

NAVAL INSHORE OPERATIONS TRAINING CENTER
MARE ISLAND
VALLEJO, CALIFORNIA 94592

WELCOME ABOARD

This information packet is your introduction to the Brown Water Navy and the Naval Inshore Operations Training Center. Hopefully it will answer some of your questions about your orders and what is ahead for the next weeks. Also it should give you some points of reference for your personal affairs prior to departing for Southeast Asia. The staff at "NIOTC" is deeply interested in the quality of training you will receive while on board. You are welcome here and we hope when you leave you will begin to understand the pride we feel in the term "Brown Water Navy". Remember -- the tactical situation in Indochina changes fast and frequently, so all of the following information is subject to change.

HOW TO REPORT FOR TRAINING

Check In. The Naval Inshore Operations Training Center is located in Building 509, Mare Island Naval Shipyard, Vallejo, California. The easiest entry to the building is through the Main Gate at the western end of Tennessee Street. Take Tennessee Street directly to its end at the Main Gate. Building 509 is the first large building on the left, next to the pier as you come off the causeway leading from the Main Gate. The quarterdeck watch in the building will sign you in and assist with any immediate transportation or berthing arrangements. As soon as possible during working hours report to the Administrative Officer for check-in and processing. From there you will be sent to the Training Dept. and met by a liaison officer who will have your schedule and get you started on your training program. Ordinarily the first day of classes for a new student is the Monday after his reporting date.

HOW TO READ YOUR ORDERS TO VIETNAM

Duty Assignment. Often student officers are unclear as to what exactly their orders mean or where their ultimate duty assignment will be. This is compounded by sometimes incorrect information. Unfortunately it is not always possible to say what exact duties a student will have after arrival in Vietnam. The best rule of thumb is to call us on autovon and we will give you an interpretation as well as answer any pressing questions that you may have. Training Dept.'s autovon number is: 253-3520, 3543, or 4535. The yeoman will channel your inquiries to one of the staff officers.

Most individuals are ordered to Vietnam as numerical, not personal, reliefs so the man named in your orders will not often be able to give you straight information about your ultimate duty station -- stay loose. The situation in Vietnam changes daily and your job destination will often times change along with it. Be flexible and try to absorb as much information as possible from all sources.

THE TRAINING AT NIOTC

The School. NIOTC is primarily concerned with training advisors to Vietnamese river warfare and combat support units. We teach several other curriculums but advisors are out bread and butter and the other courses are shortened off-shoots of the primary courses. The school offers training in weapons, engineering, maintenance, Vietnamese language, SERE (Survival, Evasion, Resistance, Escape), the theory and practice of counterinsurgency warfare (C.I.), boat operations and tactics, and physical fitness/first aid.

The Course of Instruction. The standard seventeen week advisory course includes:

Orientation(1 wk) -- Introduction to the school. Instruction in First Aid and survival swimming.

Counterinsurgency(CI) (1 wk) -- Basic overview of the Vietnam War, the people, the conduct of CI warfare, and the role of the advisor.

SERE (1 wk) -- A five day field problem at NAS Whidbey Island or Warner Springs, California. Teaches basic survival, tactical evasion in enemy territory, moral resistance to interrogation, and escape procedures.

Functional(1 wk) -- Basic communications doctrine, introduction to diesel engineering, and river/coastal navigation.

Tactics (1 wk) -- Classroom study of coastal/riverine warfare tactics practiced in RVN.

Weapons (2 wk) -- A week of classroom instruction in all weapons used by the coastal/riverine forces followed by a week of live-firing.

Boat Operations (3 wk) -- Basic boat handling, systems engineering, practical operations and employment of standard tactics underway on the PCF, PBR, and all types of river assault craft.

Final Underway Battle Problem(1 WK)

Language (6 wk) -- Introduction to Vietnamese language. Designed to teach a practical 500 word vocabulary to the coastal/riverine advisor.

Other Courses Taught.

