Since the operations of the PSDF units are restricted to their own Khom, their major need for communications will be to call for reaction force assistance in the event a threat can not be handled at the local level. Police communication will be utilized for this purpose.

- 4) Concept of Operations. The PSDF static posts and local patrols within the Khom, in conjunction with municipal police, form a network designed to detect and react against terrorist attacks or enemy infiltration activities. One of these two forces will probably make the initial contact with enemy terrorists or infiltrators operating in the city. When contact has been made, PSDF reaction squads or reserve PSDF members can be shifted within the Khom in order to reinforce the threatened outpost or patrol. Threats greater than can be handled by the local Khom PSDF and police will be reported to the Phuong. Forwarding of the report will be a police responsibility and will utilize police communications if available. Khoms without police communications must depend upon messengers or a reaction on the initiative of the Phuong in response to firing in the Khom. The initial reaction from the Phuong would probably be limited to the squad or possibly platoon-sized police units available at Phuong level. Additional reinforcing reaction elements, if required, would be dispatched by the precinct police chief who has local police reaction forces available. If necessary, police forces available at Headquarters, Saigon Metropolitan Police, would be utilized. Police actions to control the threat would be monitored by the various military command echelon (Special Zone and Sub-region) by listening on the police radio net. If required, the special zone commander may

commit military forces to assist in the control of the situation with the approval of the Sub-Region Commander. Unless military forces larger than battalionsize are committed the tactical operation will be under the control of the special zone commander assisted by his conventional military staff. Local PSDF units will assist the operations of the police and military reaction units within their own Khom by providing them detailed knowledge of the residents and areas of operations rather than as a fighting element.

CHAPTER 4

TRAINING

SECTION I. TRAINING.

1. General.

The training program is designed to train PSDF members to defend their village from VC attack, or if faced with overwhelming forces, to evade them or to offer passive resistance. Training is designed to be given when individual PSDF members have free time available from their occupation or livelihood. PSDF Cadre, in contrast, receive full time training to enable them to perform their administrative, supervisory, logistic and training functions.

SECTION II. CONDUCT OF TRAINING.

2. PSDF Training.

- a. PSDF training covers three broad subjects: military training, POLWAR training, and technical training (organization, logistics, intelligence, first aid, fire fighting).
- b. At Appendix III is a basic and a supplemental training program prepared by the PSDF Directorate, Ministry of Interior, and disseminated to the provinces and autonomous cities. Personnel in all PSDF combat groups must complete the required hours in basic weapons (primary weapons) and tactics before being assigned security duties. Local authorities may modify the number of hours devoted to the remainder of the subjects in the basic plan of instructions depending on the local situation. However, all subjects must be covered for PSDF members to be considered trained for reporting purposes. The lesson plan is very flexible and the hours may be altered to emphasize certain subjects.
- c. An important part of PSDF training will be related to hamlet/village defense. PSDF should hold practice sessions on defensive operations. For example, some PSDF members can make a mock attack on the hamlet/village while other PSDF members enact the role of defense. Regular practice sessions of this kind will reveal possible weaknesses in defense

plans and will also build up the confidence and morale of the PSDF as they become trained in what to do in the event of enemy attack.

- d. PSDF supplemental training consists of instruction specially designed to train group, interteam and team leaders. All other PSDF members are encouraged to complete the training. All PSDF team; interteam and group leaders should complete the supplemental training.
- e. Updated lesson plans will be prepared and distributed by the PSDF Directorate, Ministry of Interior, as required.

3. PSDF Cadre Training.

The training of PSDF Cadre is conducted at the National Training Center at Vung Tau. Classes are given at irregular intervals as required by the recruitment of cadre personnel. Two to three hundred are required to form a class. Individuals who apply for the program and are approved by the PSDF Directorate, Ministry of Interior, receive 192 hours of instruction divided into four categories as follows (see Appendix III for detailed cadre course outline):

- a. Military subjects: 62 hours;
- b. Technical subjects (organization, logistics, first aid, etc.): 56 hours;
- c. POLWAR: 54 hours;
- d. Miscellaneous: 20 hours.

