For more information on the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center, visit www.mwtc.usmc.mil

For training opportunities, call S-3 Operations at (760) 932-1447

For other questions, call the Community Plans and Liaison Office (CPLO) at (760) 932-1661

MARINE CORPS MOUNTAIN WARFARE TRAINING CENTER

BRIDGEPORT, CALIFORNIA

MISSION

The Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center conducts service-level Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF) integrated exercises and supporting formal schools, develops warfighting doctrine, supports Research, Development, Testing, and Evaluation (RDT&E) for specialized equipment for use in mountain warfare operations, and maintains installation infrastructure and services in order to facilitate increased USMC readiness.

Left: A Marine rappels from Sardine Rock, MCMWTC, circa 2014.
Right: Marines load a CH-47 helicopter, which will insert them at a high-elevation landing zone for the final field exercise for Mountain Exercise (MTX) winter training package, circa 2014.

ABOUT THE INSTALLATION

Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center (MCMWTC) is located in Pickel Meadow, Mono County, California, 16 miles north of Bridgeport, California, and 100 miles south of Reno, Nevada, within the 6.4-million-acre Humbolt-Toiyabe National Forest of the Eastern Sierra Nevada Mountains.

The elevation at MCMWTC ranges from 6,800 to more than 11,000 feet above sea level. Winter snow accumulation in the training areas averages in depths between 2 and 4 feet. The area's geography and elevations replicate many parts of the world where Marines operate or may be required to operate.

MCMWTC trains and operates on national forest public land under a Special Use Permit along with individual Special Use Permits for certain areas and training operations. These permits allow the Marines to accomplish training objectives unique to this environment.

MCMWTC IN THE COMMUNITY

MCMWTC works hard to be a good neighbor and to foster strong relationships with its surrounding communities through volunteering and community events, mutual aid agreements and good environmental stewardship. These positive partnerships benefit all, and protect the installation's training mission.

Here are some of the programs and organizations the MCMWTC partners with:

- Adopt-A-Highway
- Adopt A School
- Single Marine Program volunteers for events in local school districts
- Boy Scouts of America
- Carson City Navy League
- Chambers of Commerce
- Coleville Schools
- Combined Federal Campaign
- Douglas High School JROTC
- Fire departments
- Girl Scouts of America
- Mono County Collaborative Planning Team
- Mono County Regional Planning Advisory Committee
- Police departments
- Search and Rescue
- Toys for Tots
- Veterans of Foreign Wars

MUTUAL AID

MCMWTC actively supports the local communities through mutual aid agreements. The installation can provide support, as it has in the past, in the event of an emergency, including fire protection, search and rescue teams, communications and technical specialists.

VOLUNTEERING

MCMWTC Marines are active in the nearby communities and participate in volunteer efforts such as the Walker Range and Highway 108 cleanups and the Toys for Tots Program in Carson City.

The installation's School Liaison Program facilitates volunteer activities between Marines and local school districts. Programs include Military Wednesday, where Single Marine Program volunteers spend time both in the classroom and assisting with schoolwide activities.

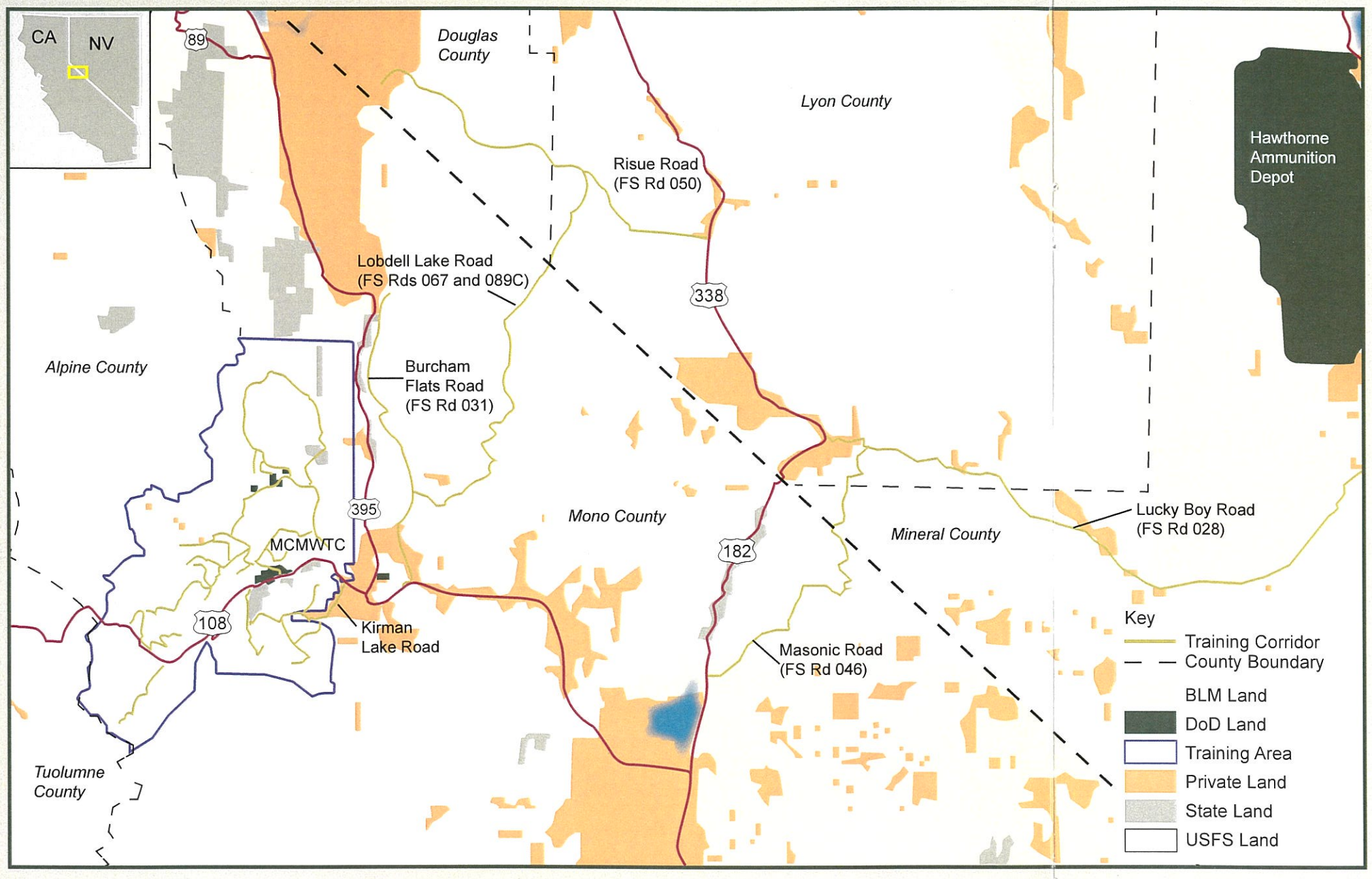
ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

