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Chief, Communications Operations Division

Chief, Communications Training Branch

Training Branch History, Calendar Year 1951

100452  
10 April 1952

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Submitted herewith is a historical activities report of Communications Training Branch as compiled by [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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ANNUAL REPORT  
COMMUNICATIONS TRAINING BRANCH  
1951

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Introduction:

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This report will summarize the program of the Communications Training Branch in fulfilling its mission of providing proper and adequate communications training to appropriate personnel. The scope of this report will cover such items as the development of the [REDACTED] and the concurrent reorganization of the branch; the establishment and growth of the uncleared training pool; the shift in covert training from singletons to project personnel and associated projects; the exploration and initiation of contracted training programs with private firms; the revision of courses to keep abreast of all developments; and the continually recurrent problem of personnel turnover.

Progress and steady improvement will be noted; but room for further development and improvement is apparent. The real achievements of this Branch cannot be substantiated by the medium of a report, but rather are dependent upon the quality of the product. Reorganization and planning are worse than useless if the quality of the product does not meet the requirements of the user.

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Uncleared Training Pool:

One of the personnel problems involved in recruiting personnel has been the time lag between interview and entry onto duty imposed by time involved or security clearance. This problem has had two aspects: (1) the loss of potential employees to other jobs during this waiting period and (2) the additional delay in getting the man to his assignment after he has been hired. Other components of the Agency had overcome this obstacle by establishing holding pools - a device for bringing personnel on duty and giving them useful instruction pertaining to their ultimate assignment. The subject matter of these established pools were of little or no value to communications personnel, so a Communications Uncleared Pool was begun.

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25X1A This pool originally served solely as a holding area for radio operators from the time of their entry onto duty until they received a provisional clearance permitting their transfer to [REDACTED]

25X1A6a On this basis, the pool was set up to provide code training and was supplied appropriate equipment. By means of the pool and a provisional clearance for the [REDACTED] it was possible to give radio operators three months of useful training prior to their full clearance.

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Gradually, this pool became utilized for personnel other than radio operators. The curricula offered became more formalized and varied to meet these new requirements. At the time of this report, non-classified courses are being offered in radio operating, radio theory, cryptography, teletype operating and typing.

25X1A9a During the year, the pool was supervised by temporarily assigned personnel, frequently students, due to a lack of personnel within the Training Branch. Especial mention should be made of the activities of Messrs. [REDACTED] (resigned),

25X1A9a [REDACTED] in assisting in the development of a formalized curricula. It is planned to permanently assign a member of the Training Branch to supervise the function during 1952 and to formally establish the Uncleared Training Pool as Training Section No. 4.

Contract Training Programs:

It was realized that the facilities of the Training Branch were not adequate for the large-scale training that would be necessary in the event of whole-scale hostilities. Training Branch was authorized, therefore, to establish contact with various commercial radio schools with a view to ascertaining the capabilities of these institutions and of developing a pilot program with one or more schools. Accordingly preliminary contacts have been made with the [REDACTED]

25X1A5a1 [REDACTED] and the  
25X1A5a1 Technical Representative Division of the [REDACTED]. A contract was negotiated [REDACTED] to begin 14 January 1952 establishing a training program for 20 students. Under terms of this contract, [REDACTED] made available for interview and screening by this Agency some 50 individuals. A screening of the records of these persons reduced the number to 25 and personal interviews eliminated 6 of the remaining candidates. Discussions with the other two organizations have been purely exploratory thus far.

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Miscellaneous:

A survey was made of training films available and lists of such films have been distributed to members of the domestic training staff. A catalogue of such films will be distributed to the overseas areas in 1952.

