

SPECIAL REPORT  
on the  
HONDURAS CUERPO ESPECIAL SEGURIDAD  
RADIO MAINTENANCE CENTER

March 31, 1971

SPECIAL REPORT ON THE HONDURAS CUERPO ESPECIAL SEGURIDAD  
(CES) RADIO MAINTENANCE CENTER

This report presents general findings and recommendations relating to the operation of the Special Security Corps Radio Maintenance Center in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. The review of the Radio Maintenance Center was conducted March 4 through 10, 1971, during the CAP Telecommunications System Review by Mr. Albert W. Carpenter of the Technical Services Division, Office of Public Safety.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

1. The Radio Maintenance Center has one technician (although three low salaried technician positions are authorized). He is not qualified to perform the repairs required.
2. The Radio Maintenance Center lacks organization, direction and adequate qualified personnel to service USAID supplied equipment.
3. The new General Electric equipment supplied by US AID for the Highway Patrol (PIO/C 5-00026) is presently being installed under contract by the local Motorola dealer. The contract does not include follow-on maintenance. The Radio Maintenance Center will have the responsibility to maintain this system but is not capable of performing the necessary basic services.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Police should consolidate the three low salaried technician positions into one position with a higher salary to attract a competent technician. The position should be filled on a competitive basis to secure the best possible technician.
2. A system for the supply, control and utilization of spare parts should be set up in the Radio Maintenance Center to assure availability and proper use of needed spare parts.
3. A training program should be established to train all present and prospective Radio Center employees so that continued efficient operations will be assured.
4. A Public Safety Telecommunications Advisor should be assigned to USAID/Honduras for a two year tour to assist the Police in developing a sound maintenance and supply program and in conducting training.
5. If the assignment of a full-time Telecommunications Advisor is not feasible, arrangements should be made to assist the Police through a series of frequent TDY assignments. The initial TDY assignment should be of about 15 days in length to complete the selection and hiring of a competent technician and the establishment of spare parts inventory and reorder procedures.

## DISCUSSION

Presently the Special Security Corps has a communications section which is charged with the responsibility for the maintenance of all communications equipment for the National Police throughout Honduras. This communications section has positions for one officer and three technicians. Currently the officer position is being filled by Lt. Santos Valdemar, a former civilian technician promoted to Police Lieutenant. Only one of the other three technicians positions is currently filled by an individual with rather dubious technical qualifications. This technician was observed during this TDY period and it was determined that he was not sufficiently qualified to perform the necessary repairs required by the National Police.

It appears that Lt. Valdemar, since assuming officer status, has more or less divorced himself from actual maintenance technical work, thereby leaving the Radio Maintenance Center without a qualified technician.

The problem of obtaining qualified technicians stems primarily from the fact that the pay scales are not sufficient enough to attract competent personnel. Those technicians applying to the police for jobs are often rejects from private industry. A logical solution to this situation would be for the police to consolidate these three technician positions into one which would pay

a salary sufficient enough to attract a competent technician. Then the police should actively recruit to fill this position on a competitive basis to ensure that the correct technician is hired. The Minister of Defense and Public Security agreed, in principle, to this proposal during the writer's TDY.

The Radio Maintenance Center is an absolute shambles. Many thousands of dollars of AID supplied communications equipment are being cannibalized for spare parts or are deadlined because of lack of skills required to effect repair. No supply system exists for the proper control and utilization of spare parts and equipment. Rather than order and stock the proper spare parts required for the maintenance of the radio equipment, the common practice is, as long as the sets last, to cut the required part out of a deadlined set. However, this practice cannot go on indefinitely. Sooner or later the repair shop will run out of parts in available sets.

The new General Electric VHF-FM base station, repeater station and mobile units ordered for the Highway Patrol under Public Safety PIO/C 5-00026 have arrived in country and are presently in the installation phase.

The local Motorola dealer has been contracted to make all base, repeater and mobile installations for the Highway Patrol System. However, their responsibility for the system

ends upon completion of installation and acceptance by the police. The new radio equipment supplied by Public Safety is at the mercy of the Police Radio Maintenance Center.

The Honduras mission has requested the services of a TDY Public Safety Telecom Advisor for a 60 day period beginning April 26, 1971, to help in the selection of a local technician and the development of a sound maintenance and supply program. However, it is strongly recommended that a Public Safety Telecom Advisor be assigned to Honduras for a two year period to work with the Special Security Corps Radio Maintenance Section in order to establish competent repair capability. This includes all phases of shop organization, administration and training. If the assignment of a full-time Telecom Advisor is not feasible, the requested services of a TDY advisor should be provided. Arrangements for frequent follow-on TDY assignments to assure continuing improvement in the maintenance and supply function should be planned.

Attachment: TDY Recommendation

PROPOSED TELECOMMUNICATIONS ADVISOR TDY SCHEDULE

FIRST TWO WEEK TDY PERIOD

Recommended Date: June 12 through 27, 1971.

Requirements before initial TDY visit:

1. The Government of Honduras must provide sufficient funding to hire a qualified telecommunications technician. Prior to June 12, 1971, several candidates for this position should be selected who can be interviewed by the TDY Advisor upon his arrival. The TDY Advisor, in conjunction with the Minister of Defense and Public Security, would make the final selection of a qualified telecommunications technician from amongst the various candidates.

2. Funds will be required for partitions and minor modifications to the radio repair facility. These modifications are primarily to segregate the repair shop from the supply area and to provide shelving for equipment and spare parts within the supply area.

3. Funds will be required for procurement of Stock Control Cards, Equipment Repair Cards and Equipment Repair Tags.

4. Funds will also be required for a few items of test equipment and a spare parts stock for the communications equipment on hand. It is estimated that \$6,000 will be required for items 3 and 4.

Expected Activities and Accomplishments During TDY Visit:

1. To select a qualified telecommunications technician from amongst the various candidates.
2. To lay out the repair facility to provide separate repair and supply areas.
3. To implement stock control and equipment repair systems.
4. To check out the newly installed Highway Patrol Communications System and to instruct the police technicians in its proper maintenance.
5. To establish test equipment and spare parts requirements and to implement procurement.

SECOND TWO WEEK TDY PERIOD

Recommended Date: December 1971

Requirements before December 1971 TDY Visit:

1. The test equipment and spare parts should be in country prior to the actual arrival of the TDY advisor.

Expected Activities and Accomplishments During TDY Visit:

1. To work with the police radio repair technicians to improve their overall techniques in the repair of radio equipment.
2. To formulate and implement a training program for communications technicians within the National Police.

3. To work with the supply personnel to improve their overall operation in the radio supply area.

THIRD TWO WEEK TDY PERIOD

Recommended Date: June 1972

Requirements before June 1972 TDY Visit:

None

Expected Activities and Accomplishments During TDY Visit:

1. To review and make recommendations on further improvements in the areas of maintenance and supply.
2. To review the previously implemented training program and make recommendations on further improvements.