While at the Training Center, the PSDF Cadre are subject to the discipline of National Training Center personnel. Classes will consist of only one sex and the actual subjects taught and the number of hours devoted to each subject will vary depending upon the size of the class. Instruction for women will include more first aid and community activities but less combat and arms instruction. Following the one month course at the National Training Center, PSDF Cadre must undergo a one month practice in the area from which they were recruited under the supervision of the Province and District Chiefs.

SECTION III. TRAINING SUPPORT.

4. General.

Training programs must be tailored to the part-time nature of PSDF activities. Not all PSDF members will be available at any one period for instruction, and those persons available at any one time may be at different stages in the training cycle. Consequently, planning for training must be extremely flexible.

5. Instruction.

The Village Chief is responsible for the defense of his village. This mission includes responsibility for PSDF effectiveness including the effectiveness of training. RD Cadre have the mission of training the PSDF in hamlets to which they are assigned. In hamlets where RD Cadre are not assigned, the Village Chief may utilize PF or national police, or may request assistance from other resources available, e.g. RF, ARVN, discharged veterans, or FWMAF.

6. Training Ammunition.

Each PSDF member who is to be trained on a particular weapon will be authorized to fire a certain number of rounds for familiarization; 20 rounds for rifles, 20 rounds for carbines; 30 rounds for Thompson SMGs; 5 rounds for shotguns. Supplementary firing practice by each combat PSDF member will be carried out at least 4 times per year. For this purpose the following rounds have been authorized: 10 rounds for rifles; 10 rounds for carbines; 30 rounds for Thompson SMGs; 5 rounds for shotguns. Additional details are discussed in the Chapter on Logistics. The quantities of training ammunition are sufficient only for familiarization and limited firing for zero. The quantities issued as the basic load are only authorized to be expended in combat.

CHAPTER 5

INTELLIGENCE

SECTION I. GENERAL.

1. Scope.

- a. The reporting of information on the enemy is one of the most important functions of the Peoples Self-Defense Forces. Although there is no formal intelligence organization within these forces, their wide distribution among and close relationships to the populace provide them with many opportunities to collect information on the local enemy forces and on the VC infrastructure.
- b. In addition to reporting information while actually manning outposts and other duty stations, i.e. combat intelligence, each PSDF member is expected to report the information on the VC/VCI and civil violations know to him. A PSDF member is always "on duty" for the purpose of reporting information.
- c. This chapter deals, primarily, with procedures for collecting and reporting other than combat intelligence. Reporting and reacting to intelligence concerned with enemy actions is covered in the chapter on operations.

SECTION II. INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS.

2. Information Reporting.

- a. Utilization. The PSDF are an excellent information source because they are drawn from the general population of the villagers and hamlets.
- b. Sources. There will be instances in which a PSDF member is the source of information himself (e.g. direct observation of an enemy guerrilla squad). In most cases, however, a PSDF member will receive information from another hamlet resident who often provides it during a casual conversation. PSDF members are in a good position to receive such information because of their status as bona fide members of the local community. It is desirable that to the local residents they be neighbors

first, and PSDF members second. Sources within the hamlet providing good information on a regular basis should be brought to the attention of local authorities by the PSDF group leader so that the source can be enrolled as a regular informant handled by a professional intelligence agency.

- c. Employment Concepts. It should be emphasized that the PSDF intelligence role is primarily one of information reporting, not active collection. While each PSDF member is obligated to report all information which becomes available to him, the PSDF is not an intelligence collection organization. PSDF units will not be given specific intelligence collection tasks, except in special circumstances. PSDF intelligence reporting does not include the following:

- (1) Surveillance and clandestine intelligence gathering;
- (2) Handling of informants;
- (3) Requests to hamlet residents to carry out intelligence gathering tasks.

- d. Reporting Procedures. Information of intelligence value known to the people should be reported through the local PSDF to the local PSDF group leader or to the intelligence cadreman of the RD cadre group. (Violations of a civil nature should be reported in a similar fashion or to the National Police if located in the village.) The PSDF group leader or the RD intelligence cadreman will have set procedures for reporting this information to the village or hamlet Deputy for Security who will in turn forward the information to the District Intelligence Operations Coordinating Center (DIOCC). The actual method of forwarding the information from the village to the DIOCC will depend upon the local situation, particularly the distances involved and the available communications. Frequent liaison visits by DIOCC personnel to the reporting villages will improve the quality of intelligence gathered and the transmission of reports.

SECTION III. INTELLIGENCE TRAINING.

