

**Independent Study Attitude of Police Community Relation Program's
Implementaters on Crime Prevention : A Case Study
of Provincial Police Bureau 3**

Author Pol.Col. Bumroong Kerddee

M.A. (Political Science) Politics and Government

Examining Committee :

Lecturer Dr. Preecha Jengjalern Chairman

Assist. Prof. Dr. Chakrapan Wongburanawat Member

Assoc. Prof. Somsak Kaewkingkeow Member

Abstract~

One of the major tasks of the police is maintaining the law and order in the society. In this respect, police have to be involved in almost every kind of conflict situation which sometimes makes them unpopular among the people. The negative image of the police is reflected in the lack of support from the public. People often feel indifferent toward police activities. It is now widely accepted that people's cooperation is one of the most important elements in effective crime prevention. Police, therefore, have no other choice but to seek support and cooperation from the public in their law enforcement tasks. Police and the public must understand each other and be willing to cooperate with each other.

Realizing the importance of these factors, the Police Department has recently set up the Police Community Relation Program (PCRP) to seek support and cooperation from the public. This program, however, is still at the initial stage and not running as smoothly as it should, particularly in the 17 Northern provinces which is under the jurisdiction of the Provincial Police Bureau 3. There are many problems and obstacles including the attitude of the police officers in the program toward crime prevention which is crucial to the successful implementation of the PCRP.

This study examines the attitude of the PCRP officers both at the supervisory and operational levels toward crime prevention by limiting the scope of the study only within the 17 provinces in Northern Thailand. The data were collected through questionnaire survey from three different groups of respondents which included the Chiefs of Police Station of Muang Districts, Heads of the PCRP units, and members of the PCRP units.

It was found that most of the Police Station Chiefs who are responsible for PCRP implementation at the station level came from the investigation line and lacked experiences in community relation works. These officers did not fully understand the importance of the community relation programs. As for the PCRP Unit Heads, most of them just took the job for the first time with the average length of stay in the program only for 1-2 years. Many of them could not create work or initiate suitable program activities for the subordinates in the units. As a result, the major tasks of the program had to be carried

out by members of the PCRCP units who did not have much training. Most of these unit members graduated from the Police Training Schools and lack understanding in the PRCP works. To make matter worse, the Police Department does not have any personnel development plans or programs for those who are under the officer level.

The immediate supervisors of these PCRCP unit members also did not realize the importance of the PCRCP program even though the Station Chiefs and the Heads of the PRCP Units agreed that the PCRCP programs helped reduce the crime rate in some of their areas. It was also found that the program implementing officers had some morale problem due to the lack of budget and necessary support for their units. Community relation works were not given priorities in the police work. These factors have hindered successful implementation of the PRCP program.

The result of the study confirms that the Police Community Relation Program works in gaining cooperation and support from the public and is perhaps one of the most effective ways in law enforcement. The Police Department should therefore have a clear cut policy on this issue and encourage their personnel at all levels to take part in and have a common understanding of the PCRCP program. Feedbacks from the people should also sought regularly and should be taken into consideration when reviewing the program in order to achieve its full benefits.