

OPERATION BEARING DUEL

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Naval Construction Force Support Unit Two

From April 16th to the 30th, Reserve Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 17, 303 Construction Battalion Mobile Unit, First Construction Regiment, and the 31st Seabee Readiness Group participated in field exercises at Camp Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif. In all, over 500 Reservists from all over the United States were involved in the 12 days of intensive combat training at the Northern California Army base.

Training included the use of weapons, land navigation, fighting positions and convoy procedures under tactical conditions. Classes were held outdoors, in tents and in the field,

leading up to a full scale simulated battle which continued throughout the final two days and nights of exercises.

Dubbed "Operation Bearing Duel," the main objective was protecting the Forward Operations Base, named "Silver City," from which the 1st NCR and 31st SRG personnel provided the necessary logistical support throughout the operation.

Outfitted with full combat gear, Seabees engaged enemy forces under realistic battle field conditions which included the use of mortars and grenades. Additionally, the use of large weapons including the .50-caliber machine gun and the 240 Gulf. All training was conducted by the instructors from NMCB-

17 and Marine Corps advisers attached to the Seabees. With safety being paramount, all simulated ordinance was carefully choreographed and detonated under the supervision of the trained instructors.

The Miles gear issued to every Reservist provided critical information regarding the success or failure of each battle. Using the computerized infrared sensors mounted on all battle gear and weapons, data was transmitted over a mile away to civilian contractors monitoring the activity. This provided key information, including an accurate count of casualties and troop movements throughout the course of each battle. ♦



Photo by UT2 Ken Irwin

NMCB-17



Seabee Reservist EO3 Anthony Harris of NMCB-17 Cheyenne, Wyo. mans the .50-caliber machine gun pit during his 12 days of field exercises at Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif. Over 500 Seabees from NMCB-17, CBMU 303, 1st NCR and 31st SGR attended the training during the month of April.

Seabee Reservist Nathan Kapule of 303 CBMU Oahu, Hawaii, keeps an eye out for suspected enemy patrols during training exercises at Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif. The 12 days of Field exercises were held at the Northern California Army base with over 500 Seabees from all over the United States participating.

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