3. Members of the urban PSDF are trained by the security member or by other metropolitan police after they have been organized. Rural personnel may be trained in information reporting by the Intelligence cadreman of the RD Cadre Group or by representatives of the DIOCC. Training for rural and urban PSDF should include:

- a. Understanding of obligations to pass intelligence information and the channels through which it must pass for the particular hamlet/village;
- b. Proper debriefing of a source - training should concentrate on thorough debriefing of a source so as to gather all of the information known to the source;
- c. Source access - how did the source obtain the information;
- d. Source credibility - assessment of the source's truthfulness;
- e. Security - avoidance of loose talk;
- f. Information reporting - emphasize reporting as opposed to formal collection and warn against overzealous debriefing of sources which might discourage them from future disclosures of information;
- g. Importance of information reporting function.

CHAPTER 6

LOGISTIC SUPPORT

SECTION I. GENERAL.

1. Scope.

Logistic support of the PSDF is furnished by the GVN Ministry of Defense in response to specific requests from the Ministry of Interior. At the present time the items involved consist almost exclusively of weapons, ammunition and cleaning materials. This chapter discusses the authorization, supply and maintenance of this equipment.

SECTION II. SUPPORT AGENCIES.

2. Area Logistic Commands. (ALC)

South Vietnam is divided into five logistical areas. An ARVN Area Logistical Command is assigned responsibility for support of Vietnamese units (ARVN, RF, PF and now PSDF) in each of these areas. These area logistic commands consist of a headquarters and a series of technical services, direct support units and field depots.

3. Sector Maintenance and Direct Support Logistical Company (SM & DSL). These units are assigned to province and are responsible for support of all Regional and Popular Forces within their sectors. They are also responsible for furnishing the limited supply and maintenance support authorized the PSDF forces within their area.

SECTION III. SUPPLY.

4. Allocations.

The total number of weapons to be issued to the PSDF is specified in the Pacification and Development Plan as one of the national pacification goals by the GVN Central Pacification and Development Council. The plan indicates the number of these weapons allocated to each CTZ. The CTZ commanders determine requirements of their provinces and autonomous cities, based upon the population and the security status in each area. The Ministry of Interior requests the Ministry of Defense to issue the authorized number of weapons to the PSDF and, as part of this request, indicates the time-phasing of the issue based upon the anticipated

availability of the weapons. The Central Logistic Command of the Joint General Staff determines the availability of weapons and authorizes the area logistic commands to issue a specified number of weapons to each province A&DSL company. During 1969, PSDF weapons are being allocated by CLC in 10 monthly allocations. The final month of 1969 is reserved to balance differences and shortages between Corps and provinces. The number of weapons of each type issued to a particular PSDF unit should be determined by the characteristics of the area in which the PSDF will operate. The longer-range weapons (rifles and carbines) are more effective in rural areas while shotguns have greatest utility in urban areas. When deemed appropriate by the CTZ Commander, certain numbers of Thompson sub-machine guns may be issued in lieu of other types of weapons. In practice, however, the ratio of the weapons actually in the hands of the PSDF during the beginning of the weapons issue period will be determined by the number of each type turned in as a result of the RF and PF modernization program. Redistribution of weapons to achieve a desirable mix of long and short-range types will not be attempted until all weapons authorized have been issued.

5. Authorized Weapons.

The PSDF are authorized the following weapons and accessories:

a. AUTHORIZED WEAPONS, BASIC LOADS, AND ACCESSORIES.

<u>WEAPONS</u>	<u>BASIC LOAD</u>	<u>MAGAZINE</u>	<u>OILER</u>	<u>SLING</u>	<u>AMMO BELT</u>
* M2 Carbine*	180	3 ea (30rd)	1	1	1
* M1 Carbine	90	3 ea (15rd)	1	1	1
* M1 Rifle	120	-	-	1	1
* Thompson SMG	225	4 ea (**)	-	1	1
* Shotgun	25	-	-	1	1

* The M2 Carbine (when available) will be issued to leaders.

** If available (usually only 2 are issued).

The M1 Rifle and SMG will be utilized as substitutes when the desired item is not available. Pistols issued to former RD youths who have been assimilated into the PSDF are retained and are planned for issue to PSDF cadre.

