

WILLIAM G. RIDGEWAY

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Government work	
U.S. Military: Korea	1946
Health and Welfare	
Offered assigned to Armed Forces Radio Station	
Foreign Service career is launched	
Army Discharger	
Becomes Army Civilian Employee	
Army MOPIX	1947
Taken over by Department of State	1949
Marriage	1949
Home leave	1950
Returns to Korea	1950
Seoul in ruins	
Ridgeway restores MOPIX operation	
North Koreans, aided by Chinese, invade south	
Evacuation to Chinhae	
Restoration of MOPIX production facilities at Chinhae	
Communist advance threatens new MOPIX facility	
Nature of MOPIX production: themes – danger of undercover Koreans	
Cooperation with Army-aided film production	
Film processing still done by Makeshift Means	
Acquisition and renovation of a new (fireproof) Studio Building in Sangnam	
Ridgeway returns to Sangnam with family	1953
Ambassador Briggs makes memorable visit to New Studio	
Ridgeway leaves Korea after thirteen years	1958
Assignment to Philippines	

Discussion of later years in Korea

Small degree of Guidance or Supervision of film production from USIS HQ
Sangnam operation proved viability – and value – of in-country, onsite production
U.S. made films mostly inappropriate for field use in Korea – techniques used to render them usable
A major goal of film program was to sustain loyalty of Korean people to their government during postwar rebuilding period
The controversial North Korean prisoner release

Korean progress from “Ox Cart” to major industrial Nation in few years was foreshadowed by ingenuity shown by USIS MOPIX Korean employees 1950

Discussion of Philippines Assignment

Manila job was Regional Service Assignment supporting Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia
Putting a stop to theft of raw film stock
Rebuffing bribery offers

New York assignment 1963

Great Trials of trying to get film production contractors (and USIA MOPIX office) to adapt stateside production to needs in less developed countries

Film Officer, Bangkok 1966
Adapting local MOPIX production in Thailand to Thai village understanding

King of Thailand writes sound track music for USIS films of royal family

USIS had excellent relations with the King, Queen, and Royal Palace staff

USIS uses palace connections to enable USIS coverage of President’s return dinner for royal family

USIS use of feature films to aid Thai government objectives

Use of early video recorders as a tool of MOPIX production: value as a P.R. Device and as economy of film production

Use of special effects in making films for village showings

Life in USIS/USIA after Thailand 1978

Clash between officer with long field experience and domestic employee producers on best means to reach foreign audiences

The stage-managed “survey” of the exhibits service that turned out to be a “hatchet job”