

A STUDY OF RECREATION IN THE
UNITED STATES ARMY SERVICE CLUBS

by 6791

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B.S., Alcorn A&M College, 1958

A MASTER'S REPORT

submitted in partial fulfillment of the

requirements for the degree

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Department of Physical Education

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY
Manhattan, Kansas

1971

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Sincere appreciation is expressed to Mr. T. M. Evans, chairman of the Department of Physical Education; and Associate Professor Raymond A. Wauthier of the Department of Physical Education at Kansas State University for their personal and professional advice and their time and effort throughout this study.

The author also wishes to acknowledge her profound indebtedness to her husband, Richard H. Smith, and friend, Jerelyn Booker, whose numerous suggestions and counsel have contributed so greatly to the completion of this report.

INTRODUCTION

Military leaders have long known that an Army's effectiveness is largely dependent on its morale. Obviously, basic necessities must be provided: food, clothing, shelter, pay, and various types of equipment. However, there are varied opinions as to what other things are essential to morale. It is only since World War I that there has been an organized effort to provide guidance for a systematic Army-wide approach to all factors bearing on troop morale. One result of this effort in the Service Club, which provides off-duty recreation and entertainment for military personnel, and under some circumstances, for their dependents. The Service Club is the Army's way of providing its personnel with opportunities for recreation equivalent to those that were available to them in civilian life.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide information and foresight into the recreational phase of the Service Clubs of the U. S. Army. This information will further enhance the knowledge of those seeking a career in military recreation. Moreover, this report seeks to inform those related directly or indirectly to the field of recreation of leisure time activities available in the Army Service Club facilities; consequently broadening their general repertoire in the area of recreation.

This report further seeks to enlighten prospective recreation majors as to the extent of activities available in the Service Clubs, as well as the operation, history, scope and mission so that the prospective recreation specialist may better select a career via his cognizance of offerings in various recreational areas.

METHOD OF STUDY

The information for this report was secured by obtaining requested material from the Recreation Specialists on Army bases throughout the United States and overseas. The information sought was the mission, facilities and operation of service clubs. Responses were received from the following: Okinawa - 4 bases; Germany - 5; Taiwan - 3; United States - 13.

The material was then compiled and presented in this report.

CHAPTER I I

HISTORY OF THE SERVICE CLUB

"It was not until World War I that the need for some type of morale was fully realized in the Army and the first steps were taken toward providing it."¹ With the development of a large citizen - Army in 1917, it became apparent that something not usually provided as a part of Army life was needed to alleviate homesickness, boredom, and fatigue, and to decrease the number of men going absent without leave as well as the number of disciplinary actions required. The citizen - soldier of World War I needed social clubs, libraries, movies, music and athletics.²

Many public agencies rushed to fill this need in the soldier's life, and the public gave liberally to support these agencies through contributions to the United World Work Campaign.³ Crafts work was carried on by the American Red Cross in hospitals as therapy, but apparently not offered as a recreational activity.

Soldier music and show activities were organized mostly under the direction of voluntary civilian groups. In 1918, the Over There Theater League was formed to supply, through the YMCA, professional entertainment for the troops overseas. At the request of the War Department Commission on Training Camp Activities, book distribution and library service were handled by the War Library Service, an organization established by the

¹U.S. Department of the Army, "History and Mission Special Services: Memorandum 441," (Harrison, Indiana: The Adjutant General's School, March 1962), p. 2.

²Ibid., p. 3.

³Ibid., p. 3.

American Library Association.

During World War I, canteens, hostess houses, and club services were furnished by civilian organizations both in the United States and France. Numerous buildings were constructed and the services offered included, in addition to canteen services, dormitories, baths, officers' club, officers' hotels and distribution of such free items as cigarettes, pipes, chocolate, chewing gum, sports equipment, and stationery. These services were the most extensive ever offered to the troops.⁴

Actually, the Service Clubs developed from the "hostess house" idea. This was utilized for recreation, housing, and as a meeting place for a soldier with his family and friends. Though these "hostess houses" were in existence prior to World War II, only a few were operational at that time.

"The Service Club, as we know it today, appeared in 1940 at new Army Camps which were activated . . . during the first years of World War II, and was soon recognized as a valuable instrument to Post Commanders as a means for raising troop morale and efficiency through the medium of recreation."⁵

Mission and Scope of Service Club

One mission of the Service Club is to stimulate, develop and maintain mental and physical well-being of military personnel through voluntary

⁴Ibid., p. 3.

⁵U. S. Department of the Army, "Operational Guide: Service Club Recreation Directors," (Washington, D. C.: Government Printing Office, 1969), p. 5.

participation in planned off-duty sports, entertainment and recreational activities, and to provide facilities and supply materials and equipment not otherwise provided.⁶ Another mission of the Service Club program is to assist in the development of the efficiency and morale of enlisted personnel by providing a friendly, homelike atmosphere during off-duty hours, and wholesome social and recreational activities which function regularly and effectively.⁷

Organization and Program Planning

One of the main purposes of a service club is to provide a well balanced program. The types of programs offered by the service clubs are as follows:

1. Social--which are usually parties planned for fairly large groups, i.e. dances, carnivals, picnics, coffee houses.
2. Creative--which primarily encourage creative expression of men, i.e. art displays, Christmas card making, jam sessions, skits and plays.
3. Intellectual--primarily encourage building upon thought processes and mental alertness, i.e. quiz shows such as college bowl, discussion groups.
4. Competitive--primarily the competitive urges will be appealed to, i.e., soft ball, pool tournaments, table tennis.

