

Task Force 546 Mission Briefing

July 2, 2004

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I will divide my briefings into 3 sections.

First... a rough history of the Hmong community at Tham Krabok.

Secondly ... The structure and organization of Task Force 546. Its Missions and Projects.

Thirdly ... Hong Resettlement to the U.S. Processing Procedures

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1. History of Hmong TKB

1.1 History of Hmong TKB.

TKB Monastery is located in Phraputtabat district, Saraburi province. It covers an area of about 133 Acres.

It is divided into 3 sections :

1. The first section involves the monastery which covers an area of an approximate 24 acres.
2. The second section involves the inhabitants' residences which covers an area of an approximate 16 acres.
3. The third section involves the Hmong community itself which covers an area of 93 acres.

In 1957, TKB Monastery was established by a monk called "หลวงปู่ทอง" ^{chief of Hmong do-am pavi - ye}

That time Monk "หลวงปู่ทอง" 's ambition was to provide drug rehabilitation and treatment to drug addicts.

In 1959 Thai government prohibited the sale of opium in the country. Drug addicts who wanted to join drug rehab programs were invited to visit TKB. Most of the drug addicts were from Northern Thailand. A lot of the drug addicts returned home after the treatment.

In 1977, Mr. Pracha Kosa brought several Hmong families to reside at TKB. From then on, Hmong communities from in and outside Thailand began flocking into the ground of TKB.

From 1991 to 1993, the Thai government announced the closure of Laotian refugee camps in Thailand. They are camps located in the provinces of Phayao, Lio and Nakon Phanom. The Thai government instructed the closure of these camps because refugees coming from the 'said' camps had been infiltrating into various parts of Northern Thailand and TKB as well.

An overview of policy, security, health and community issues (2004)

1.2 Four Categories of Hmong Community at TKB Monastery

- **Category 1.** The Hmong individual who had dedicated his efforts to the Thai government in the early days. These Hmong individuals had assisted the Thai army in suppressing the Laotian Communists along the Thai border during the Cold War era. On 4 March 2003, the Thai government gave 'special migrating' status to this category of Hmongs. Children born from Hmong individuals in this category were granted Thai citizenship. This category has 140 families and its population 1,316 persons.

- **Category 2 :** Thai hill tribesmen : There are only 52 persons residing with the Hmong community.

- **Category 3 :** The Hmong - Laos Refugee . On 4 March 2003 the Thai government approved this category temporary stay on Thai soil before repatriating them back to their homeland. This category has 1,468 families and its population 13,724 persons.

Category 4 : Thai- Hmong and Business-Interest groups who make a living inside TKB monastery. This category has 165 families its population 1,362 persons.

Conclusion :

There are a total of 1,740 families, with a total population of 15, 282 persons.

The Hmong Community at TKB is divided into 4 sections / villages. Each section has a village head.

The 4 sections/villages are namely : Ban Lantrakai , - Ban Bonkoaw, - Ban Lanhin and Ban Mai.

The Hmong way of life consists of the following :

- 10 percent of the population is involved in small businesses.
- 10 percent in needlework and handicrafts.
- 40 percent are unemployed; however some receive financial support from third countries.
- 40 percent are involved in labor work outside of Tham Krabok. These laborers consist of 300 to 400 Hmong individuals work outside per day. They work ranging from construction sites, to cement firms to plantation fields.

The ratio of new born babies is 2.5 persons per day while the ratio of deaths is 1 person per day.

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2. Organization , Mission and Projects

2.1 Organization : Task Force 546 is a joint coalition force. SWC is the core unit that comprises Task Force 546 with a strength of 176 men. In addition, the unit also comprises 42 men from the Thai government agencies including consultants, co-operation staff members, database team, public health service unit and anti-riot police.

2.2 Mission : To control and restore order within the Hmong Community at TKB; To prepare repatriation or relocation programs, or hand over to the next responsible unit; To prevent and suppress possible drug activities within the grounds of TKB.

2.3 Projects : Currently there are 7 activities in process. They are :

- Intelligence.
- Counter Drugs.
- Psychology and Public Relations.
- Survey and data base / profiling each Hmong individual.
- Restoring Order in the community.
- Maintain Security.
- Public Health Service.

Since April 1, 2003, Task Force 546 had accomplished the following tasks :
They are :

- **Counter drug plan** : A campaign to prevent drug smuggling and activities. The Psychology Operation Team provides assistance and advices to the Hmong Community about the harmful side of drug use. The team has encouraged many Hmong individuals to get involved with sports to counter the desire for drugs.

Seventy-seven drug addicts were sent to rehab center at TKB Monastery. Two drug dealers were arrested. 15,000 Amphetamine pills were seized and sent to the Office of Narcotics Control Board. Currently, drug activities have been minimized.

- **Intelligence** : Task Force 546 keeps tracks of the daily lives of Hmong individuals residing at TKB. Task Force 546 keeps tracks of the number of entrances and exits at TKB; investigates people with business interests at the community, all which may affect national Security.

- **Psychology and Public Relations Campaign** : Task Force 546 conducts announcements, broadcasting, news bulletins, cut-out advertisements in the Hmong Community. There are four public opinion boxes installed in the four villages. Until now, Task Force 546 had received more than 2,500 letters. In this way, we can evaluate their behavior, their wants and needs. Task Force 546 also participate in various Hmong festivities so as to build good spirits amongst the Hmong community.

