Armed Forces Assistance to German Youth Activities

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THE USFET directive of Oct. 5, 1946 concerning the Army Assistance Program to German Youth Activities, has literally been to all GYA personnel the bible which provided the how, why, when and where of the GYA program. Although the GYA program was first set up on a zone-wide trial basis by a directive of April 1946, the Oct. 5 directive actually initiated GYA as it is now known.

In the two years since the issuance of our bible, many new testaments, chapters and verses have been added. These have been necessitated by trial and error, by changing conditions in organization and mission throughout the command and by various clarifications in the relationship between GYA and Military Government. Because of these numerous changes, and prodded by the new roles which military posts, Constabulary, USAFE, and 1st Division are assuming, we began a detailed study of all GYA documents four months ago.

This study was made with a view to producing a complete new directive incorporating all material pertinent to GYA. The experience of two and a half years was utilized in order to produce a sound, workable document which should not require frequent or drastic changes in the near future. Old-time GYA officers and MG officials were consulted in order not to produce a directive that, while beautiful to contemplate in EUCOM Headquarters, was unworkable in the field.

The basic structure of the Oct. 5 directive still stands. It may be somewhat weather-beaten, but it has proved to be sound and workable.

The new directive is divided into two parts. All major policies and provisions are represented in this first portion but are somewhat abbreviated when compared with the Oct. 5 directive. The second portion consists of five annexes which go into detail on the various subjects treated in the directive proper.

The first major change is in the official name for cooperation with GYA—it is now The Armed Forces Assistance Program to German Youth Activities. The Air Forces have a vital part in the assistance program and have in the past carried a large burden of the load. It is only right that this joint program of the two forces be properly named. And by the way, if the Navy personnel in Bremerhaven become interested in the program, so much the better. It will then be truly an Armed Forces Assistance Program.

The second major change has to do with the types of youth to be assisted.

The previous requirement that priority of Armed Forces assistance be given to organized, approved groups, has been eliminated. The most important reason is based on repeated and substantial claims from the field that organized groups did not respond as well to the efforts of the Armed Forces as did individual youth and unorganized groups.

Another important reason for the change is the fact that many hundreds of thousands of young people who need help badly, have no intention of joining organized groups. The lessons learned from the Hitler Youth and the Association of German Girls (BDM) are still too clear to these young people. We feel that this group needs help even more than do the youth in organized groups, since groups make provisions for assisting their members and in many cases are assisted by German governmental agencies.

Our main mission is to assist youth. If in one community unorganized youth need help most, then that is the direction we will bend our efforts. If in another community organized groups need help badly, then this new flexible policy will provide for helping them.

The next major change has to do with responsibility for implementation of GYA. Initially the military community, and later the new-born military post, was a somewhat nebulous and powerless organization. The other major commands, including Constabulary, USAFE, Continental Base Section and several others, held roles of major importance and were therefore given the chief responsibility for GYA.

Later, military posts emerged as major commands and a shift was
made in our policy to coincide with this by dividing GYA responsibility between the military posts and the other major commands. Finally, the pendulum of change swung all the way and we now find the military posts, Bremerhaven Port of Embarkation and USAFE with full geographical responsibility for the entire zone and containing among them the bulk of military strength.

Therefore, in the interests of achieving permanence, stability, and wide-area coverage, we are placing the chief responsibility for all GYA programs in a post area with the commanding officer of the military post, including BPE and in the case of air installations with the commanding general of USAFE. Constabulary and 1st Division responsibility now consists mainly of providing personnel as required by the new directive and in following the program laid down by EUCOM Headquarters and by the post commanders.

CONCERNING the liaison and coordination with Military Government and German agencies, the only change in the original concept of this subject is a definite statement that GYA is not an integral part of the Military Government program for youth reorientation or reeducation but is a separate program operating within MG structure. Formerly, we had conceived GYA to be the implementing agency for Military Government and had fashioned our policies and directives largely along that line. However, the Commander-in-Chief recently clarified the position of GYA and this new statement of policy is incorporated in the directive, as follows:

"The Armed Forces Assistance Program to GYA will operate within the organizational pattern and policy for youth activities established by the Office of Military Government for Germany (US). (See MGR Title 8, Part 7.) It is emphasized that the program is not an integral part of the Military Government program for youth reorientation or reeducation, but is a separate program operating within the Military Government structure."

"However, in order that the Armed Forces Program may conform to this structure and may benefit from the technical skills of Military Government officials, GYA officers will establish and maintain a friendly, close and workable liaison with the following Military Government offices:

1. Youth Activities Section, Education and Cultural Relations Division, OMGUS.


3. Liaison and Security Detachments (MGO's) throughout the US-Occupied Areas of Germany."

PERSONNEL has always been one of GYA's major problems. The program began under an entirely different over-all personnel situation than prevails today. In the beginning we believed it would be possible to provide large numbers of commissioned and enlisted personnel to implement the program. However, it was never possible to provide the numbers specified because of the continually shrinking troop strength in this command.