⁶Ibid., p. 2.

⁷Ibid., p. 2.

Program Components

Recreation is said to be any activity which is immediately refreshing and invigorating to the person who participates; therefore, there is no circumference which limits the sphere of recreation. Program planning must take into consideration four inherent characteristics of mankind: he is social and gregarious; he is creative; he is competitive; and he has the instinct to discover. A good recreation program, therefore, must include four types of activities: social, creative, competitive, and intellectual. Usually, each of these contains elements of the others. For instance, creative activities may sometimes be competitive; and intellectual activities certainly are creative. The resultant program is an interrelationship of all of the types.

a. Social activity. Almost any activity in which people mingle could logically be included here, but we have specific reference to such affairs as social dancing, square and folk dancing, parties for specific groups and for special occasions, carnivals and festivals, and outdoor activities such as picnics, wiener roasts, and swimming parties. Although the primary purpose of social activities is simply the enjoyment of the occasion, the value goes beyond that. These activities help to develop poise, self-confidence, and morale in the individual, and to increase the scope of his acquaintances and friends.

b. Creative expression. Along with the immediate satisfaction that comes from having created something, creative activities have a long-range value, particularly in the Army. A soldier's assigned duties are necessarily geared to a predetermined pattern, and he must subordinate his own desires to the welfare of his unit; therefore, he needs an opportunity in

his leisure time to express his own interests. This, too, will make him a better soldier--it increases his self-confidence and stimulates initiative.

c. Competitive achievement. Competitive activities are often closely related to creative and intellectual activities. Quiz contests, for instance, appeal to the intellect as well as add competitive zest to a program, and interest in crafts and entertainment may be increased by competition. The value of competitive activities lies in increasing the skill or knowledge of the participants--not in selecting a winner.

d. Intellectual stimulation. The development of man's inner resources makes it possible for him to endure hardships or to live alone if necessary. By bringing together men who share similar interest, the club encourages the further development of these interests and prevents some of the problems arising from loneliness. Many of the intellectual activities are conducted by volunteers, either military or civilian.

e. Restriction on club activities. There are two ironclad restrictions that apply to all activities in the service club. The first of these is "no alcoholic beverages." This means that beverages of any alcoholic content, including beer and wine, may not be consumed, sold, or given away in or about the club or any of its facilities or in connection with any programs planned and conducted by club personnel at site installations, maneuver areas, or isolated installations.⁸ The second restriction is on gambling. To quote from one base's guidelines: "no gambling, or the use of any device which savers of gambling, such as punchboards, slot machines and similar devices, whether operated by coins or otherwise,

⁸This restriction is being repealed at some Army Camps.

will be permitted in or about the service club or any of its related facilities."⁹ This does not prohibit socially approved games of chance, such as bingo. However, bingo must be limited solely to service clubs located at Army installations under exclusive United States jurisdiction and at other Army installations located in states which permit bingo games.¹⁰ Participation must be limited to military personnel, authorized patrons of Army activities, and their bona fide guest. The value of merchandise prizes is kept within a reasonable limit. When cash prizes are offered, the aggregate for an evening of play must not exceed \$100. Unawarded cash prizes may be carried over to successive evenings, but such carryovers may not result in an aggregate of cash prizes exceeding \$300.

Programming

Below is a program outline which this writer has compiled, based on one which the Army might suggest to a prospective service club program director.

1. Organization

a. Planning

- (1) Long Range Planning. Consider holidays, special events, the birthdays of famous persons, and seasonal activities in your long range planning. Determine what you would like to schedule for these particular days. Plan decorations, estimate funds and equipment required. By means of proper research, familiarize yourself with the event and what it represents; determine practicability.

⁹U. S. Department of the Army, "Special Services Programs: Memorandum Number 442," (Harrison, Indiana: The Adjutant General's School, April, 1962), p. 33.

¹⁰Ibid., p. 34.

- (2) Monthly Planning. Schedule day by day activity for each month to the extent possible, at least a month in advance. Include special events considered in long range planning, usual routine activities, dances, monthly birthday party or unusual programs, entertainment, etc. Make certain that monthly operating budget will support the activities scheduled. Ascertain that bingo and other prizes are, or will be available.
 - (3) Coordination With Other Post Activities and Services. Prior to scheduling events or programs that may conflict with other post activities, check carefully with agencies involved, i.e., chaplain, sports officer, entertainment director, company officer. Do not plan events requiring large group participation, such as dances, if the troops will be on maneuvers or other duty at that time. Check with the sports officer to determine possible occasions when a special banquet or party may be given for members of athletic teams in honor of an occasion or tournament. Offer facilities of the club, or assistance by its personnel, in promoting or conducting other sports activities. Invite the entertainment section to produce soldier shows or talent programs in your club. Do not schedule a special event in the club on a night a soldier show production is being given at the post theater, or an important sports event is featured. Make use of arts and crafts facilities for assistance in publicity, decorations, etc.
- b. Completion of Arrangements.
- (1) Follow Through on Planning. Be sure that each detail is completed prior to starting the program. Make a last minute check to avoid later embarrassment.
 - (2) Prizes. Have all prizes to be distributed during program easily accessible.
 - (3) Substitutions. Always have a last minute substitution available for use in the event a planned program has to be cancelled. It is well to have several of these in readiness for quick review and use, at all times.

