

Marines Train Cops

All white squad learns house to house combat (Why?)

The United States Marine Corps is now training special elite Los Angeles police squads at Camp Pendleton, California, in house to house combat techniques as well as efficient methods of killing with the M-16 machine gun, (the same weapon used in Vietnam), according to information received this week by the *Free Press*.

On the fourteenth of June, 1972, a platoon sized contingent of LAPD officers were observed eating in the mess hall at Camp San Onofre section of Camp Pendleton. They were dressed in special LAPD nylon black jump suits with combat boots and were eating in a staff NCO and officer's section of the facility. Most were wearing NCO rank insignia.

The most alarming fact, according to our informant, is that all of these Los Angeles Police officers were white. There were no Black or Chicano officers. The last time the LAPD took on this physical appearance was when the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) squad attacked the Black Panther Party offices in 1969.

Inquiries produced the following story. The police were being trained by the S-3 branch of the Infantry Training School (ITS) under Staff Sgt. Laporte. ITS is a new designation for the advanced infantry training facilities previously at Camp Pendleton and Camp Lejeune in South Carolina. Its purpose is specialized training in use of ground weapons and tactics developed for combat. Marines from all training bases in the U.S. now receive this training at Camp Pendleton. This program is now integrated into Marine Basic Training. All Marines designated 0311 (Infantry or "Grunt") take this training.

The same blue-helmeted staff of S-3 infantry training school are assigned to the program of training for LAPD. The L.A. Sheriffs Department also receives this training. All officers drew weapons and equipment from the Marine Corps Armory.

First on the agenda at training is a 2-hour class entitled "Care and Cleaning of the M-16 rifle" followed by a class in quick-kill technique with that rifle. The training teaches how to shoot rapidly without aiming and still hit with accuracy. The weapon is used on full automatic

and is held in such a way that the rifle man keeps his arms straight. The rifle is then raised and shot in one motion, much like pitching a ball at a target underhanded. With coordination between eye and hands accuracy is assured much like a baseball pitcher throws without use of any sight.

The police officer or marine first trains by shooting BB guns at pie tins set up and thrown in the air. After he masters the M-16 he is trained in quick-kill by walking down a trail equipped with pop-up targets that require rapid and accurate fire in order to hit them before they disappear.

The rifle training is followed by training in M-79 grenade launchers.

When the rifle and grenade launchers are mastered, the police are trained in "combat in fortified and built up areas" with the use of a mock town called *Combat Town*. This is a model of an Occidental town, (not Asian as depicted on some TV news stories), complete with church steeple and mock door

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The following story was leaked exclusively to the Free Press by an active duty Marine stationed at the Camp San Mateo of Marine Corps base Camp Pendleton, California. For obvious reasons he must remain anonymous. He is a Vietnamese Veteran now on assignment with the 7th Marines in California.

At present, the Seventh Marines are on 90 day flyaway standby (for parts unknown) and are trained in Civil Disturbance Control on alert whenever President Nixon comes to the Western Whitehouse. They were to be used at the San Diego Republican Convention before its transfer.

Staff Sgt. X came to us, disturbed at the idea of the Seventh Marines "fighting" American citizens at San Clemente or San Diego and felt it necessary to leak this story a la the Ellsberg tradition.

Part of the Seventh Marines recently returned from Army Jungle Warfare Training School in Panama, where they participated in guerrilla counterinsurgent training in conjunction with the Army's Green Beret program.

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and windows that allow the trainee to learn to shoot around corners and out of windows with minimum exposure. He also learns techniques of house to house combat.

Also available are courses in fire team techniques requiring coordination between four men designated as (1) automatic rifleman (2) assistant AR (3) Fire team leader (4) Scout. The technique employs either schelon right or left formation or a wedge formation to sweep and clear an area when attacking.

Other course titles include:

"Range estimation class"

"Night defensive fire"

"Camouflage cover and concealment"

"Night illumination (use of a rifle equipped with a starlight scope that can "see" in pitch black night. The marines brag that no Viet Cong ever lived to capture one.)

Defensive position; defensive

fires, defensive barriers."

"M-60 machine gun, qualification and firing."

"How to use smoke and explosive grenades."

At almost the same time that the police officers were originally observed at Camp Pendleton, a reader called the *Free Press* office to say that some Los Angeles police officers wearing combat techniques were carrying on some type of military maneuvers with M-16 weapons at 2,000 North Argyle Street in Hollywood.

A reporter sent to North Argyle Street observed these maneuvers and interviewed the training officer in charge. It was learned that the men being trained were members of the Special Weapons and Tactics squad of the Los Angeles police and they were learning how to deal with snipers. (*Free Press*, June 23, 1972)

Training officer Hartt denied at the time that any preparations were

underway to combat revolutionaries or political dissidents. He said, "Demonstrators are relatively peaceful now. The days of Watts are over since people have found other than violent means to protest."

Now that it has been learned that local police are being trained, not only to deal with an occasional lone sniper but are being trained in the techniques used in Vietnam to control the civilian population, the question immediately arises: "Just who are these police being trained to fight?"

The fact that the units being trained are all white is certain to make the local black community very uneasy as they already think of the LAPD as an occupying army.

The fact that these domestic "peace officers" are being trained in military control of cities is cause for unease among anyone who believes in the democratic process.

It is not reassuring to know that police recruiting posters displayed at Camp Pendleton, and directed toward the veteran leaving the service, bear the motto, "Now that you've fought for peace, help keep it at home."

Evidently these programs to turn our local "peace officers" into a domestic army are being financed with federal funds. There is obvious need to alert our city, state and federal officials to this situation and find out all the facts. Attempts have already been made to question a Lieutenant Boudreau of S-4 Planning and Operations who is reputedly in charge of arranging the use of facilities at Camp Pendleton for the Los Angeles police officers, but he was unavailable at the time he was telephoned. His phone number is (714) 725-7413.