- **Survey and Data base Process / Community Profile Plan** : It took four months for us to compile profile details from 1,740 families with a population of about 15,282 persons (male 7,738 and female 7,544). We have also pictures and photos of Hmong individuals and families in our database.

- **Control and restoring order Plan** : In the past , TKB monastery was an open area. There were no restrictions placed in the entrance and exit areas. People tend to look for business interests from the Hmong community.

April 1, 2003 when the Task Force 546 was deployed into the grounds of TKB, we then controlled the entrance and exit areas of TKB to ensure social order in that area.

There are four criterions involving the entrance/exit of TKB :

-Distributions of temporary Identification cards :

- **Green ID cards.** These are for Hmong individuals under Category One. These people once assisted Thai government in fighting off the spread of communism during the Cold War Era.

- **Red ID cards.** These are for Hmong individuals under Category 3, whom the Thai government refer to as illegal immigrants.

- **Blue ID cards.** These are for Hmong individuals under Category 4 who have business interests in the Hmong community.

- For 2nd Hmong category who were Thai hilltribe minority group they has Green with red corner ID card that were issued by Department of Local Administration and by the law they can't stay inside the Hmong TKB community.

- Monitor the Enterings – Exits within Hmong community

The criterion are as follows : 4 checkpoints (1 canceled) have been installed surrounding the Hmong Community. Entrances / exits of a limit of 1000 persons per day. Exchange of ID cards at entrance/exit points from 0800 – 1800 (Times beyond 0800 – 1800 will be exceptional only in emergencies. Transportation provided as well.) Employers will have to advise Task Force 546 at least one day ahead the type of job and figures offered to the Hmong individuals.

Employers will have to abide by the regulation of picking up Hmong labourers at TKB at 6 am and returning them before 6 pm.

Barbed wire fences have been installed separating the Hmong villages and the monastery , prohibited the illegal and unhealthy activities, example gambling , snooker club inside community.

Task Force 546 has captured 24 Laotian illegal immigrants and sent them over to the police station. Task Force 546 inspects the drug abuses and illegal activities by using both military personnel and trained dogs.

Trains and advises village leaders in taking care of their community.

Task Force 546 initiated the “Hmong Life Development Project” to cultivate quality of life and a positive attitude as well as being a good citizen before resettlement process takes place.

Maintain Peace: It combines a group of patrol team comprising of Hmong individuals and soldiers to ensure safety and peace in the village.

Public Health Service Plan : The group comprises staffs from the Task Force and Public Health Officers to prevent the spread of communicable diseases. Already 500 Hmong children had been given polio prevention treatment.

3. TKB Monastery Security System

1. GENERAL : Task Force 546 provides two types of securities to the Hmong Community :

- **Outside community security :** the installments of 3 checkpoints surrounding TKB as a means to monitor activities circling the area. Task Force 546 has a 24-hour patrol team working in shifts.

- **Inside community security :** There are 4 detachment teams that go into the four villages to collect information everyday during the day. The other two teams taking care the registration processing site.

During the night time, patrol teams comprising of the task force staffs and Hmong individuals patrols routinely to ensure safety.

4. Hmong Resettlement to the U.S.

The Hmong resettlement program have 7 steps. They are consists of...

4.1 The Provision of information about the program or the public relation of this project plan . This step was started from the middle of December , 2003

4.2 The registration and drug examination.

UNHCR was started registration from the 19th February ,2004 and ending on 8th May ,2004. There were 3,334 Hmong families registered and the total is 15,550 persons and in this number there were the Hmong who has the age over 14 years old were checked for the drug examination.

4.3 Interviewing by the US embassy RRU officer. They were prescreening to obtain more information about the Hmong's family and personal history. This step was started on 15th March until 30th June 2004 , there are 3,303 families, 15,504 peoples in this procession by the embassy officer. They are 34%(5,067) would like to go CA, 33%(4,883) MN, 21%(3,101) WI ,2%(338) NC.

4.4 IOM Physical examination and Finger Prints.

- **Physical examination .This step was started on 29th March until the 15th June 2004 , the Hmong people who have the age over 14 years old , joining this procession by lung X-ray 4,756 persons and were vaccinated 15,274 persons and 7,685 drug test and found 8 persons have positive test .**

- **Finger Prints.** This steps was started on 27 April until 25 June 2004 the IOM has finished 3,082 persons

4.5 U.S.DHS Interview. This step was starting interview for admission since 27th April until now, there were approved 8,418 peoples and no one got rejected.

4.6 IOM Cultural Orientation. The Hmong who got approved by DHS have to take one week / 25 hours for joint basic orientation before flying to U.S.A. by IOM staffs. This step was started on 17 May until now, the IOM had trained for 6 class , the total number is 482 persons.

4.7 IOM movement to the U.S.

On the 16th , 21st , 25th , 28th , 29 June 2004 , the IOM has sent 141 Hmong people went to U.S.

The movement plan to U.S.A.

on July 2004 – The IOM has plan to send 739 Hmong people to the U.S.

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May I take Your Questions Now ?

*Presentation July 2004 to 21
 Fulbright Hays Seminar Educators
 from Wisconsin USA*