2. Effectiveness.

- a. Interest. Study the overall picture which is, of course, to interest as many of the enlisted personnel as possible, in attending service club programs or making use of the club in some way. They may be attracted by the program, the game room, music, TV, crafts activities, the opportunity to write letters, or just desire to sit and relax.

b. Preferences.

- (1) Majority. It is evident that certain activities such as dances, bingo, entertainment programs and special events appeal to the majority, and will bring large groups into the club. These are easier to plan and the results are usually very gratifying.
- (2) Small Groups. There are many activities which may be planned for small groups of personnel who have similar interests, such as discussions, debates, philately, quiz contests, tournaments, jam sessions, group singing, charades and the like. Try to learn the interest of small numbers in your area who may get together and enjoy evenings and programs of this nature. You may have a small group or company of WACs who would be pleased to have something planned especially for them.
- (3) Individuals. Study individual needs and see what can be planned to interest those who are not desirous of participating in group activities. One may like to take out a musical instrument and play it quietly in a corner; possibly a picture puzzle may interest another; a third may like to listen to records. Bear in mind that the needs of the individual is just as important in overall planning as the large group activities.

3. Creation of Interest.

a. Publicity.

- (1) Early and Wide Spread. Publicize events well in advance of program or event, and see that posters or flyers are distributed throughout the post so that they may be read by all personnel who might be available to attend.
- (2) Colorful and Catchy. Use color in your posters that will attract attention. Avoid stereotype wording - try to make the event or program sound unusual and attractive.
- (3) Easy to Read. Keep your publicity and wording distinct, and large enough to be read easily and without squinting.
- (4) Sources. Consider all sources of publicity available to you - post newspaper, movie theaters, dayrooms, post exchanges, messes, etc.

b. Bulletin Boards.

- (1) Weekly Activities. These should be listed clearly by

day and program, and changed at the beginning of each week.

- (2) Forecast of Events. Display should include a forecast of coming events, as well as early publicity on special or unusual programs.
- (3) Other Post Activities. Information on chapel services, sports events, post entertainment, crafts opportunities, new library books and such are always of interest.
- (4) News Items. Special news items pertaining to the military, clippings of an unusual nature, or even amusing cartoons will attract attention.
- (5) Service Club Policies. Use the bulletin board to keep personnel informed of uniform requirements, personal conduct expected while in the club, hours the club is open, and any matters and policies with which they should be familiar in connection with operation of the service club.
- (6) Location .
 - (a) Main bulletin boards should be placed conveniently where personnel entering the building, whether from the outside or through the cafeteria, may be able to see them.
 - (b) A small, easel-type bulletin board indicating the program for current day on one side, and for the following day on the other, placed just inside of entrance door, catches the eye immediately and may be a means of increasing daily attendance.
- (7) Appearance. Bulletin Boards should be kept clean, neat and attractive. Material should be colorful and arranged so that it may be read easily. Special holiday weeks offer many opportunities to present weekly activities in colorful and unusual ways.

SERVICE CLUB ACTIVITIES

The following charts are not intended to be complete nor are suggestions in them meant to be permanently classified. It will be noted that the same program is equally appropriate in several classifications. These

charts **are** offered as aids toward broadening and evaluating the individual service club program.

RECREATION IN SERVICE CLUBS PLANNED FOR ENLISTED PERSONNEL WITH
SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON TIMING, COORDINATION, FAMILIES AND FRIENDS,
OUTDOOR, COMPETITION, INDIVIDUAL FACILITIES AND SERVICES

TIMING

Celebrations, Dances, Parties, and Novelty Events

(Holidays and Special Days)

Scheduling		Types of Program	
1. Seasonal	Season	Holidays and Special Days	Other Timely Events
	Spring	Easter St Patrick's April Fool's May Day Mothers' Day Armed Forces Day	Spring Fair Farmers' Party (Box Social) Carnival Baseball Dance Sports Day Field Day
	Summer	Children's Day Flag Day Fathers' Day Fourth of July	Graduation Party Circus Party Patriotic Dance Swimming Carnival Summer Excursion
	Fall	Armistic Day Columbus Day Thanksgiving Halloween	Back-to-School Party Country Fair Harvest Ball Barn Dance Football Party
	Winter	Christmas New Year's Eve New Year's Day Ground Hog Day Lincoln's Birthday Valentine's Day Washington's Birth- day Leap Year	49-ers' Party Sadie Hawkins' Dance Winter Wonderland Dance Basketball Party Winter Sports Carnival

