



Above, ship's air boss performs communications test wearing Navy protective mask. Right, Marine in MOPP gear sips water through tube.

Marines Assault California Beach

—sailors and Marines test in MOPP

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Under the code name Kernel Blitz II, several thousand members of the Fifth Marine Amphibious Brigade assaulted the beach at Camp Pendleton, California, from 14 US Navy ships of the Pacific Fleet. The landing was one of the largest ever conducted to observe and evaluate sailors and Marines doing routine tasks while dressed in MOPP gear.

Seventy-five Dugway Proving Ground (DPG), Utah, and contractor employees completed the specially-funded Department of Defense test, under DO-49.

Tasks observed included operating

all kinds of equipment and communications systems and launching and retrieving small boats from well decks and davits. Personnel were also observed in MOPP directing, refueling, and rearming aircraft.

One Marine assault group of 40 men flew from a ship to the beach, performed a series of military tactics, and then returned to the ship, all the time dressed in MOPP.

According to CPT Russell A. Bucy, joint operations liaison officer, the DPG test crew included personnel from Materiel Test Directorate's

Design, Review and Analysis, Optical Data, Chemical Assay Design, and Chemical/Biological Defense Branches, and Technical Analysis and Information Office. More than 40 persons from Lockheed Engineering and Management Services Company (EMSCO) assisted in test operations and data collection. Also participating were representatives of Andrulis Research Corporation, Naval Training Systems Center, and Applied Science Associates, Inc. 1LT Jeffrey I. Stiefel directed the program, acting as project officer, and Lockheed's Clifton Shields was the test officer.



Test personnel spent 11 days aboard five ships, including the flagship USS Belleau Wood, a general purpose amphibious assault ship; the USS Ogden, an amphibious transport dock ship; the USS Peoria, a tank landing ship; the USS Mobile, an amphibious cargo ship, and the USS Fort Fisher, a dock landing ship.

Other test personnel conducted numerous trials with Navy personnel and Marines while stationed on the beach the entire 11 days.

CPT Bucy said DO-49 funds are used to plan, conduct, and report joint services operational testing and studies on chemical and biological

(CB) warfare. The Army, and specifically DPG, has responsibility under DO-49 to conduct operational tests and disseminate CB information obtained. That is how Dugway personnel became involved in testing during a Naval and Marine amphibious assault.

The DO-49-funded program, totaling approximately \$2.6 million this year at Dugway, is one of the major missions of the post.

Over two years of planning went into this test. In early 1986, many Dugway test personnel sailed aboard ships during the rehearsal of Kernel Blitz II to observe various tasks and to

predict which tasks would appear to present the greatest problems if conducted by personnel in MOPP.

Navy and Marine Corps evaluators were trained to watch the tests and complete an evaluation of each trial. Personnel participating in the trials each filled out several questionnaires describing the effects of working in MOPP, and the problems they encountered.

One major trial involved spraying 40 combat Marines with a chemical simulant after they reached the beach, then observing their evacuation from the beach to a ship for simulated medical treatment. This involved decontaminating the casualties, transporting them by both helicopter and landing craft to the ship, then carrying them through the ship to the hospital. All of this was completed by medical personnel dressed in MOPP.

A fully outfitted chemical lab in an office trailer was set up on the beach to process the myriad simulant samples from clothing and air samplers located in strategic positions on shore and aboard ship.

During the test COL James D. Tipton, DPG commander, and COL Raymond W. Bills, director of Materiel Test, visited the beach site. COL Tipton presented the Army Achievement Medal to 1LT Stiefel and to SSG Arthur E. Hankinson, assistant test officer, for their efforts in the massive coordination that went into planning the tests.

The Andrulis Research Corporation now has the task of sifting through the thousands of completed questionnaires, evaluations, test logs, photographs, videotapes, and chemical samples to finalize the test reports to the Chief of Naval Operations and the Commandant of Marines, who will make final decisions as to possible changes in MOPP gear for their members. They will use this valuable test data to make necessary updates in Navy and Marine doctrine and training in chemical warfare procedures.

