

injuries and goes into action. Only the basics at this point. Stop the bleeding, calm him down and get him to the battalion aid station.

the bleeding, calm him him to the battalion aid station. The wounded Marine is in and resting on a hospital bed back home. The lifesaving process that through to get to that Co. 2nd Medical Bn. on the methods of get-

station to be put aboard a field ambulance. The ambulance then heads for the Collecting and Clearing Co. or field hospital.

When wounded Marines arrive at the field hospital, they are admitted into the shock/surgical triage. The worst casualties are prepared for surgery, while the others have their dressings replaced and their paperwork started.

Everyone at the field hospital has a specific job to do and it must be performed with great skill. Lives depend on it. There can't be hesitation or indecision.

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THREE DAYS OF GRIME— A Marine from STA Plt. BLT 28, 26th MEU (SOC) peers through NVGs after a three-day patrol at Fort A.P. Hill, Va., earlier this year. The 26th MEU (SOC), currently serving its six-month Mediterranean deployment, which began in June, will participate in Exercise Display Determination '89 in September. Display Determination '89 is a large-scale combined NATO exercise and is the highlight of the 26th MEU (SOC) deployment.

The Collecting and Clearing Co. is usually located 10 to 15 miles behind the front line. It consists of two operating rooms, two intensive care units, a laboratory and a tent for X-rays. It also has a 60-bed ward, including the ICU.

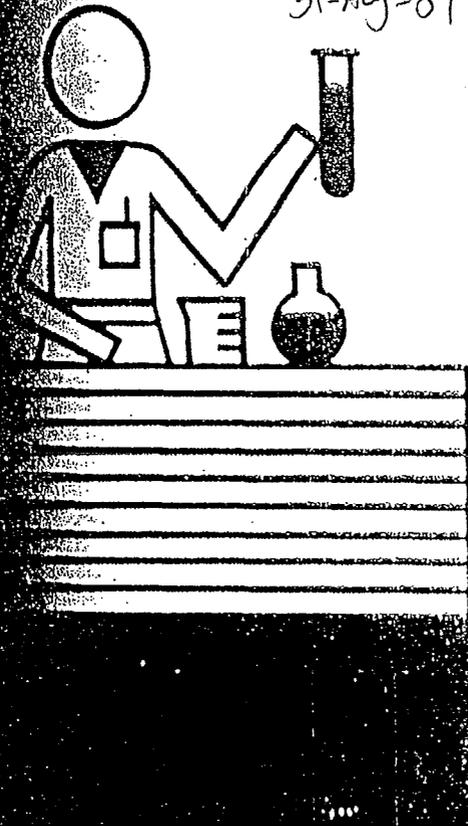
"This is the first place the wounded can receive blood and surgery. The surgery

conducted at this level is often referred to by corpsmen as "life and limb surgery," said HMC G.C. Centenera, acting XO, Alpha Co. "The most important goal being the survival of the patient. Even if it means the loss of a limb."

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se taps into drinking water concerns

31-Aug-89



DoD program plans to identify, assess, clean up possible contamination

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the first in a three-part series about the drinking water in the Camp Lejeune/MCAS New River system. The articles examine past problems that have raised concerns with the water supply.

By Cpl. Dave Mundy

During the past decade, the subject of hazardous waste has become a major environmental issue across the country. Real health dangers have been found at sites where, in years past, the "trash" was routinely dumped, buried or poured out on the ground.

The emergence of these health hazards has added a new burden to government officials at the community, state and national level: to find the sites, clean them up, and keep the contaminants from harming the population and environment.

The hazard most often comes from the contaminants filtering through the soil in which they are dumped and entering the underground water system. In most places in America, wells tapping into that system are what supply the public's drinking water.

The Safe Drinking Water Act of 1983 requires regular testing of water systems for contaminants. Recent tests on Camp Lejeune's six water systems indicated the quality of drinking water at all six sites was well within state and federal standards. In fact, no detection levels were exceeded in the testing for 36 potential contaminants.

But contaminated sites found at Camp Lejeune in 1982-84 remain a source of concern for base officials.

Preliminary testing at 76 sites aboard Camp Lejeune and MCAS New River in 1982-83 pinpointed 22 as warranting further investigation because they represented a potential CLW health and the environment. These included fuel farms, maintenance areas, open-burning pits and storage areas.

Sampling at the 22 sites was conducted in 1984.

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Water—

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No contamination was found at three of the sites; two sites yielded no contamination by fuel, but lead compounds were present. Two more sites were identified

as having traces of the chemical DDT. At 15 sites, contamination was verified.

"Even then, none of the contamination found was above the limit described as acceptable by the EPA," said B. W. Elston, deputy assistant chief-of-staff, facilities,

MCB. "We closed eight wells in the Hadnot Piont Industrial Area and two in the Tarawa Terrace area as a precautionary measure and still had an adequate water supply."

"We shut down some wells that were not near the EPA limit," said Elizabeth Betz, base chemical engineer. "Then we started looking at what caused that contamination."

The testing and remedial action to clean up the sites was done as part of the Installation Restoration Program (IRP), the Department of Defense's program to identify, assess and clean up old hazardous waste sites.

The IRP consists of three phases. Phase I is a preliminary assessment and on-site inspection to identify possible contamination. Phase II is designed to determine how bad contamination is and what caused it. Phase III consists of developing the right technology and conducting the actual clean-up of hazardous sites.

The eight wells in the Hadnot Point Industrial Area were found in the 1984 sampling to be contaminated by volatile organic compounds (VOCs), mainly benzene and trichloroethylene.

"These are petroleum-based chemicals that evaporate rapidly in open air, and most come from man-made solvents," Betz said. "You'd have to look at each VOC individually, but many of them are carcinogens. That's the main reason we immediately shut the wells down, although the levels we found in the tests were not near the EPA limit."

The contamination was caused by long-term spillage and dumping in the Industrial Area.

"Past practices were not regulated and

most of the chemicals we found we solvents used to clean vehicles and machinery," Betz said.

The two wells in Tarawa Terrace were shut down as a result of contamination by tetrachloral ethylene, a compound commonly used in the dry-cleaning business.

"We were puzzled when that chemical showed up. At first, we couldn't figure out how it had gotten into the Tarawa Terrace system," Betz said. "Then we looked across Highway 24. There was dry-cleaning business right across the road from the housing area."

The contaminant had come from the dry cleaners originally suspected. Base officials immediately took action to pump safe drinking water to the housing area.

"We laid a temporary water line to Tarawa Terrace immediately upon closing the wells there," Elston said. "Since then, we have added a permanent line from our Holcomb Boulevard water treatment plant to Tarawa Terrace. The line also serves Camp Johnson."

With the identification of contaminated sites and immediate action to protect the drinking water supply, base officials then turned to the task of measuring contamination, studying alternatives and forming plans for cleaning up the hazards.

"Once you have identified where the potential for a threat is, you start taking action to correct it," Betz said. "You cannot leave a contaminant in the groundwater."

NEXT: **CLW** plans and actions



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