2. Monthly	One or more each month	Group Interest, Novelty, and Atmosphere Parties
		<div> <div> Birthday Party Company Party (In honor of or sponsored by...) Team Party (Honoring Post Athletic Teams) Hobby Fair Party Progressive Athletic Carnival Pantomime Party Charades ----- </div> <div> Scavenger Hunt Treasure Hunt Blind Date Party Box Social White Elephant Party Orphan Party ----- </div> </div> <div> South American Fiesta Mexican Fiesta Chuck Wagon Party Gay Nineties Party Monte Carlo Night Cabaret Party Shipwreck Party All States Convention ----- </div>
3. Weekly	One or an equiva- lent each night	Basic
		<div> Soldier Show Square Dance Regular Dance Bingo Quiz Program Skills Night (Prizes) Tournaments Coffee Hour "Evening at Home" Radio Program Quiet Games Group Singing Popping Corn and Making Candy Informal Entertainment Sight-seeing Tour </div>

<u>Dramatics Program</u>	<u>Shows</u>	<u>Games</u>
	Talent Shows Stunts and Skits Radio Show One Act Play	Truth or Consequences Animal Imitations Silent Oration (With gestures and facial Charades Movie Acting (Characterization assigned)
	<u>Study Groups</u>	<u>Contests</u>
	Play Reading Play writing Costuming - Staging Little Theater	Skits Pantomines Tall Stories Stunts
<hr/>		
<u>Crafts</u>	<u>Classes</u> (Basic)	<u>Displays</u>
	Leathercraft Woodworking Metal Work Plastics Weaving Sketching Photography Airplane Modeling Clay Modeling Poster Designing Block Printing Naturecraft Tincraft Lapidary	(Raw materials and finished products)
		<u>Contests</u>
		Club (Prizes) Post Area Army
		<u>For Service Club Improvement</u>
	<u>Exhibits</u>	Bulletin Boards Shelves Book-ends Desk Blotter Holders Table Mats Candle Sticks Pictures Posters Block Printed Drapes
	Workshop (Classes at work)	

Recreational Sports Tournaments
(Team and Individual) (Outdoors)

Badminton
Archery
Horseshoes
Croquet

Tournaments
(Indoor)

Pool
Ping Pong

Library

Special Interest Groups

Study
Languages
Dramatics
Literature
Public Speaking
Crafts
Bridge - Chess

Writing

Novels
Plays
Essays
Poetry

Appreciation

Discussion

Music Art
Art

World Affairs

Post Exchange
(Cafeteria)

Supper Parties
(For groups of invited
girls and soldier
escorts)

WITH OTHER POST PROGRAMS

Information and
Education

Classes Conducted in Service Club

Crafts

Photography

Music

Languages

Public Information

Photographers' Night

Pictures of group activities
Pictures of individuals for hometown papers

Contests

Best Letter Home Contest
(Describing Special Services Facilities)

4. Daily Three Key Programs

Music
Crafts
Soldier talent shows, quizzes, committees, ---

COORDINATION OF SERVICE CLUB ACTIVITIES WITH OTHER PROGRAMS
(Entertainment and Recreation for Spectator and Participant)

WITH OTHER SPECIAL SERVICES PROGRAMS

Music Programs

Service Club Activity

Instruction

Lessons in piano and
other instruments

Groups - Vocal

Glee Club
Choral Groups
Barber Shop Quartet
Christmas Carolers
Strolling Trio
Song Feast

Shows

Variety Show
Talent Show
Band Concert
Radio Show
Quiz show

Record Program

Classical and Popular
Hit Parade
Identification Contest
Voice Recordings

Group - Instrumental

Jam Session
Small instrument session
Hill Billy Band
"Combos"

Contests

Musical Quiz
State Song Contest
Instrumental

Special Interest Group

Classical Music

Chaplains' Program	<u>Chapel Attendance</u> (By girls who are guests of service club and soldier escorts)	
	<u>Program Exchange</u> (Individual and group musical numbers)	
American Red Cross	Program (Exchange of talent)	Personnel (Use of volunteer ARC personnel in service club activities)
<u>WITH COMMUNITY PROGRAMS</u>		
USO	<u>Service Club Dances</u>	<u>Shows</u>
	(Meeting of service club personnel with USO leaders in reference to training course for USO girls on soldier psychology and purpose of service club recreation)	(Exchange of talent)
<u>Little Theater</u>	<u>Service Club Theatricals and Little Theater Plays</u> (Reciprocal assistance)	
	<u>Study Groups in Dramatics</u> (Use of volunteer little theater personnel)	
	<u>Little Theater Plays in Service Clubs</u> (Dress rehearsals may be offered without charge)	
<u>Instruction Schools</u>	<u>Classes in Social Dancing, Art, Music</u> (Reciprocal assistance in use of personnel and exchange of talent)	
<u>Churches, Schools, Clubs</u> <u>Retail Firms, and Other</u> <u>Organizations</u>	<u>Dances</u> (Organization of girl groups)	<u>Shows</u> Talent show Style shows (Exchange of talent)
	<u>Soldier Hospitality Service</u> (Dinner invitations arranged)	

