

THE MISSION OF THE MARINE CORPS CBRN SCHOOL HERE AT FORT LEONARD WOOD IS TO TRAIN MARINES TO BECOME CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL, RADIOLOGICAL, NUCLEAR DEFENSE SPECIALISTS.

THE PRIMARY MISSION OF THE CBRN DEFENSE SPECIALIST IS TO ENSURE THEIR UNIT IS TRAINED AND READY TO SURVIVE AND OPERATE IN A CBRN ENVIRONMENT. THESE DUTIES INCLUDE TRAINING MARINES IN INDIVIDUAL SURVIVAL MEASURES AND CBRN DEFENSE TEAM OPERATIONS, OPERATING THE CBRN CONTROL CENTER IN THE UNIT'S COMBAT OPERATIONS CENTER, MAINTENANCE OF CBRN DEFENSE EQUIPMENT, AND PREPARATION OF THAT EQUIPMENT FOR DEPLOYMENT.

BEFORE LEAVING HERE TODAY AS CBRN DEFENSE SPECIALISTS, THESE MARINES HAVE RECEIVED HUNDREDS OF HOURS OF INSTRUCTION AND HAVE DEMONSTRATED PROFICIENCY IN SEVERAL DIFFERENT AREAS.

THE COURSE THEY HAVE JUST COMPLETED CONSISTS OF 4 MAJOR BLOCKS OF INSTRUCTION.

THE MARINES BEGAN THEIR TRAINING WITH THE "BASIC SKILLS" BLOCK WHICH TEACHES THE FOUNDATION WHICH THE MARINES CONTINUE TO BUILD UPON THROUGH OUT THE COURSE. THIS INCLUDED CLASSES ON THE FIELD PROTECTIVE MASK, INDIVIDUAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT, CHEMICAL AGENTS, AN INTRODUCTION TO DECONTAMINATION AND DETECTION OPERATIONS, IMMEDIATE ACTIONS DRILLS, IMMEDIATE AND OPERATIONAL DECONTAMINATION TECHNIQUES, CONDUCTING INSTRUCTION AND THE IPE CONFIDENCE EXERCISE (GAS CHAMBER) .

THE SECOND BLOCK WAS THE "HAZARD PREDICTION" BLOCK. THE MARINES RECEIVED INSTRUCTION ON HOW TO PLOT CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL AND NUCLEAR ATTACKS, PREDICTING THE RESULTING AREAS OF CONTAMINATION, AND WHAT ACTIONS ARE REQUIRED ONCE AN ATTACK HAS OCCURRED.

THE THIRD BLOCK OF INSTRUCTION WAS THE "CONTAMINATION AVOIDANCE" BLOCK. DURING THIS BLOCK THE MARINES LEARNED HOW TO REDUCE THE THREAT OF CONTAMINATION AND MAINTAIN THE OPERATIONAL TEMPO OF THEIR UNIT BY LOCATING AND AVOIDING CONTAMINATION AFTER A CBRN ATTACK HAS OCCURRED.

CLASSES INCLUDED CONTAMINATION AVOIDANCE TECHNIQUES, VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT, CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL AND RADIOLOGICAL DETECTION EQUIPMENT OPERATIONS AND EMPLOYMENT, AND TECHNIQUES FOR MONITORING, SURVEY AND RECONNAISSANCE.

THE FOURTH AND FINAL BLOCK OF INSTRUCTION WAS THE "DECONTAMINATION" BLOCK. THIS BLOCK TAUGHT THE MARINES TECHNIQUES AND PROCEDURES FOR THOROUGH DECONTAMINATION OF PERSONNEL, CONTAMINATED CASUALTIES, AND MARINE CORPS EQUIPMENT ASSETS INCLUDING AIRCRAFT.

FOR EACH OF THE BLOCKS OF INSTRUCTION, THE MARINES RECEIVED HOURS OF CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION, AND CONDUCTED NUMEROUS PRACTICAL APPLICATION EXERCISES DESIGNED TO REINFORCE THE SKILLS LEARNED. THEN THE MARINES WERE EVALUATED BY SEPARATE WRITTEN AND PERFORMANCE EXAMINATIONS TO VERIFY THE PROFICIENCY OF THE SKILLS THEY LEARNED.

IN ADDITION TO THE FOUR BLOCKS OF INSTRUCTION, THE MARINES TRAINED IN AN ACTUAL TOXIC CHEMICAL AGENT ENVIRONMENT AT THE CHEMICAL DEFENSE TRAINING

FACILITY LOCATED HERE ABOARD FORT LEONARD WOOD. DESIGNED TO REINFORCE THE SKILLS THE MARINES LEARNED AND THE EFFECTIVENESS OF CBRN EQUIPMENT THAT THE MARINES RECEIVED INSTRUCTION ON.

THE MARINES TRAINING CULMINATED WITH A THREE DAY FINAL FIELD EXERCISE. DURING WHICH THEY APPLIED THE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS THEY LEARNED THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE COURSE, FOCUSING HEAVILY ON CONTROL CENTER OPERATIONS, MONITOR/SURVEY PROCEDURES, ALL THREE LEVELS OF DECONTAMINATION OPERATIONS AND INDIVIDUAL AND SMALL UNIT LEADERSHIP.

FOLLOWING GRADUATION, THESE MARINES WILL MOVE ON TO A VARIETY OF DIFFERENT DUTY STATIONS AROUND THE WORLD. THESE ASSIGNMENTS INCLUDE DIVISION, MARINE LOGISTICS GROUP, AND MARINE AIRCRAFT WING UNITS."