

SPEECH BY ALAIN PERIGAUD
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TO THE LOGISTICAL TRAINING COURSE
IN PHNOM PENH, 22 May 2003

Colonel Cham Kim Seng, representative of the Ministry of Interior,
Colonel xxxx Police Commissioner in Province,
Police Officers,
Honourable guests,
Trainers and trainees,
Representatives of the press and media

After the Opening ceremony chaired by Lt General*** NETH SAVOEUN last Tuesday 20 May 2003, during which Mr. David de BEER EU ASAC officially gave the equipment to support the National Police and the 3 Police Commissariats of Phnom Penh, Kandal and Kampong Speu in a better management of weapons, I am very pleased to spend some time with you this morning and speak about the 2003 Police Pilot Project.

From 2000 field researches in the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces and the National Police have revealed that weapons and ammunition are stored under deplorable conditions. Reports and photographs show thousands of weapons in haphazard, unsafe and insecure conditions all over the country.

The Feasibility Study conducted by EU ASAC in 2002 demonstrated that weapons under the control of the National Police are often piled up inside wooden depots, which are mostly unguarded and easily accessible for unauthorised persons and therefore easily be stolen. The result is an enormous safety issue everywhere, strengthened by absence of adequate records, and mixing of weapons and explosives of all types often next to occupied offices and living quarters.

In March 2003, an agreement of co-operation has been signed by the General Director of the National Police and the EU ASAC Programme Manager. In this agreement, it has been planned to implement a Pilot Project in the three Provinces of Phnom Penh, Kandal and Kampong Speu.

From the field researches, EU ASAC has imagined a comprehensive project built on 3 main components:

1. Implementation of the weapons and ammunition registration system,
2. Training of personnel,
3. Construction or improvement of weapons and ammunition stores.

1. Implementation of the weapons registration system:

The main idea is: it is impossible to manage weapons without a complete registration. In each Inspection Post, in each District Post, Police Post, in each Provincial Police Commissariat, all the duty weapons must be registered.

This registration process must be conducted from the basis to the top. From now, that means that no weapon can be kept without any registration in the system. After this process, any weapon not yet registered should be considered as an illegal weapon, and confiscated, according to the Sub decree 38.

During the 2003 Pilot Project, the three Provincial Police Commissariats of Phnom Penh, Kandal and Kampong Speu will organise and monitor the manual registration of all weapons under their responsibility.

This process will be explained and prepared by Colonels Cham Kim Seng and Team Bun Seng from MOI in co-operation and supported by EU ASAC. At the end of the Pilot Project, each of the 3 Provincial Police Commissariats will register the results of this manual registration in a special data base. Each Provincial Police Commissariat will receive copier and computer sets for a better control of this registration. This equipment will be delivered and installed in your places at a short notice.

According to strengthen the control at the national level, the Direction of the National Police will be also equipped with this computerized system. The Department of Arms control and explosives commanded by Gal* Ouk Kim Lek will receive the computerized information from each Provincial Police Commissariat. At the beginning, there is no network. The transmission and update of the data base will be done with zip drives.

The special data base fabricated by a private firm will be the property of the Ministry of Interior. This software, evolution of the software already provided to the Ministry of National Defence, will concern the weapons in stores but also the weapons in service in the different Police posts.

All security measures like passwords, anti virus and conservation of the information will be under control of the Department of Arms control and explosives.

2. Training of personnel:

This component is an important part of the project. There are two kind of training of personnel: training course at a national level and training courses at a provincial level.

2.1. National level courses:

The national level courses concern the high level ranking officers, working in the Ministry or the Directorate of the National Police. In the future, if this project is extended, all participants will be invited again to attend. It also concerns some high ranking, representative from the 3 Provincial Police Commissariats.

Three national courses will be or were organized within in the Pilot Project:

2.1.1. Information days: the objective of the 2 information days organized by the Ministry of Interior the 8 and 9 April was:

- to give the Direction of the National Police the opportunity to deliver orders and recommendations about the management of weapons,
- to give the main responsible of the Provincial Police Commissariats a yearly occasion to improve their knowledge about the management of weapons,
- to keep contact with the national responsible.

2.1.2. Logistical training course: I consider this 10 days session as the heart of the Project. From 20 to 30 May 2003 it will be conducted by officers from the Direction of the National Police. During this centralized course, the Provincial Staff in charge of weapons management came from the three provinces of Phnom Penh, Kandal and Kampong Speu to receive a training course. After this session, these staffs will return to their respective province to monitor the manual registration process.

2.1.3. The computer training course: next week, this 10 days training session will be conducted by a private firm in Phnom Penh. 2 people from the Direction of National Police, 2 from each of the three Provincial Police Commissariat of Phnom Penh, Kandal and Kampong Speu will be trained on the special software fabricated by this private company. In the coming years, if this Project is extended, these staffs will participate every year in this training session. In this event, and for a better efficiency, it is essential that the trained people on the special software remain at their position.

2.2. Provincial level courses:

The Provincial level courses concern the officers in charge of the management of weapons of all Inspection, Districts or Police posts under the command of the Provincial Police Commissioner.

2.2.1. For a better comprehension and implementation of the Pilot Project, a 2 information days session were organized by the Direction of National Police in each of the 3 Provincial Police Commissariat. The 24 and 25 April in Phnom Penh Police Commissariat, the 28 and 29 April in Kandal Police Commissariat, and the 5 and 6 May in Kampong Speu Police Commissariat.

2.2.2. A manual registration session, following the national logistical session will be monitored in each of the three Provinces of Phnom Penh, Kandal and Kampong Speu. The results of this session will be computerized into the software.

3. Construction or improvement of weapons and ammunition stores:

This the most visible part of the Project. All the weapons, not immediately needed for the security must be stored.

At a Provincial Police Commissariat level, a small depot containing between 1000 and 1500 weapons will be built. In these depots, the reserve weapons will be stored and secured.

A big building will be built in the national reserve of Preak Pra. More than 7000 weapons can be stored in this location.

In all warehouses, the weapons will be properly stored and registered into the software.

All Inspection, Districts, and Police posts of the three Provinces of Phnom Penh, Kandal and Kampong Speu will also be equipped with racks for duty weapons.

The contracts concerning these constructions have already been signed, and the works started the 21 April 2003.

I know already that the construction is running normally.

CONCLUSION:

The Pilot Project started 1 April 2003 and will be finished in September 2003. In this Project, EU ASAC will support the National Police to store only weapons in working condition. After the completion of the manual registration, a consequent number of weapons must be destroyed at the occasion of a public and official handover ceremony to be held in Phnom Penh area.

The lessons from this Pilot will be gathered in a book. A first document on the management of weapons within the Cambodian National Police forces will be printed in 200 copies with the support of EU ASAC.

The general lessons of the Pilot Project will be reported to Brussels end 2003. The quality of the work done this year, the efficiency of the joint co-operation between EU ASAC and the National Police will strongly influence the European Union for a possible extension of this project. In this view, the Ministry of Interior, the General Direction of the National Police and EU ASAC are expecting a full co operation from all staff from Kampong Speu Police Commissariat, and subordinated Police units.

I am now ready to answer any question, I thank you for the organization of this workshop, for your participation, and for your attention.