SERVICE CLUB PROGRAMS FOR DEPENDENTS OF
ENLISTED MEN

Recreation and Entertainment
Particularly Appropriate for
Families and Friends

Basic List
 Holiday Parties
 Children's Parties
 Craft Activities
 Magic Shows
 Bingo
 "Evening at Home in Service Club"
 Baby Shows (Prizes)
 Pet Shows (Prizes)
 Sight-seeing Tours
 Picnics
 Events sponsored by Enlisted Men
 Wives' Club

OUTDOOR PROGRAMS

Games and Sports

Badminton	Horseshoe
Archery	Swimming
Croquet	

Other Activities

Historical Tours	Barbecues
Scenic Tours	Bonfire Parties
Picnics	Scavenger Hunts
Beach Parties	Treasure Hunts
Cruise Parties	Fishing Trips
Hay Rides	Bicycle Trips
Hikes	Skiing
Horseback Riding	
Skating	

COMPETITIVE ACTIVITIES

Recreational Sports

(See section on "Coordination of Service Club Programs with Other Special Services Programs")

Game Tournaments

Checkers	Chess
Chinese Checkers	Bridge
Cribbage	

Contests	Crafts	Valentine
	Photography	Mothers' Day
	Music	Baby Show Contest
	Art	Pet Show Contest
	Writing	

SELF DIRECTED ACTIVITIES AND PERSONAL SERVICES

Use of Standard Facilities	<u>Music</u>	<u>Games</u>
	Piano	Ping Pong
	(Sheet music - song collections)	Pool
	Orchestra instruments	Small Games
	Phonograph	
	(Recordings - classical and popular)	<u>Crafts</u>
	<u>Letter-writing-Reading</u>	Tools and material available
	Facilities and materials available	

<u>Recreational Devices</u>	<u>Exhibits</u>	<u>Displays</u>
	<u>Special Bulletin Boards</u>	
	Current News	
	Sports	
	Sight-seeing Tours	
	Humor	
	Maps	
	Science	
	Song Hits	
	Informational Items	
	<u>Home State Corner</u>	
	Maps, Folders, Pictures for each State	
	Register for Individual Signing	

Personal ServicesInformation

Tour and travel
Transportation
Schedules
Churches
Post and Community
Activities

Package Wrapping
Flower Orders
Gift Shopping
Checking
Taxi Service
Express Packages-
collection point
Stamps
Mailing
Tickets - distribution
point
Telephone
Message

Service Club Program Staff Liaison

It is impossible to establish and maintain a successful special services program without command support and the cooperation of other staff officers. This is particularly true of the service club program, which is active every day and evening and cannot function without assistance from many different sources.

a. The transportation officer supplies vehicles and drivers needed to take groups on tours and picnics, and to shows and special events in town; to bring entertainers and dance hostesses to the post; to pick up supplies and local purchases; to enable the special services officer and the club director to maintain liaison with community activities.

b. The quartermaster has salvage materials such as metals and plastics that can be used in crafts work and surplus materials that are suitable for decorations.

c. The exchange officer assists in arranging for party and dance refreshments through the snack bar, selecting items for prizes, and authorizing appropriate discounts for club purchases.

d. The provost marshal provides personnel to direct traffic and help maintain order at events where large crowds are expected.

e. The education officer helps in obtaining instructors for special interest groups.

f. The information officer publicizes the program.

g. Unit commanders assist in making interest surveys and encouraging their men to participate in club activities.

h. The post engineer is called on for repairs to buildings and

facilities.

i. The signal officer assists in the operation and maintenance of loudspeaker and other sound equipment, arranging special lighting effects for stage presentations, or furnishing photographic services.

j. The civilian personnel officer usually has considerable information about civilian employees. He can be of help in contacting them for various volunteer services.

k. Other elements of the special services program contribute to the success of the club program. The librarian provides program materials and books for research in new approaches to programming. The post entertainment director may organize and direct soldier shows and music in the service club. The sports director may help to organize small games and tournaments. The crafts director organizes and conducts crafts classes and makes available crafts materials for small projects.

Service Club Personnel

a. The basic minimum in personnel for each service club is one service club director; one program director, or assistant club director; and one recreation leader.¹¹ These are professional uniformed civilian women who must have high personal qualifications including leadership and organizational ability, demonstrated skill in program planning and administration, ability to supervise personnel, and maturity and good judgement. These civilian positions are under the competitive Civil Service, and applicants must meet the qualification

¹¹Ibid., p. 34.

requirements specified by the Civil Service Commission. They can be paid from either appropriated or non appropriated funds. Nonappropriate funds should be used for the employment of service club directors only when appropriated funds are not adequate to operate the program efficiently. Nonappropriated fund employees should be administered in the same manner as appropriated fund employees and must meet the same qualification requirements.

b. Enlisted personnel may be assigned to service clubs, and they also may be employed part time during off-duty hours. Enlisted personnel work under the immediate supervision of the service club director. For this reason and because of the nature of their duties, they must be carefully selected and well oriented prior to assignment. They must have such personal attributes as willingness to cooperate, as sincere interest in the recreation program, the ability to get along with all types of people, and a readiness to be on duty at any time, including evenings, holidays and weekends.

