

4.2" Mortar Training DCS 314-40/66

A five-man 8th Special Forces Mobil Training Team is in the Dominican Republic for three months to train a nucleus/^{mortar}platoon of the 1st ~~Brigade~~ Infantry Brigade, Dominican Army.

The team is headed by Captain Florencio Berumen, 8th SFG (Abn), Fort Gulick, Canal Zone. His team consists of NCOIC MSG Clarence E. Gross; MSG Pedro Rodriguez; SFC Antonio Recio; and SFC Celso Lovato.

The team is training a platoon of the 1st Brigades headquarters company in the use of the 4.2" mortar. The training is being conducted in such a manner as to enable this nucleus platoon/to teach others within the Dominican Army on the arrival of ~~more~~ more mortars. The brigade has four at the present time and they are the heaviest mortars within the Dominican military.

practical application of classroom instruction study
The ~~training~~ begins with ~~instructions~~ in the installation and use of the pneumatic device, a training device enabling the mortar crews to fire miniature, dummy shells but on a scale equivalent to the firing of actual rounds. The installation and firing of the pneumatic device is taught by SFC MSG Rodriguez and SFC Recio.

SFC Recio continues the program from there with classes in the installation of the 4.2" mortar for firing. This is the crew drill which is repeated until the crew can set up the mortar in mere seconds. This crew drill is then expanded to include changing aiming points for large deflections and the use of the aiming circle for minor adjustments.

MSG Gross is the instructor for classes in Fire Direction Control, including use of the M-16 plotting board. His class works in conjunction with that of SFC Lovato in operation of a communications system with the mortar crews in laying rounds on a target.

All of the training takes place at the 1st Brigades 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ Kilometer camp on the outskirts of Santo Domingo. The culmination of the three months work is held at the Sierra Prieta range where the crews ~~are~~ are tested through the whole of their courses, including, this time, the firing of live rounds.