

Pres to Gen Porter 19 Jan 1966.

NARRATION
MTT/Firth, Ecuador

MTT/Firth arrived in Quito, Ecuador on the 13th of October, 1965. For 20 days, they trained a platoon of selected men and officers from the Ecuadorian Airborne Battalion as Fuerzas Especialistas Seguridad, or Special Security Forces.

The platoon was composed of 14 enlisted men and 4 officers of the Army, plus one Air Force Officer. These officers and men are an all-ranger, MAP supported platoon serving as a Special Security Force on alert status.

(FILM)

Of the two phases of the course, the first one consisted of 6 days of a counterinsurgency refresher course conducted in and around Quito. The second phase, 14 days long, consisted of a Field Training Exercise (FTX) near Santo Domingo de los Colorados. The second phase included a five-day Operational Readiness Exercise (ORE) during which the platoon was required to plan and execute actions in 12 counterinsurgency problem areas, including patrolling, raids, ambushes, prisoner interrogation, and so forth. It was during this latter part of the course that these films were shot.

The ORE initial development gave the student-soldiers the basix situation.....
an intelligence report containing information as to the whereabouts of guerrilla

activities and sighted guerrillas.

The message was delivered to the Cuadorian platoon leader who developed his plan of action in the presence of MTT Chief Major Firth.

The platoon leader then briefed his squad leaders. His plan was to move the entire platoon from the base camp to intercept the movement of the guerrillas.

The platoon encountered muddy and nearly impassable trails enroute to its destination which it reached late in the night of the second day. The Field Training area is unlimited and extremely suitable to mountain and jungle training.

Smoke bombs, booby traps, demolition charges, and small arms fire signalled another in a series of guerrilla attacks against the platoon. The guerrillas.... 22 of them....were men from the same Airborn Battalion and were led by MTT member MSgt Vasquez. The guerrilla band operated successfully, being so well hidden that it was nearly impossible for the cameras to catch them in action.

However, one prisoner was taken...searched...and questioned by the platoon leader under the watchful eye of MTT members who were conducting the ORE critique.

On a semi-open area, the platoon established a drop zone for another problem... an aerial re-supply drop. (PAUSE) However, radio operators were unable to establish contact with the base camp to request the drop and give the drop zone location... so the patrol began moving back to the base camp. (PAUSE) Along the trail, however, visual contact was made with the re-supply plane, smoke grenades were set off, and a successful re-supply drop was made.

After the re-supply drop, the Ecuadorian platoon leader decided to return half the platoon to the base camp, there to remain on alert status.

Shortly after their return, a report was received that the guerrilla base camp had been located. The men still in the jungle moved to attack while those who had returned to base camp were to parachute in near the guerrilla base to act as a blocking force. However, inclement weather forced the cancellation of the airdrop. The blocking force was then trucked in, the delay necessitating a night attack.

(FILM OUT)

The guerrilla camp was captured and prisoners interrogated. The platoon then re-assembled at their base camp for a final critique and evaluation by MTT members.