

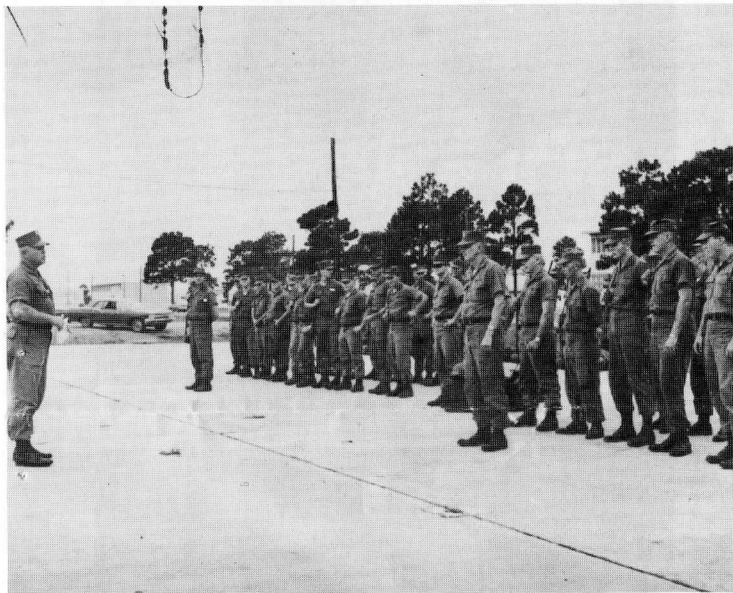
Advanced Party Goes To LeJeune

One Hundred Fifty Seabees from Mobile Construction Battalion One Hundred Twenty Eight under the command of Lt. Gig Shoemaker and Ensign Robert J. Block, boarded a Marine C-130 Transport plane on 24 August, to fly to Camp LeJeune, North Carolina. There they will undergo intensive combat training for 128's deployment to RVN.

The 'bees mustered at 1745 and after making sure that no one took the family's Right Guard or any of that "orange stuff way over there in the corner", boarded buses for the Gulfport airport.

Following the loading of gun boxes, the 128 'bees boarded the plane wearing their 782 (field) gear.

By 1830, everyone was on board, and the plane crew made the final check before lift off. Thus, the advance party from MCB 128 began its final phase of training before going in country.



Advance party musters in before trip to Camp LeJeune, N.C.



"H" Co. "Heroes" before trip to Camp LeJeune.



Members of MCB 128's advance party board plane.

TRAINING NEARS COMPLETION

Military Training at Keesler Air Force Base is nearing completion with only one more class of "stragglers" remaining to be trained prior to deployment. The last class will begin September 18, 1967.

Forty men of MCB 128 completed the three week training course September 9, 1967. The last class experienced torrential rains throughout much of their training. During the last week of tactical training it rained so hard that the decision was made to return the soaked seabees to the base for a dry night. On the return trip, both buses "flooded-out" forging the raging rivers and all hands were forced to push the buses out of the knee deep water. The sun did shine the last two days of the training, however, allowing for a successful completion exercise complete with chiggers, a rattlesnake that decided to join a seabee in his foxhole, C-rations, and of course the M-14 carrying aggressors.

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MCB 128 COMPLETES LEJEUNE TRAINING



Extensive training covering all aspects of the M-60 Machine Gun was given on the Lejeune range, and in the classroom.



Seabees "roughed it" during the tactics training at Lejeune. A temporary defensive camp was established in the field with tents and "foxholes" serving as home.

Seabees of MCB-128 recently completed three weeks of advanced military training at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. For many it was the second trip to the world's largest Marine Amphibious Training Base. Others, new to the "Bees" received their indoctrination into the continuous training cycle that Seabees undergo to assure absolute readiness for Vietnam deployments.

The deployment to Lejeune began on Wednesday, October 23rd, by Navy Air Lifts. All flights had arrived by Sunday and preparations were complete for the training to begin on Monday.

The First Division, Eighth Marines acted as host battalion to MCB-128. They provided berthing and messing facilities and coordinated the training schedule. Marine enlisted men were assigned to act as instructors.

Among the phases of training were mine warfare, field sanitation, crew manned weapons, communications, NCO Leadership and tactical maneuvers. Selection of personnel to attend the various types of training was determined by the job they would perform while deployed to Vietnam.

Most notable at Lejeune were the crew manned weapons. Immediately after the training officially began, teams were selected to work exclusively with the "big guns." These included the 106mm recoilless rifle, the 3.5 inch rocket launcher, the 81mm mortar and the M79 grenade launcher. Advanced training was also given in the use of the M60 machine gun and the M16 rifle.

The teams were instructed in the basic nomenclature of their

weapons, such as length, weight, fire power and use. A long and arduous period of "learning" the weapon, by carrying it, tearing it down and dry firing followed. The crews were then taken to the firing ranges for practical experience with fixed and moving targets. After a week of classroom study, the actual firing was an event much anticipated.

