



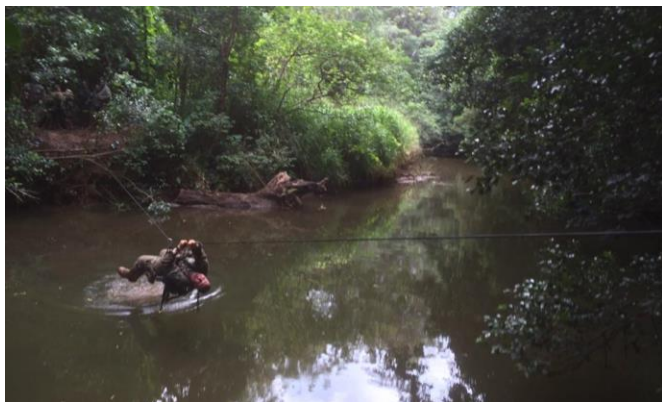
Vietnam War: Special Schools on U.S. Military Installations

Historic Context Subtheme

Project # 17-835B

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 United States (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 land and sea 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, such as amphibious and riverine operations, psychological operations (Psyops), counterinsurgency (COIN), intelligence, or construction, others provided training across many disciplines.



**Jungle Operation Training Center,
Schofield Barrack East Range**

Source: US Army Garrison – Hawai'i files, 2018

Objective:

Large influxes of military personnel to training installations during the Vietnam war resulted in the need for buildings and structures to provide the necessary training and skills for this unique environment and adversary. Many of these facilities are approaching 50-years old, which will necessitate the evaluation of the historical significance under the National Historic Preservation Act. The project objective is to provide a historic context and building typology for special school facilities constructed on Department of Defense (DoD) installations within the U.S. during the Vietnam War, 1962-1975.

Summary of Approach:

The historic context process 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 other sources. DoD installation staff provided additional information and documentation.

Benefit:

The resulting historic context report provides cultural resource managers and professionals with a standardized approach to identify property types, determine historical significance of associated properties, and assess integrity, thereby greatly increasing efficiency and cost-savings in compliance and management.

Accomplishments:

The report provides context and typology for Vietnam War (1962–1975) special schools-related resources on DoD installations in the United States. The report also includes specific examples of installations that housed special schools during the war.

The report can be used to develop installation-specific contexts to support the identification and evaluation of Vietnam-era special schools on those installations.



Survival Training, Stead AFB

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

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