Our study has indicated that the most logical course which could be charted was to determine the minimum number of American personnel necessary to provide the framework for GYA and to insist that subordinate commanders provide this number. In charting the course of the personnel situation, several other things were taken into consideration.

First, the true strength of GYA rests in the little man—usually the noncommissioned officer who is the final link between German youth and the US Armed Forces. Second, strong major command GYA sections are necessary to provide the over-all planning and take care of administration, budget & fiscal matters, publicity, and other matters which are so important to GYA. Third, a limited amount of supervision and planning is required by commissioned officers in intermediate units such as regiments and battalions. Fourth, WAC officers are extremely important in GYA and have added immeasurably to its success since we brought them into the program.

WITH all these considerations in mind, and with the stark picture of present and contemplated personnel shortages on hand, a section on personnel was drafted which we believe will actually prove to be stronger than that of the Oct. 5 directive and which will assure adequate personnel to keep GYA functioning. The personnel provisions constitute the maximum personnel which can be made available to GYA.

Briefly, these provisions will provide for strong post, BPE and USAFE GYA sections, including a WAC officer in each. In regiments and comparable units and in isolated battalions there will be a primary duty commissioned officer and a full-time NCO; and finally, in units of company strength there will be one full-time NCO.

A word on indigenous personnel. The policies on the hiring and supervision of Germans in GYA which have grown up during the last year, remain largely unaltered. The policy is that it is now required that appropriate German youth officials be consulted on the employment of all indigenous personnel who occupy operating positions in GYA.

In the section dealing with training and orientation of GYA personnel the new directive requires that periodic major command training conferences be held, and that these be reported to EUCOM Headquarters. Formerly, they were encouraged but optional on the part of GYA officers. Observations throughout the commands which have been holding such conferences have proved that they are essential to the proper functioning of the GYA program. For that reason they are mandatory in the future.

SUPPLY, funds and facilities are always of major concern to all connected with GYA. Little change has been made in this general subject. About all that has been done is to incorporate in one document all of the gains which have been made since the issuance of the original directive. In the annex, a detailed explanation of each item is given. Two changes are of interest and value, although they do not present major ones.

First, captured enemy material stocks are eliminated as a source of
Outside Aid Sought For Bizonal Deficit

During the current fiscal year ending June 30, 1949, the Bizonal Area is planning on outside assistance to cover a deficit in its balance of international payments of $1,111,000,000. Part of this deficit amounting to $403,800,000 is to be financed by recommendations on the division of European Recovery Program (ERP) aid made by the Council of the Organization for European Economic Cooperation (OEEC) to the ECA.

These recommendations provided that the Bizonal Area should receive $414,000,000 in direct aid and that its net contribution under the intra-European payments plan should amount to $10,200,000. The revised program for 1948-49 was submitted to be OEEC late in September.

The bizonal program for 1949-50 which was nearing completion at the end of September, showed a deficit of $937,000,000, or about 17 percent less than in 1948-49. The 1949-50 deficit is to be partly financed by ECA funds totaling $32,700,000, a reduction of 19 percent from the 1948-49 amount.

A program for fiscal year 1952-53, the first post-ERP year, was completed during September for presentation to the OEEC. The program estimates the level of economy believed to be required to eliminate the need for outside assistance in order to balance the international payments of the Bizonal Area.

In order to achieve this objective of meeting essential German needs and maximizing exports, industrial output must be increased to 10 percent or more above the 1936 rate. Over-all exports in 1952-53 must be expanded to four times the $666,000,000 planned for the fiscal year 1948-49.

— From Bipartite Section of Military Governor’s Monthly Report No. 39

Interest on Postal Savings

Consideration is being given by officials of the Deutsche Post to the payment of two-percent interest on postal savings accounts in the Bizonal Area. No interest payments have been made on postal savings accounts since the beginning of the occupation.

Permitted and Prohibited Activities

Certain activities which are of a military or para-military nature and which would tend to kindle nationalism, regimentation and preparation for war, are prohibited by MG Regulations. A list of such activities appears below and in the GYA Guide. Further, no uniforms or emblems will be used without the prior approval of the state OMG.

Permissible Activities:

Athletics and Recreation — Bicycling, golf, hiking, mountain climbing, playground ball, baseball, soccer, rowing, canoeing, swimming, skating, sledding, skating, ice-hockey, rugby, football, basketball, handball, volley-ball, badminton, tennis, hockey, track and field events, wrestling, boxing, indoor and outdoor children’s games, dancing, and others of a similar nature.

Cultural, Educational and Community Activities — Dramatics, motion pictures, libraries, singing, bookmobiles, art, discussion groups, conferences, lectures, relationships with American youth, informal instruction classes, publication of local youth papers, correspondence with foreign groups, rubble-clearing projects, leadership training courses, summer camping projects and others of a similar nature.

Vocational Training, Hobbies and Handicraft — Carpentry, sewing, metal work, leather work, weaving, instrument repair, stamp collecting, gardening, and others of a similar nature.

Prohibited Activities:

Aviation, parachute, gliding, fencing, military or para-military drill or display, and shooting with firearms.

NOVEMBER 30, 1948

INFORMATION BULLETIN