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Jeremiah P. Holland

Walter A. Luszki

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## SPECIAL SUPERVISION FOR MILITARY OFFENDERS

JEREMIAH P. HOLLAND AND WALTER A. LUSZKI

General Jeremiah P. Holland, a graduate of the United States Military Academy, the Command and General Staff College, and The National War College, had extensive military police experience in the Pacific Theater in World War II. He was also Provost Marshal of the European Command, Commanding General of Fort Gordon and the Provost Marshal General Center. He retired from the Army in July 1957 and is now a member of Mayor Richard J. Daley's cabinet as Commissioner of the Community Conservation Board of Chicago.

Lt. Col. Walter A. Luszki is currently assigned to the Office of the Director of Instruction, The Provost Marshal General's School, Fort Gordon, Ga. Colonel Luszki's service includes experience as Executive Officer, 738 Military Police Battalion; Commandant, New Guinea Detention and Rehabilitation Center; Assistant Director of the Bureau of Prisons, Military Police Command, USAFFE; Deputy Chief Provost Marshal, GHO, FECOM. After World War II he was with the Correction Branch, The Adjutant General; Commandant, USAREUR Military Prison; Chief, Training Section, G3, USAREUR.—EDITOR.

What is being done to supervise military prisoners who receive suspension of their sentences? How can they be helped to become again useful members of the military establishment? A check of a typical post stockade revealed that about 20 percent of the prisoners had had a previous suspended sentence to confinement which was revoked because of misconduct while the prisoner was still under his suspended sentence.

Suspension of sentence is actually very similar to probation or parole in civilian life. But in the military there is no professional parole officer; this function must be performed by the company commander or a person designated by him. Some company commanders perform this function admirably; others lack either the time, interest, or ability to do an effective job as a parole officer.

The case of Private X, a 17-year old soldier, illustrates a particularly good job accomplished recently by a company commander at Fort Gordon, Georgia.

After eight weeks of basic combat training Private X was assigned to the Receiving Company at The Provost Marshal General Center, Fort Gordon, Georgia, for his advanced training. He went AWOL, was found guilty, and confined to the stockade. Shortly after this, Private X had two additional Special Courts-Martial records against him. During this period Captain M became the new company commander, and one of his first problems was Private X, who again went AWOL. On this occasion his foster parents came to Captain M and informed him of Private X's

whereabouts. They told Captain M that if Private X was separated from the service, they would arrange to have civil authorities pick him up immediately and confine him because, "He was no good on the loose and was a constant trouble maker." Subsequently, Private X was apprehended by military police and tried by a Special Court-Martial, found guilty and given a six-month sentence.

Captain M had many long talks with Private X in the stockade and learned much about his personal background and the nature of his problem. On the basis of this, Captain M recommended to the Convening Authority that the last Court-Martial sentence be reduced from six to three months and gave assurance that he would take personal interest in Private X and try to help him out. The Convening Authority approved this recommendation.

In the stockade Private X made an excellent adjustment. Captain M continued to make frequent visits to the stockade. After Private X had served one month, his confinement was suspended and he was released from the stockade. Captain M authorized a morale leave.

On his return, he served in the Receiving Company, completing the balance of his sentence under Captain M's supervision. During this time Captain M continued to counsel Private X and to assist him in getting adjusted by establishing a close relationship with him. Captain M impressed upon him that if any problem came to his mind and caused some uneasy feeling, regardless how trivial

it might be, he should see him immediately. Whenever he saw Private X in an informal situation he would talk with him in a friendly fashion and try to make him feel at ease and see Captain M as a person in whom he could confide and talk about anything he wished without being condemned.

Captain M said, "He straightened out and is a good-looking soldier. Now he is at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, and I have received two letters from him to date. He seems to be very happy. I have been receiving letters from his parents also. Private X now seems to have something to live for. He likes the military, and he gives all indications of serving his time in the Army honorably." This is but one of many cases which illustrates the value of parole supervision for Army prisoners.