6. Ammunition.

Ammunition is allocated to the PSDF in terms of a specified number of rounds for each authorized weapon. Province SM&DSL Companies are to requisition ammunition based on numbers and types of weapons on hand in the PSDF that they support. This ammunition is provided through GVN logistical channels. Province Chiefs currently have responsibility to determine how much of this ammunition will be retained in the SM&DSL Company and how much will be on hand with the PSDF unit. When ammunition is expended in a combat action, the village chief should send a requisition at once to the District Chief. If the District Chief does not have ammunition available for resupply he will forward the requisition promptly to the Province Chief. The SM&DSL Company will then replenish the basic load. Additional ammunition to support refresher training is available from supporting SM&DSL Companies. Once follow-up training is scheduled, the approved training schedule is authority for the SM&DSL Company to issue ammunition in the amount requested. The schedule must specify the number of members to fire and the type weapons to be fired.

SECTION IV. MAINTENANCE.

7. Maintenance Procedures.

First echelon weapons maintenance will be performed by individual PSDF members under supervision of their team leaders. Weapons cleaning materials are provided from the SM&DSL Company when requisitioned by the village chief. Weapons requiring second or higher echelon of maintenance will be turned in through the district to the supporting SM&DSL Company, which has 2nd echelon maintenance capability. Weapons accountability will be retained by the village unless the weapon is turned in by the SM&DSL Company to the direct support units of the area logistical command. Limited maintenance floats are maintained at the SM&DSL Company although specific floats have not been authorized for weapons peculiar to the PSDF. Second echelon maintenance of weapons from Saigon PSDF must be performed at the depots from which the weapons were drawn. SM&DSL Companies have been directed to organize classes on first echelon maintenance for the members of the PSDF. They were also directed to compute and requisition adequate maintenance supplies for weapons which they support and to distribute these supplies to using units. Cleaning rods are authorized on the basis of one for each 10 weapons. Other cleaning materials such as oil, patches, bore brushes,

etc., may be requisitioned from the SM&DSL Companies as required. IT IS OF THE GREATEST IMPORTANCE FOR THE PSDF MEMBERS TO KEEP THEIR WEAPONS CLEAN AND IN GOOD OPERATING CONDITION. THEIR LIVES AND THOSE OF THEIR FAMILY MAY DEFEND UPON THE CONDITION OF THEIR WEAPON.

CHAPTER 7

COMMUNITY ACTION

SECTION I. GENERAL.

1. Scope.

The members of the Peoples Self-Defense Force participate as a peoples group in the village self development program. Each member of PSDF and his family can receive many direct benefits through participation in this peoples program. One of the primary missions of the PSDF is to take the initiative in the development of community and mutual services and to assist, as a group, in developing hamlets and villages. As a peoples group they assist in the selection and forwarding of projects by providing membership on the village management board and by assisting all of the people in carrying out self-development projects. What is of benefit to the village is of benefit to the PSDF member and his family.

SECTION II. THE VILLAGE SELF-DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

2. Genral.

Through the village self development program the people can express their desires for projects of their own choosing. The people choose the projects that they feel the community needs. To carry these projects out requires organization, and the PSDF is an organization through which the projects can be completed. Since the PSDF is a peoples organization it develops community spirit. Government assistance is provided when it is required but only after the people have planned the projects and organized to carry them out when approved. The following sections explain how the PSDF can help to implement projects which the people want.

3. Implementation.

- a. The responsible echelon in the self-development program is the village; the agency for carrying out the program is the village management board. This board is the executive agency or the operating arm of the village peoples council.
- b. The village management board is established at a

village assembly organized by the village administrative committee and implements the projects after they have been approved by the village peoples council or higher authorities.

- c. Projects are selected by the people in meetings and discussions organized by the hamlet officials supported by the PSDF, RD Cadre and Popular Forces, if assigned. An attempt is made to select projects which will provide the greatest benefit to the largest number of people. The people participate in family or common-interest groups and projects representing the desires of each group are forwarded to the hamlet administrative committee. Upon receipt of the proposed projects the hamlet administrative committee convenes a meeting of notables, PSDF and group representatives to classify the projects into funding categories, determine priorities and to encourage combination of related projects. A list of projects classified by categories and priorities is transmitted to village authorities for further consideration.
- d. A general assembly is called by the village administrative committee to discuss the projects which is attended by the general populace as observers and by village authorities, hamlet chiefs and representatives of PSDF, notables, RD Cadre and various peoples groups as participants. A village management board is appointed and projects discussed. The village peoples council may approve certain categories of projects and forward them directly to the management board for execution. However, other categories will require approval by provincial authorities and in some cases implementation by province technical services.

