



Background:

Many Vietnam-era properties in the United States are approximately 50 years old, and must be surveyed, documented, and if historic, managed according to the dictates of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended. To begin this effort, DoD Legacy Resource Management Program project #12-518 report, *Vietnam and the Home Front: How DoD Installations Adapted, 1962-1975*, was published in 2014. It contains a broad overview of Vietnam-specific construction in the United States between 1962 and 1975 and identifies Vietnam-era property types needing more specific historic contexts that focus on those types. The property types identified were ground combat training, air training, special warfare, schools, housing, medical facilities, and logistics facilities.

A context was developed that provided historic information on the types of training facilities required to instruct recruits in ground combat and prepare them for Vietnam. Initial research identified several installations likely to have had ground combat training facilities and provided a basis for fieldwork locations. ERDC-CERL personnel visited four installations to survey physical characteristics of relevant property types and to better understand the probable level of extant properties.

Although information is included for all services, the report contains disproportionately more information about the Army, a result of the Army having trained more personnel for deployment to Vietnam in ground combat roles, and possessing more training installations at home.

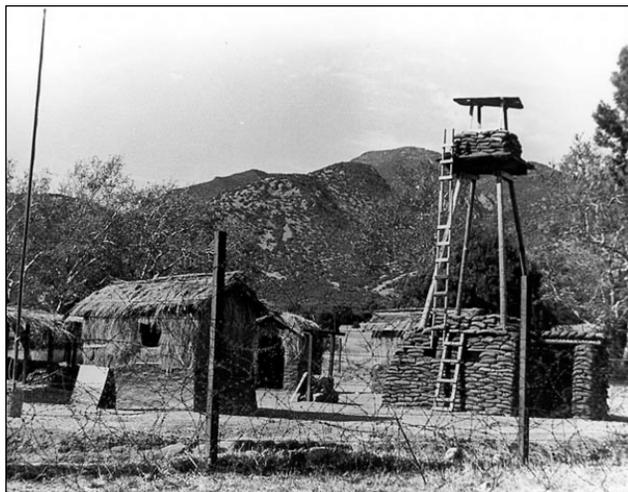
Benefit:

This report should be utilized to assist DoD installations cultural resources professionals in the necessary effort to identify and evaluate Vietnam War-related ground combat training properties in the United States. The historic context provides military cultural resources professionals with a standardized approach to making significance determinations, greatly increasing efficiency and cost-savings to the U.S. military.

Accomplishments:

Determining significance under the Vietnam War context for ground combat training properties built on U.S. installations between 1962 and 1975 is keyed upon answering the question “what facilities here were tailored specifically for instructing personnel in ground combat techniques for fighting in Vietnam?” The following types of properties may be significant under NRHP Criterion A during this period if integrity is retained:

- Ground Combat Training Course
- Ground Combat Training Range
- Mock Vietnamese Training Village



A mock Vietnam training village used for a training site at Fort Huachuca in the 1960s. (Source: Fort Huachuca Museum).

Objective:

The objective of this report is to provide a historic context for Vietnam War-era ground combat training properties in the United States that were constructed or adapted to meet the demands of preparing troops for fighting in Vietnam.

Summary of Approach:

Using the 2014 report as a starting point, the research team developed a list of research questions, such as: What role did each military service play in preparing personnel for ground combat during the Vietnam War era? What types of training did the recruits receive? What types of properties were necessary for this training? What was left of these facilities?

Contact Information:

Dr. Susan I. Enscoe
Project Manager/Geographer
U.S. Army COE, ERDC-CERL
P.O. Box 9005
Champaign, IL 61826-9005
217-373-4434
217-373-6799
susan.i.enscoe@usace.army.mil

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