c. Service club directors depend on volunteers to assist them in presenting entertainment, conducting classes, and performing personal services. These volunteers are very important to the service club program. Volunteers come from the military population, their families, and the civilian community. These volunteers must be properly oriented and trained, so that their assistance may be used to the best advantage. Although they work under the supervision of the service club director, the special services officer must sanction their participation and insure that they have official recognition for their services.

d. Up to this point, service club personnel at an installation

has been discussed. At major command level, there is a staff service club director, who operates under the general direction of the special services officer.¹² She is assisted by an assistant staff director, or field service club director, and a staff program director. Her responsibilities include service club activities throughout the command, including maneuver areas, site installations, and isolated installations. She interviews and recommends assignments for applicants for service club director positions, provides orientation for new personnel, makes field trips and inspections, and conducts conferences. She prepares service club budgets and recommends plans for conversion, construction, and repair of facilities. She assists and advises club directors throughout the command, and furnishes them with program material and professional information.

Service Club Facilities

One service club is the basic minimum for an installation with a military strength of 5,000 or less. The necessity for additional clubs depends on the number and location of troops and the accessibility of other recreation facilities. In general, one additional club is considered necessary for each additional 5,000 troops.

a. The club should be located near other recreation facilities and where it can be reached easily by the troops. It should have separate areas for dances, informal show and music programs, parties, hobby and crafts activities, games, television, writing, special interest groups, and related activities. It should also have an entrance

¹²Ibid., p. 34.

lobby, checkrooms, office and storage space, pantry, restrooms for men and women, and porches and patios for adjacent outdoor space. Furnishings, equipment, and supplies may be procured with both appropriated and nonappropriated funds, although service clubs are basically appropriated fund activity.

b. A cafeteria or snack bar with a soda fountain is considered an essential part of the club. This is operated as a concession by the post exchange. Also, the exchange may place other revenue-producing activities in the club. These normally include automatic or mechanical vending machines, the location, number, and type of which are determined by the exchange officer, the special services officer, and the club officer.

c. A clubmobile is authorized to serve troops in maneuver or combat areas, site installations, and isolated installations. It is staffed with service club director personnel and is equipped with small games, pocket books, record players, records, writing materials, appropriate sports supplies, and other recreation equipment. For some isolated units, clubmobile service is not practicable. In those cases, club services are provided as a part of the overall service club program by club director personnel assigned to the parent installation.

d. A branch library may be a separate facility in the service club. When this is the case, the post librarian is responsible for its operation and administration.

e. A service pantry is authorized for use by the club staff in preparing and serving refreshments. The pantry is a nonprofit activity and does not compete with the snack bar or soda fountain. Equipment is

furnished by the quartermaster.

f. Service club facilities are maintained and served from appropriated funds by the post engineer. Facilities include all structures, grounds, and outdoor areas that are an integral part of club operations. Custodial services and utilities requirements take into consideration the fact that, despite the long hours of operation, clubs must be maintained according to high standards of appearance, sanitation, and safety.

g. A service club is for the benefit of all enlisted personnel at the installation. On occasion, some of the facilities in the club may be reserved for the use of a particular enlisted group, but the group should not be given the exclusive use of all facilities. From time to time, programs of outstanding interest are scheduled for the club, and on these occasions, the installation commander may authorize all military personnel to attend if it is assured that this will not prevent any enlisted personnel from attending. Service clubs are intended to be used only for purposes relating to recreation activities. The only offices maintained in the club are those provided for service club director personnel who are directly responsible for its operation.

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide information and foresight into the recreational phase of the service clubs of the U. S. Army. Moreover, this report seeks to inform those related to the field of recreation of the leisure time activities available in the Army Service Club facilities; consequently, broadening their general repertoire in the area of recreation.

The information was received by responses from twenty-five Army Service Clubs. The mission, activities, organizative and program planning, staff liaison, personnel and facilities of these clubs were compiled and presented in this report.

Recreation is the satisfaction of a hunger for self-expression and creativity, of belonging to a group, of being wanted. It includes everything the individual chooses to do in his free time, for the pleasure of the doing, the assumption being that it is constructive, decent and wholesome.

The Army's effectiveness is largely dependent on troop morale. Since World War I, there has been an organized effort to provide guidance for a systematic Army-wide approach to aid factors bearing on troop morale. One result of this effort is the service club. A service club is a facility at an Army post designed for use during off-duty time by enlisted men, their families and friends. It is furnished with supplies and equipment suitable for a wide variety of welfare and recreational activities.

The service club as it is known today, developed from the "Hostess House" concept, and after World War II, was recognized as a valuable instrument to Post Commanders as a means of raising troop morale and efficiency through the medium of recreation. This was its mission.

The basic minimum in personnel for each service club is one director; one program director or assistant club director; and one recreation specialist. One club is the basic minimum for an installation with a military strength of 5,000 or less.

It is impossible to establish and maintain a successful service club without support of other staff officers. The club cannot operate on an active day to day basis without assistance from many different sources; effective staff liaison is imperative.

In program planning and organization, one must consider long range and monthly planning; coordination with other cost activities and services; completion of arrangements, i.e., prizes, substitutions; effectiveness; i.e., interest, preferences; creation of interest, i.e., publicity, location, appearance.