U.S. Boat Crew Training(11 wk) -- The above curriculum less the language.

Strike Assault Boat Training(11 wk) -- Basically same as above adjusted to the STAB craft.

Engineering/Maintenance(2wk) -- Training in diesel engines in use in Vietnam.

Sensor Warfare (6 wk) -- Extracts of basic advisor curriculum plus technical and tactical training in maintenance and employment of field sensors.

Vietnamese Navy Officer Candidates(2 wk) -- Introduction to coastal/riverine craft and tactics for VNN OCS.

WHILE YOU ARE AT NIOTC

Classroom Training. Class is conducted five days a week, 0700-1630. The weeks of SERE, weapons, live-firing, and underway training are all conducted in the field 24hr/day with varying cuts into the weekends. As a student officer, you will have no assigned duties other than responsibility for the performance of more junior students within your class. Free time is your own.

Leave. Ordinarily, no leave is available during the school or after graduation. Exceptions are the two week holiday leave period over Christmas and personal emergency or serious need.

Uniform. Uniform standards at Mare Island follow the Twelfth Naval District standards with tropical khaki long permitted as an optional working uniform year-round. Student officers normally wear green utility uniforms. Greens and foul weather gear will be issued to you as needed.

Personal Affairs. NIOTC and Mare Island have complete facilities to assist in aligning your personal affairs before departing overseas. The legal officer will assist with any wills, powers of attorney, or other legal problems. The Mare Island Dental and Medical Departments will arrange for dental work, shots, medical exams, etc.

Pay. Disbursing services at Mare Island are provided by the shipyard.

a. Regular Pay. Pay day is the 15th and 30th of each month. Special pay can be arranged if you arrive out of phase with the regular pay schedule.

b. Travel Pay and Per Diem. Advance per diem will be paid for the period at Mare Island upon request. You will not rate per diem for the periods in field training. You can expect to receive a per diem check about a week after the request. You may also draw advance travel pay. Dependent travel and dislocation allowance will be paid here if dependents have completed their travel. No other travel or per diem settlements will be made at Mare Island.

c. Allotments. You should start or change allotments as soon as possible to allow the allotment time to pay before you depart. Mare Island can open allotments for you.

HOUSING IN THE VALLEJO AREA

There is a BOQ on Mare Island. It is "inadequate" for officers in temporary duty status so you can choose to use it or draw the higher rate of per diem and find private accommodations. If you live off-base, NIOTC will not be able to provide you transportation. There are also substandard Navy quarters available to lieutenants and below through the shipyard housing office on a rental basis. The housing office will not make reservations. A number of motels and hotels in Vallejo offer accommodations on weekly or monthly rates and some apartments rent on short term basis. Housing kits of bed linens; towels, table ware and cooking utensils are available from shipyard special services on a rental basis.

ABOUT VIETNAM

Port Calls. This command will make port calls for your overseas transportation. Reservations are usually within two days of your graduation date. Personnel going to Saigon fly out of Travis AFB and personnel going to Cam Ranh Bay fly out of McChord AFB.

Uniforms. BUPERSINST 1300.37A offers good information. If you are destined for a river warfare unit, take only one set of tropical whites and two sets of tropical wash khakis. Extra wash khakis can be taken as back-up uniforms. However the boat-riding personnel will be issued five sets of green utilities, including boots and hat. This should be adequate for your entire uniform requirement since greens can be worn anywhere within Vietnam. The whites are necessary in case you are invited to a dress ceremony and the wash khakis are the most practical travel uniform to and from Vietnam. It is recommended that you do not take any clothing to Vietnam that requires dry-cleaning.

Personal Effects. If you have any personal effects to be placed in storage or shipped from Mare Island you can make all necessary arrangements through the household goods section of the shipyard supply department.

The staff of NIOTC is looking forward to meeting you. Our sole function is to prepare you physically, mentally, and technically for the difficult and challenging duty ahead. The opportunity is yours to make full use of the San Francisco Bay Area and the resources available at the school.