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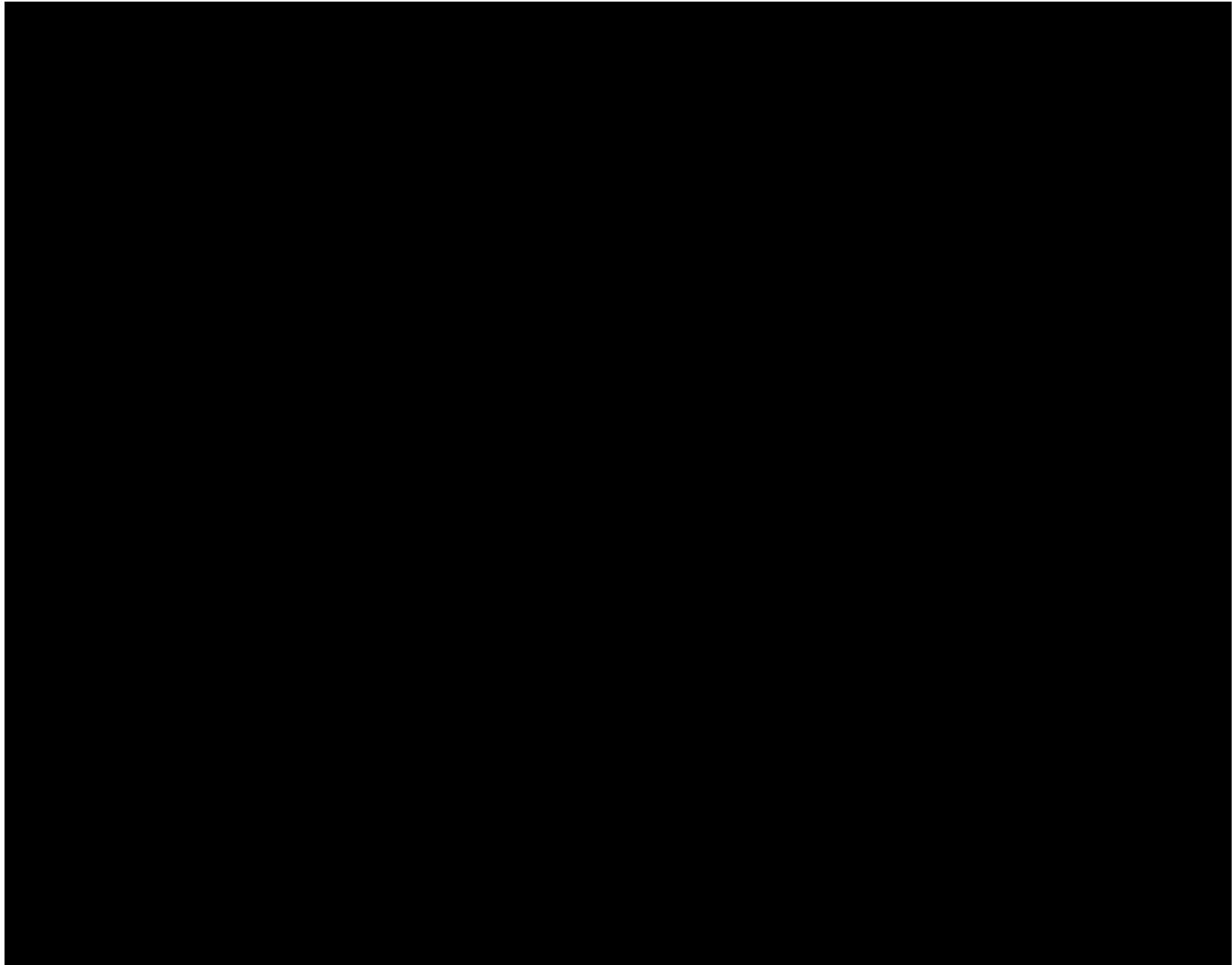
The Area Training Branch requested Communications Training support for the paramilitary program conducted [REDACTED]. Such support consisted of providing a 40 hour briefing in radio and cryptography approximately four times during the year. In September, the ATB indicated they would move their training location [REDACTED] and requested full-time support from the Communications Training Branch. Accordingly, a building plan was forwarded to ATB, a training curriculum planned, and a Table of Organization forwarded for approval to support this requirement. The program [REDACTED] is expected to activate approximately 1 June 1952.

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A document on clandestine communications training was prepared for distribution to the field. It is envisaged that this document will serve as a guide, particularly for those areas initiating new training programs. A similar document, written by the Luca Training Section, served as the basis for this document.

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