

# 64th Military Police Company Trains With Navy

*By First Lieutenant Jennifer Pozzi*

*Islamic prayer music echoed eerily off the dilapidated buildings as Soldiers from the 64th Military Police Company prepared to enter and clear a battered cinder block structure in a hostile environment at the Elijah Military Operations on Urbanized Terrain (MOUT) facility at Fort Hood, Texas. Everyone's adrenaline was pumping and the Soldiers concentrated on the skills recently taught to them by members of Navy Sea-Air-Land (SEAL) teams. The training was much different from the Army's usual MOUT training, using the same techniques practiced by the Naval Special Warfare Command warriors to train in an urban environment.*

For a week in early December 2006, Soldiers from the 64th Military Police Company's third platoon trained with the SEAL teams at the Elijah and Hargrove MOUT facilities at Fort Hood in preparation for deployment. In this training exercise, the Soldiers acquired new skills and methods for urban warfare to include patrolling, reacting to fire, conducting close-quarters combat, and using distraction devices to enter and clear rooms. Day one began with some basic but crucial instruction to include

basic weapons handling and scanning all three dimensions of the battlefield. Soldiers were then instructed in techniques of patrolling and recovering from enemy contact.

The next block of instruction focused on clearing buildings in teams. Speed and an aggressive posture were key elements in accomplishing this task. The Soldiers learned that their stance and muzzle position made all the difference when encountering hostile



**A Soldier prepares to ambush Navy SEAL team members acting as the opposing force at the Elijah MOUT site.**



**Soldiers fire at Navy SEAL team members acting as the opposing force at the Elijah MOUT site.**

threats in close quarters. Similarly, they learned that communications must be constant and concise as different elements conduct a tactical movement on a structure to neutralize a threat. The operations involved cordon-and-assault elements that moved independently, so good communications were essential as Soldiers were constantly coming around blind corners and through doorways in anticipation of enemy insurgents. Precise and deliberate communications help to avoid confusion and costly mistakes when under fire.

Confusing the opposition with distraction devices worked to our benefit. Using crash grenades and smoke to disorient the enemy was another task we learned for close-quarters combat. Finally, members of the platoon conducted sniper and countersniper training with the SEAL snipers. Many tactics, techniques, and procedures were taught and practiced to keep the Soldiers aware of the constant threat of sniper attack on the noncontiguous battlefield.

The new techniques involved unlearning the old methods we were accustomed to using in urban warfare. Repetition and demonstration served to

instill the new techniques, which had proven to work in operations in hostile environments. The SEAL teams carefully explained their reasoning for each technique and demonstrated how each worked before the Soldiers began to rehearse and employ the technique. The use of simulated munitions reinforced the use of proper techniques by all members of the platoon.

As a culmination of our newly acquired skills, the platoon went through a movement-to-contact exercise using troop leading procedures to conduct a patrol in a hostile city with the SEAL teams acting as the opposing force. With only a few days of training, Soldiers in the platoon were able to accomplish the mission by using the skills and methods they had learned. Only a handful of the Soldiers had any training in urban warfare before this exercise, but the explicit instruction and hands-on approach of this training will serve the platoon well in its future deployments.