The activities of the Service Club are wide and varied. Among them are: Dramas, puppet shows and story telling; nature and outing activities; games; music and dance; sports; holiday activities; and arts and crafts.

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APPENDIXES

Monthly Program From Service Clubs Of The Far East

T I M B E R A T N A H A S E R V I C E C L U B

TABLE I

June 1968

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1000 Coffee Call w/DJ Show 0800 Tour to Ie Shima (Off-Island) 1330 Card Tourney 1400 Pool Tourney 2000 B I N G O	1930 <u>Try Japanese</u> 2000 <u>Bunkhouse Poker</u>	2000 <u>Blue Ox</u> <u>Coffee House</u> With <u>"Timber Jacks"</u> -Combo -	2000 'Strong As An Ox Night'	D-Day 2000 Movie <u>Battle of</u> <u>Okinawa</u>	2000 <u>Lumber Jack</u> <u>Baseball</u>
1000 Coffee Call w/DJ Show 1300 Chinen Peninsula 1330 Card Tourney 1400 Pool Tourney 2000 B I N G O	1930 <u>Try Japanese</u> 2000 <u>Bunkhouse Poker</u>	2000 <u>Blue Ox</u> <u>Coffee House</u> With Legend Old and New -Library Display -	2000 Loggers Spree With Giant Flap-Jack	2000 Movies	2000 <u>MIGHTY LOGGERS</u> <u>FLAG DAY</u>
FATHERS' DAY 1000 Coffee Call w/DJ Show 1030 Fishing & Picnic Tour To O-Shima Island 1330 Card Tourney 1400 Pool Tourney 2000 Pool Tourney 2000 BINGO	1930 <u>Try Japanese</u> 2000 <u>Bunkhouse Poker</u>	2000 <u>Blue Ox</u> <u>Coffee House</u> With Wood Craft And Hobby Display	2000 <u>KENDO DEMONSTRATION</u>	2000 Movies	2000 <u>"HAVE AXE WILL</u> <u>TRAVEL"</u>
1000 Coffee Call w/dj Show 1300 Suicide Cliff 1330 Card Tourney 1400 Pool Tourney 2000 B I N G O	1930 <u>Try Japanese</u> 2000 <u>Bunkhouse Poker</u>	2000 <u>Blue Ox</u> <u>Coffee House</u> With Swap Yarns	2000 <u>Lumber Camp</u> <u>Boat Races</u>	2000 Movies	2000 <u>BLUE OX DARTS</u>
1000 Coffee Call w/DJ Show 1030 Tour to Ishikawa Beach 1330 Card Tourney 1400 Pool Tourney 2000 BINGO	N A T I O N A L R E C R E A T I O N M O N T H				

SPRING OUR WAY AT TORRI SERVICE CLUB

TABLE II

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1000 Coffee Call w/DJ Show 0800 Tour to Higa (Off-Island) 1330 Card Tourney 1400 Pool Tourney 2000 B I N G O	1930 Try Japanese 2000 Record Roulette N A T I O N A L	2000 Coffee House With Sketch Artist & Design A Kit M U S I C	2000 <u>MAY BASKET SPECIAL</u>	2000 Movies	1300 Saturday Quiz 1400 Horseshoe Tourney 2000 Ice Pool
MOTHERS' DAY 1000 Coffee Call w/DJ Show 1100 Tour to Nakagusuku 1330 Card Tourney 1400 Pool Tourney 2000 B I N G O	1930 Try Japanese 2000 Whist	2000 Coffee House With Shell & Skin Diving Demonstration	2000 MUSIC BOWL	2000 Movies	1300 Saturday Quiz 1400 Horseshoe 1900 Chess Hour 2000 Dial-A-Tune
1000 Coffee Call w/DJ Show 1300 Tour to Itoman 1330 Card Tourney 1400 Pool Tourney 2000 B I N G O	1930 Try Japanese 2000 Go, Hanafuda, And Yoot	2000 Coffee House With Sketch Artist & Splatter Platter	2000 'GO FLY A KITE'	2000 Movies	ARMED FORCES DAY 1000 Coffee Call 1300 Saturday Quiz 1400 Game Time 1900 Chess Hour 2000 Patio Ice Cream Mix
1000 Coffee Call w/DJ Show 1030 Tour to Yaka Beach 1330 Card Tourney 1400 Pool Tourney 2000 B I N G O	1930 Try Japanese 2000 Whist	2000 Coffee House With Know Okinawa And Sukiyaki	2000 ARMCHAIR DETEC- TIVE	MEMORIAL DAY 1000 Coffee Call 1030 Pinochle Marathon 1400 Games Tourney 2000 Outdoor Hootenanny & Wiener Roast	1300 Saturday Quiz 1400 Horseshoe Tourney 2000 May Birthday Party

