

BACKGROUND

The Vietnam War was unlike previous wars in which the United States had participated. The environmental conditions and topography of Vietnam presented unique difficulties for the U.S. military. Additionally, the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese fought a guerilla war that forced the U.S. military to adopt new fighting techniques and to modify existing practices. In order to meet these new challenges, the military adopted specialized training programs and schools for United States troops. The schools were diverse and included training in survival, electronics and new technology, engineering, construction, intelligence, transportation, amphibious and mine warfare, and leadership. While some schools served specific military missions and Special Forces, construction, others provided training across many disciplines.

Other Legacy Vietnam historic context subthemes address pilot and crew training, logistic training, and Special Operations training. Therefore, this subtheme focuses specifically on survival training, leadership (Officer and Noncommission Officer) training, and tactics and technology that came about as a direct result of United States involvement in the Vietnam War.

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Southeast Asian Village Constructed at the Basic School. Quantico, Virginia, June 1966 (NARA 127-GG-957-A556414)

Source: Hartman et al. "Vietnam on the Homefront: How DoD Installations Adapted, 1962-1975." 2014



Officer Training School, Lackland AFB, Texas, Discussion of the Military Code of Ethics

Source: Manning et al., *History of Air Education and Training Command, 1942-2002*

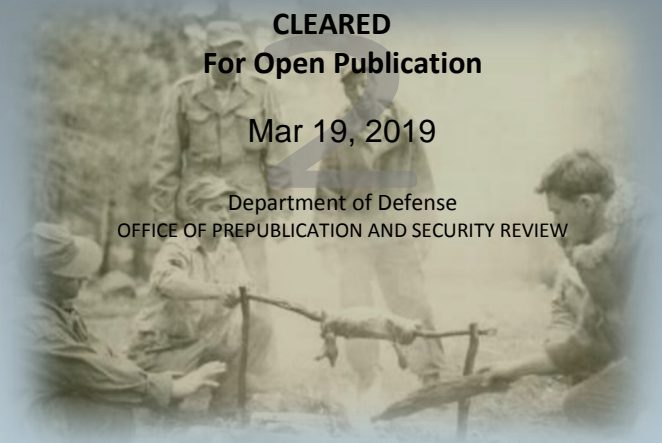
Vietnam War: Special Schools on U.S. Military Installations Historic Context Subtheme

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Survival Training at Stead AFB, Nevada

Source: Manning et al., *History of Air Education and Training Command, 1942-2002*



PURPOSE

This project contributes to the overall, broad Vietnam War context by addressing military schools that existed during the Vietnam era. More specifically, this project addresses training, tactics, and technology that came about as a direct result of United States involvement in the Vietnam War. The resulting report then provides a framework for identifying and evaluating associated historic properties on Department of Defense (DoD) installations.

The report provides cultural resource managers and professionals with a standardized approach to identify property types, determine historical significance, and assess integrity, thereby greatly increasing efficiency and cost-savings in compliance with the National Historic



The USAF Survival School Complex at Fairchild AFB, Washington in 1966

Source: Hartman et al. "Vietnam on the Homefront: How DoD Installations Adapted, 1962–1975." 2014

METHODOLOGY

The methods for completing this historic context included a literature review, investigation of primary and secondary sources for context, site visits to select installations, and report development. Researchers accessed primary and secondary sources at the National Archives and Records Administration, military libraries and museums, university libraries, and online sources. DoD installation staff provided additional information and documentation.



**PACAF Jungle Survival School,
Clark AFB, Philippines**

Source: <http://archive.ec47.com/survival.htm>, Ed Benningfield

RESOURCE TYPES

Types of resources associated with this historic context include facilities and structures that were constructed, underwent a major expansion, or were adapted and heavily used during 1962–1975 in support of the Vietnam War and were directly related to:

- Providing training and education for troops during the war effort
- Outdoor facilities used by special training programs
- Other structures and equipment that housed or supported trainees

EXAMPLES OF FACILITIES

- Academic buildings that included classrooms as well as other indoor space for hands-on training including hand combat, weapons, first aid, maps, communications, and tactical instrument training. Spaces may include simulators, laboratories, shops, and pools.
- Outdoor training areas that included tactical instrument training courses, firing ranges, demonstration areas, bombing ranges, construction sites, and mock villages and POW camps. These properties might be in a variety of settings including woods, beaches, water bodies, jungles, or clearings.
- Support facilities that included structures built or renovated in response to an influx of trainees. These include housing, headquarters and offices, and recreation facilities.



Geigier Hall at MCB Quantico, Virginia

Source: John Milner Associates, Inc. 2007