The 106mm recoilless rifle teams staged a demonstration firing, attended by the entire battalion. The demonstration's purpose was to display the power and uses of the biggest of the big ones. Other teams had mastered the rocket launcher, the mortar and the grenade launcher by the end of the first two weeks.

Other aspects of the Seabees' training were underway. Anti-biological warfare methods were learned, enhanced by a tour through the "gas Chamber" wearing an M17 gas mask. Enlightening lectures on Vietnam, its people, customs and hazards were given by Marine instructors. VC booby traps and land mine techniques, along with other enemy pitfalls were explained in detail. Corpsmen learned field first aid and Commissarymen were instructed in field messing.

A special class in counter guerrilla warfare was attended by a platoon of MCB-128 men. Emphasis was placed on patrol tactics, ambush maneuvers, convoy formation and search and recovery procedures. The men assigned to the class acted as aggressors during the battalion's tactical problem.

(continued on page 3)

MCB 128 COMPLETES LEJEUNE TRAINING (cont'd, from page 1)

Combat Town is a conglomeration of buildings representing an average small town. Seabees were taken there by motor march for instruction in assault and capture. After being divided into squads the men were given M14 rifles with blank ammunition and told to "capture" the town.

At another site reconnaissance patrols crept through the forest while an "enemy" ambush patrol established itself at a strategic location in wait. The recon patrols were to gather information on terrain, general conditions of the area, and enemy strength. The eventual contact between the two patrols resulted in a fierce battle.

With the first two weeks of training completed, the only obstacle remaining was the third week tactical problem. A three day field exercise, involving the establishment of a temporary Seabee camp began on Monday, November 11th.

A simulated helicopter air lift dropped the troops at a pre-determined landing zone a mile from the camp site. From that point on the battalion was considered tactical, subject to hostile fire from the aggressors.

The men moved out in a huge patrol formation. The aggressors, consisting of members of the counter guerrilla warfare class, made repeated attacks on the column patrol.

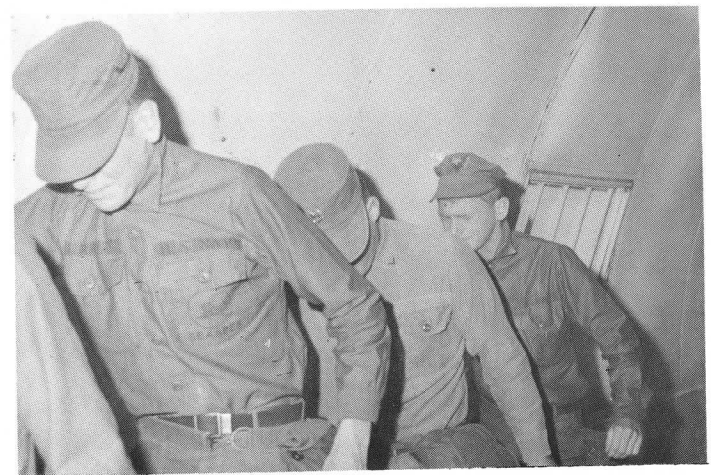
After reaching the camp site, the Seabees "dug in." A Command Post, Medical tent, galley and company CP's were set up. Each company was assigned a section of the perimeter to defend. Attacks by the aggressors continued as the camp was being readied.

By night fall the camp was fully operational. A communication network was strung throughout the camp. Foxholes lined the perimeter and machine gun crews were placed at strategic points. The battalion was ready to defend its camp.

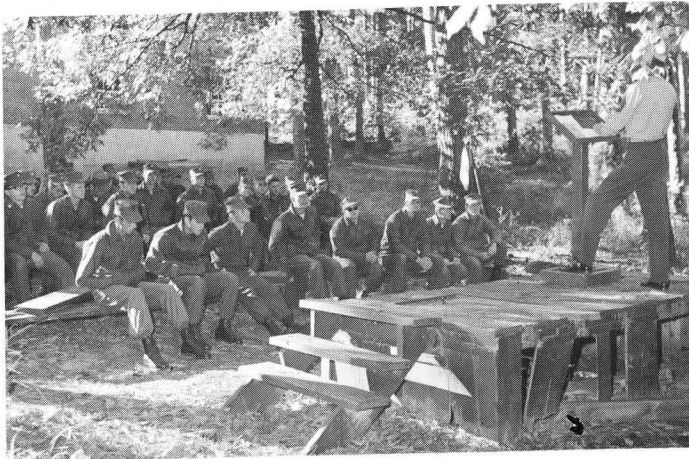
Inclement weather forced the Seabees to abandon the three day field exercise before the scheduled completion date. The remaining days were utilized in 782 gear inspections, exercises at combat town, and other stages of military training.



Combat Town training taught squads the tactics of assault and capture.



Grimacing, the Seabees move through the "gas chamber" after removing gas masks.



Classroom instruction, as well as work in the field, was an important part of Lejeune training.



Helicopter mount-out exercises demonstrated speedy movement of a mobile unit.



SN ERARDY provides a link in the important communications between companies during the tactics.