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## 525 American Advisers and Trainers Teaching Thais Counterinsurgency Rule

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BANGKOK, Thailand, March 22 — American officials have disclosed that 525 United States military men are engaged in advising and training Thai troops in counterinsurgency operations in Thailand.

They said yesterday that 245 of these were members of "advisory components" for regular Thai military units and 280 were United States Special Forces soldiers training the Thai Special Forces, which in turn train regular Thai troops and policemen in counterinsurgency tactics.

The American advisers are based at 17 Joint United States Military Assistance Group stations throughout Thailand and the Special Forces are based at eight or nine Thai training camps around the country, they said.

The information was given under rules that it be attributed only to "American sources" or "American officials." The officials said the information did not amount to a disclosure, and that it had not been given out until now because no one asked for it.

### Role Is Regulated

The advisers are barred from combat areas under strict guidelines laid down by the Embassy, they said. Special Forces trainers are likewise prohibited from accompanying

Thai troops into combat, they added.

The advisers and trainers are part of a U.S. military force in Thailand that now numbers 31,000 men. The top number allowable is 32,200, the officials said. Of the 31,000 here, 26,400 are Air Force personnel, who conduct the air war over Indochina from five Thai bases.

In addition, the figure includes 300 men in the Navy and Marines and 4,500 Army

men, of whom roughly half are involved in logistic and supply operations. The other half man the communications network and post exchanges, and make up the advisory and training teams.

### 1,880 U.S. Civilians on Hand

There are 1,880 American civilians working directly for the U.S. Government mission in Thailand. These include 160 from the State Department and United States Information Service, 250 with the aid mission, 280 with the Peace Corps, 30 in various small jobs and 1,160 working with the military, about half of the last figure being under contract with the Department of Defense.

The United States Government mission also employs 28,000 Thai civilians, mostly in jobs supporting the American military men here.

The highest total of American military men in Thailand was reached in 1969, when 48,000 were stationed here. In that year, the number was cut to 38,000. In September of 1970, the United States announced an additional cut of about 6,000 to be put into effect by last July 1.