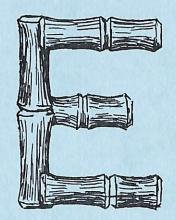


SEABEES IN ACTION



Camp Lejeune

Practice makes perfect ... training makes Seabees.

Seabees are supposed to be professionals in the construction field; why do they need training?

The reason for Seabees undergoing training is established in the modern interpretation that Seabees are builders for peace, fighters for democracy and defenders of freedom.

The need for military and construction training was clearly outlined in Mobile Construction Battalion ONE's recent Vietnam deployment. MCB ONE accomplished professional jobs in record time and maintained a constant high degree of military readiness.

To keep such a keen edge on deployment, it is necessary for all Seabee battalions to go through several weeks of military training each year while in the States.

For this reason, MCB ONE, under the command of Civil Engineer Corps Commander Paul R. Gates, has returned to the Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, for training during February.



COUNTER-GUERILLA WARFARE

by Commander Paul R. Gates Commanding Officer

To the casual observer, it would seem strange to find a group of construction men crawling through the brush, firing weapons, living in pup tents, and generally acting like Ma-

Captain's Comment



rines. And yet this is what has been happening at Camp Lejeune.

Why?

Because these construction men are Seabees, and the ability to survive in combat is part of what makes a Seabee. Being basically oriented towards building things, most of his training is in the many skills that are required in construction. But the Seabees' mission is not simply construction — it is COMBAT CONSTRUCTION. More often than not, the Seabee will be working with or near Marines who are actively engaged in a shooting war.

This means that the Seabee must either concentrate on construction and let the Marines werry about protecting him, or he himself must be able to defend what he is building and leave the Marines free to do their own job.

The choice, of course, is obvious. The Seabee defends what he builds. And so he goes through Marine training. He becomes familiar with Marine doctrine and operations, learns the language so that he can communicate, practices living in the field, and learns how to keep himself alive by using the weapons available to him.

All of this is in keeping with the basic Seabee concept of being self-sustaining. The Battalion is able to feed, house, pay, administer, and otherwise take care of itself -- now it can defend itself as well. Stated another way, the Battalion can go into a combat zone and accomplish the construction mission without being a liability to the Marines.

This is why the Seabee looks like a Marine at Camp Lejeune.



GOOD HABITS NECESSARY

TRAINING ESSENTIAL AS BRUSHING TEETH

by Kenneth A. Moody GSGT USMC

How often does a man brush his teeth? It would be difficult to arrive at such a figure because it is a habit that was formed as a child. Just as a child forms good habits such as brushing his teeth regularly, a man in the service needs to form good military habits.

It is the responsibility of every individual to form good military habits, and it is through the military training at Camp Lejeune this can be accomplished.

For example, how long does it take to run first a brush and then a patch with oil on it through the barrel of an M-ll!? Not long, and it is one of many good habits that could someday save a man's life.

Another example is personal appearance. When a man goes on liberty, he normally will brush and buff his shoes, have on a clean shirt and neatly pressed trousers, a clean shave and a haircut. To the individual it is a matter of personal pride to look neat. Why not have the same pride in a uniform?

Training is one of life's essentials, whether in service or in civilian life. In the military, however, it takes on added significance, because someday, somewhere, good or bad habits could make the difference between life and death.



RIFLE INSPECTION



FIELD CHOW



HAND GRENADE PRACTICE



ON PATROL



ASSAULT BRIDGING

MCB ONE WINDS UP 3 WEEKS WITH FEX

CAMP LEJEUNE, N. C., FEB. 23--Mobile Construction Battalion ONE concluded three weeks of intensive military training this morning as the Battalion returned from a three day field exercise aboard the Marine Corps Base here.

In this field exercise, the officers and men of MCB ONE put their three weeks of training to the test in simulated combat conditions in the dense woods of Camp Lejeune.

Three weeks ago, these men, who returned from Vietnam the end of October, deployed by air from Davisville, R.I., to Camp Lejeune. Since their arrival, these Seabees have participated in more than

Seabees have participated in more than 20 different Marine schools from counter-guerilla warfare to field cooking. Training this year is under the 1st Infantry Training Regiment, commanded by Colonel Richard S. Johnson, who was Commanding Officer of the Marine Barracks in Cuba while MCB ONE was deployed there in 1965.

After Battalion Headquarters were established at Camp Stone Bay, groups of Seabees left to attend various specially offered schools at Lejeune. First, the outfit's 19 cooks and stewards went to the Food Service School, where they learned and practiced their trade under the most adverse field conditions.

Three of the Battalion's corpsmen left the convenience of their sickbay to practice treating the sick and wounded in the field at Field Medical School.

Meanwhile, 20 other members of the Seabee Battalion were undergoing training to make them more capable leaders at the Marine Non-Commissioned Officers Leadership School.

Thirty-nine 'Bees' spent one week at Communications School where they made a thorough study and use of all types of radio equipment. MCB ONE, upon departure from Camp Lejeune, will leave three

of the Battalion's communicators here for an additional month to complete a five week school in which they are undergoing a highly intensive course in up-to-date communications techniques and procedures.

Three major phases of training in which the entire Battalion took part were squad tactics, familiarization with the M-lh rifle and counter-guerilla warfare. In squad tactics, the Seabees learned the importance of and the ability to perform as team members in a squad. Every man completed the training with the knowledge that he must know every other squad member's job in case called on to fill that capacity.

Training on the M-ll rifle is important, because this is the weapon most men would rely upon in case of attack or harassment on deployment. For this reason, Seabees of MCB ONE spent many hours learning the use, care, and proper employment of this rifle. They also gained proficiency by practice firing at night, firing as a squad, simulating patrol procedures, and firing across different terrain conditions.

cont'd. on Page 7



STEWARDS PREPARE
SALAD AT
FOOD SERVICE
SCHOOL

cont'd. from Page 5

One of the more important schools available at Camp Lejeune for units going to Vietnam is counter-guerilla warfare. Before going through the physical training, lectures were given explaining the history of communism and its influence in the Orient, specifically Vietnam. In the heart of the eastern North Carolina woods, the trainee is faced with a model Vietnamese village which has been occupied by Viet Cong. Personnelman First Class Landon Hovious. from Louisville, Ky., new to ONE since its return from Vietnam, explained, "It gave me a good working knowledge of what to expect and how to react in a given situation. The mines, pits, and booby-traps course was one of the important features of the training. Not knowing what to expect kept you alert."

In addition to the schools and special training mentioned, Seabees of MCB ONE also received instruction and practice in first aid, camouflage, mines and demolitions, and assault bridging. They also went through familiarization

courses on the 3.5 rocket launcher, M79 grenade launcher, 106mm recoilless rifle, 81mm mortars, M60 machine gun and hand grenades. Members of crew-served weapons' teams received rigorous training in their specialty.

After completing all schools and training on Friday, Feb. 17, the Battalion deployed the following Monday on a three day field exercise. In the damp cold of Camp Lejeune's woods, the Seabees set up their camp and constructed their defensive positions while the aggressors prepared for the attack. After defending the camp for three days against various kinds of attacks, the exercise ended, foxholes were filled in, and the 'Bees' picked up and returned to their main camp.

Mobile Construction Battalion ONE is now getting ready to return to homeport, Davisville, where these five hundred sixty Seabees and fourteen officers will receive still more training in preparation for their next deployment.

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