TABLE III

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1000 Coffee Call w/DJ Show 0800 Tour to Ie Shima (Off-Island) 1330 Card Tourney 1400 Pool Tourney 2000 B I N G O	2000 <u>APRIL FOOL PARTY</u>	2000 <u>Coffee House With Table Crafts</u>	2000 <u>CHALLENGE THE HOUSE</u>	2000 Movies	2000 <u>Ryukyuan-American Ping Pong Tourney</u>	1300 Saturday Quiz 1400 Horseshoe Tourney 1900 Chess Hour 2000 "All About Money"
1000 Coffee Call w/DJ Show 0800 Tour to Ie Shima (Off-Island) 1330 Card Tourney 1400 Pool Tourney 2000 B I N G O	1930 <u>Try Japanese</u> 2000 <u>Oriental Games</u>	2000 <u>Coffee House With Espresso 'Night "Special Attraction"</u>	2000 <u>THUMB FUN</u>	2000 Movies	2000 <u>Dye Those Eggs</u>	1300 Saturday Quiz 1300 Industrial Tour 1400 Horseshoe Tourney 1900 Chess Hour 2000 <u>Benny Races</u>
EASTER 1000 Coffee Call w/DJ Show 1330 Card Tourney 1400 Easter Egg Hunt 1400 Pool Tourney 2000 B I N G O	1930 <u>Try Japanese</u> 2000 <u>Checkers Tourney</u>	2000 <u>Coffee House In 'Gay Paree' - Combo And Sketch Artist-</u>	2000 <u>MAD, MAD, MAD, MAD DARTS</u>	2000 Movies	2000 <u>Roller Skating Party With Bar-B-Q</u>	1300 Saturday Quiz 1400 Horseshoe Tourney 1900 Chess Hour 2000 <u>April Birthday Party</u>
1000 Coffee Call w/DJ Show 0800 Tour to Hedo Point (Northern Tip) 1330 Card Tourney 1400 Pool Tourney 2000 B I N G O	1930 <u>Try Japanese</u> 2000 <u>Oriental Games</u>	2000 <u>Coffee House In 'Chinatown' Wanton By Mr. Luke</u>	2000 <u>"TO TELL THE TRUTH"</u>	2000 Movies	2000 <u>Jr. Judo Demonstration</u>	1300 Saturday Quiz 1400 Horseshoe Tourney 1900 Chess Hour 2000 <u>States Night</u>
1000 Coffee Call w/DJ Show 1300 Gour to Suicide Cliff 1330 Card Tourney 1400 Pool Tourney 2000 B I N G O	1930 <u>Try Japanese</u> 2000 <u>Checkers Tourney</u>	2000 <u>Coffee House With Table Crafts</u>				

A STUDY OF RECREATION IN THE
UNITED STATES ARMY SERVICE CLUBS

by

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B.S., Alcorn A&M College, 1958

AN ABSTRACT OF A MASTER'S REPORT

submitted in partial fulfillment of the

requirements for the degree

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Department of Political Science

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1971

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this report is to provide information and foresight into the recreational phase of the Service Clubs of the U. S. Army. With the information received, persons related to the field of recreation may broaden their repertoire in this area.

Recreation is the satisfaction of a hunger for self-expression and creativity, of belonging to a group, of being wanted. It includes everything the individual chooses to do in his free time, for the pleasure of the doing, the assumption being that it is constructive, decent and wholesome. It is an end into itself.

Military leaders have long known that an Army's effectiveness is largely dependent on its morale. Obviously, basic necessities must be provided: food, clothing, shelter, pay, and various opinions as to what other things are essential to morale. It is only since World War I that there has been an organized effort to provide guidance for a systematic Army-wide approach to aid factors bearing on troop morale. One result of this effort in the service club, which provides off-duty recreation and entertainment for military service enlisted men and under some circumstances, for their dependents. The service club is the Army's way of providing its men with opportunities for recreation equivalent to those that were available to them in civilian life.

The service clubs developed from the "hostess house" idea. This was utilized for recreation, housing, and as a meeting place for a

soldier with his family and friends. Though these "hostess houses" were in existence prior to World War II, only a few were operational at that time. The service club, as we know it today, appeared at new Army Camps which were activated during the first years of World War II. It is a facility at an installation designed for use during off-duty time by enlisted personnel, their families and friends. It is adequately furnished with supplies and equipment suitable for a wide variety of welfare and recreational activities.

Service club organization and program planning, program staff liaison, personnel, facilities and activities are discussed in this report.

There are four types of activities which provide a well balanced program:

- (1) social
- (2) creative
- (3) intellectual
- (4) competitive

In organizing and planning a program, one must consider long range and monthly planning; coordination with other post activities & services; completion of arrangements, i.e. prizes, substitutions; effectiveness, i.e., interest, preferences; creation of interest, i.e., publicity, location, appearance.

It is impossible to establish and maintain a successful service club without support of other staff officers. The club cannot operate on an active day to day basis without assistance from many different sources.

The basic minimum in personnel for each service club is one director; one program director or assistant club director; and one recreation specialist. These positions require women who have a college degree, high personal qualifications including leadership and organizational ability, demonstrated skill in program planning and administration, ability to supervise personnel, and maturity and good judgement.

One service club is the basic minimum for an installation with a military strength of 5,000 or less. The necessity for additional clubs depends on the number and location of troops and the accessibility of other recreational facilities. Some of the activities in the service clubs are:

- (1) Drama, puppet shows and story telling
- (2) Nature and outing activities
- (3) Games
- (4) Music and dance
- (5) Sports
- (6) Holiday activities
- (7) Arts and Crafts