4. Funding.

The village self-development program is supported by funds supplied to the provinces by the Ministry of Revolutionary Development. Upon completion of training of the village officials who will be involved in the program, the province pacification and development council will establish funds for the villages in the amount of VN\$400,000 for support of projects costing under VN\$150,000. Each village which has held an election is allocated an additional funding of VN\$600,000 for implementing category II projects. Expenditure of these funds is governed by exis-

ting RD financial procedures.

5. Contributions by the People.

The people should be encouraged to make the maximum contribution possible.

6. PSDF Group Projects.

The PSDF, as a peoples group, can have cooperative projects which they mutually agree upon. For example, the group might undertake to raise pigs and devote the money from the sale of the pigs to helping the hamlet school or dispensary or for a contribution to the village self-development program. Another project would be the raising of chickens. In some places it would be possible to establish a community fishpond. The members of PSDF can undoubtedly think of many projects in which they could join together for the benefit of all concerned.

SECTION III. CIVIC ACTION.

7. Scope.

Military civic action is the use of available RVNAF and US/FWMAF personnel and resources on projects which are beneficial to the local population, contribute to the economic and social development of the area, and serve to improve the standing of the military force with the population. Civic action not only attempts to satisfy the needs and aspirations of the local populace but also attempts to gain their support of the military units operating in their area.

8. Policies.

Civic action will be undertaken by military units as permitted by operational requirements and within personnel and resource capabilities. Civic action activities will not jeopardize the military mission and security or commit resources required for military operations. Civic action activities complement and supplement, but do not compete with the programs of the GVN. The projects must fill an important local need, significantly benefit a majority of the people, and the people must have the capability to participate in the accomplishment and maintenance of the projects. To the maximum extent possible the local population should contribute labor, commodities and goods.

9. Implementation.

The PSDF can be utilized to contact and organize the people for selection of the projects and as an organized group available to guide the people in their accomplishment of the projects. All civic action projects undertaken will be coordinated with local officials, i.e. hamlet and village, and approved by the province chief or mayor of an autonomous city through the province or city senior advisor to insure that there is no duplication of effort. Selection of the projects can utilize the same procedures followed by the hamlet and village under the village self-development plan.

SECTION IV. VOLUNTARY AGENCIES.

10. Employment.

There are a number of voluntary agencies operating in South Vietnam whose programs are available to provide support to needy PSDF members and their families or survivors. However, beneficiaries of these programs are selected on the basis of need. Care should be taken not to cast these programs in the role of being used to reward individuals for service in the PSDF program.

SECTION V. POPULAR POLITICAL MOBILIZATION.

11. Scope.

The PSDF must take part in the Popular Political Mobilization efforts of the government. The PSDF are important and respected members of the hamlet by virtue of having been given the responsibility to bear arms and provide protection against the enemy. It is necessary to protect the people against the enemy's political program as well as his military threats.

12. Implementation.

- a. To carry out their duties in the political field, the PSDF must designate a certain number of individuals in each PSDF group (Doan) as the motivation element. The duties of the motivation element (Toan), comprised of from six to 15 members, are to act as liaison with the village information cadre. By frequent contact with the information cadre, the members can keep current on GVN policies and news that affect the hamlet and village.

In addition to receiving guidance from the information cadre, the members assigned this duty must make a practice of listening to the local radio or radio Saigon on their personal radios to further keep informed. Each member of this popular political mobilization element will be assigned the responsibility for a number of inter-family groups (Lien Gia). The individual PSDF members must maintain regular and frequent contact with the inter-family leaders (Lien Gia Truong). He must discuss and pass on information about the Government's policies and programs.

- b. In addition to personal discussions with the population as described, each member is responsible for assisting the village information cadre to distribute magazines, posters, and other such printed material to keep the people of their hamlet well informed.
- c. PSDF members must help provide security for public TV sites and other entertainment programs such as movies and music drama presentations. The motivation element is specifically charged to inform each family of the hamlet when entertainment, people's discussions, or other such meetings are to be held.