Captain M added, "It was my ambition to help him. I was in one of the countries in Europe not too long ago and upon my return I realized how fortunate I am to be an American and live in the United States. For my country there is nothing too big that I can do to show that I am an American. I receive all the soldiers from the Military Police Training Regiment who are having difficulty in their training and in their adjustment. I try to 'reach' them and to rehabilitate them. Many of them thank me for the time and trouble I spend with them. Others let me down, but I do reach a large percentage."

Each individual who is Court-Martialed has committed a crime in which he was motivated by a set of circumstances. The motivating circumstances in Private X's case would not have been uncovered if Captain M had not taken a particular interest in him. It is obvious that a unit commander with all the responsibility which he carries cannot spend as much time on many of his men as Captain M spent with Private X. But he can delegate this responsibility to other competent members of his command and through his interest and supervision of this delegated responsibility attain the same results which Captain M is attaining in his company.

For the sake of a better title, the officer or non-commissioned officer to whom is delegated the responsibility of supervising men whose sentence to confinement has been suspended, will be called parole officer.<sup>1</sup> The duties of a parole officer are complex, requiring both application of earthy psychology and a sincere interest in people.

The parole officer must be a sympathetic and understanding person with a genuine desire to

help those in trouble. Regardless of what the offender has done, the parole officer must be willing to accept rather than condemn him, try to help him solve his problems, develop his personality, and readjust to become an effective soldier. The parole officer must accept the offender as an individual, try to put him at ease, and continuously endeavor to understand him, the problem he faces, and the errors of past wrong actions.

The principal methods of helping the offender are two-fold:

1. problem solving, and
2. readjustment to effective military service and useful citizenship.

These are achieved through counseling interviews, guidance and referral to specialized resources and facilities both at the military post and in the civil community. The interviews should be designed to explore the real needs of the offender and help him to understand himself better and start on a constructive program of self-help. The first interview is crucial for in it the parole officer must establish a good relationship with the offender. He must put across his genuine interest and desire to help, and in this way induce the offender to talk freely. It may take a number of interviews before a sufficiently sound relationship is established so that the offender is willing to talk about the things most important to him.

The task of establishing a good relationship with an offender is particularly difficult because by past experience the offender may have the feeling that most people with whom he has come in contact are "against him." These include the officers and enlisted men of his own unit, the military police who made the apprehension, the stockade personnel, the trial judge advocate, and the military court which tried him.

If the offender is to be reestablished as an honorable soldier and respected citizen, it is necessary that he have confidence and trust first in the parole officer, then in others with whom he comes in close contact. His self-confidence must be built up so that he will want to and can succeed in his readjustment. To accomplish this is not easy. The parole officer should explore various aspects of the offender's life. Some of the more important are:

1. Vocational adjustment.
2. Handling personal finances.
3. Physical health.
4. Emotional health.
5. Good judgment and self-control.

6. Development of character.
7. Use of leisure hours.
8. Getting along with people.
9. Spiritual guidance.
10. Development of potential abilities.
11. Development of feeling of personal worth.
12. Development of neatness and good manners.

There are sources available to all service personnel to help them not only with their own problems but to aid them in helping others. Some of these are: the chaplain, American Red Cross staff, social workers, psychologists, and psychiatrists. A person who is a parole officer and re-

sponsible for one or more offenders in his company is not entirely on his own; he can and should make use of the resources available to him.<sup>1</sup>

An effective execution of the proposed parole plan for offenders would not be easy. But the savings in human resources and money which it could accomplish make it an important challenge to all who are interested in the betterment of the United States Army.

<sup>1</sup> The duties such as are suggested here for "parole officer" are similar to those which have at times been performed by company commanders, platoon and squad leaders. It is the opinion of the writers, however, that the designation of a parole officer is desirable.

## THEORIES AND REALITIES IN CRIMINOLOGY

The theme of the annual meeting of the Illinois Academy of Criminology, on April 17 and 18, 1959, will be "THEORIES AND REALITIES IN CRIMINOLOGY AS VIEWED BY THE BEHAVIORAL DISCIPLINES." It will be held on the campus of the University of Chicago (Breasted Hall, Oriental Institute, 1155 East 58th Street). The Institute will be co-sponsored by the University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration, Department of Sociology, and the School of Law.