

**A Study of the Interface between American Soldiers and the  
Thai Community and Its Effects on Drug Taking Behavior**

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**OBJECTIVES:**

1. To determine what factors particular to relations with Thais appear to predispose toward use or non-use of illicit drugs by the American soldier population.
2. To determine what are the Thai attitudes toward illicit drug usage, and what factors relate to drug use by Thais.
3. To determine on an informal basis what drugs are generally used by Thais and how this drug use affects American drug usage.

**DESCRIPTION:** This is an interview study of available and cooperating Thai entertainers, bar-girls, and "teerak" (rented wives) in the Sattahip area. In addition, families living in proximity to bungalows occupied by, or frequented by, American servicemen will be interviewed. Cultural factors influencing tolerance of drug abuse will be investigated, and local sources of drugs will be surveyed to determine which drugs are prescribed for various morbid complaints presented by local Thais. These should provide information bearing on the pressures mitigating against, or predisposing to, drug abuse among American soldiers living in the community. This study is being conducted, utilizing Department of Neuropsychiatry nurses administering semi-structured interviews. Individuals under study are contacted, primarily, through the facilities of the Kilo Sip Health Center, which is the local VD control unit financed by the U.S. military in the Camp Samae San-Utapao vicinity.

**PROGRESS:** Data collection began 15 January 1972. Questionnaires have been revised and refined. Data collection will terminate by the end of April, 1972. Ordering and analysis of the data for write-up will be completed during this fiscal year.

**SUMMARY:** Data are currently being collected which should provide information bearing on the influences of the local Thai community on drug abuse among American servicemen. Data collection will be completed at the end of April, 1972, with analysis to be completed shortly.

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