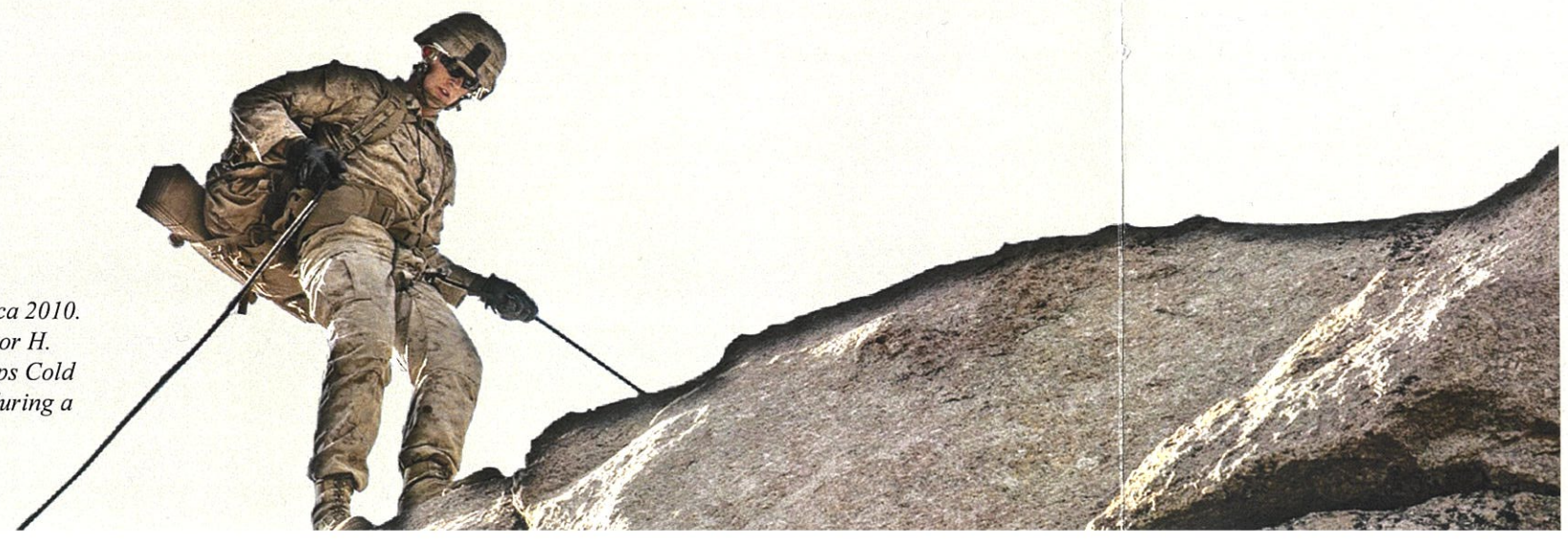
MCMWTC leadership and personnel strive to be good stewards of the land they use for training in winter survival and warfare skills.

The installation takes active measures to protect sensitive and federally protected species, including the greater sage-grouse bi-state population, Sierra Nevada red fox, northern goshawk, Lahontan cutthroat trout, Yosemite toad and mountain yellow-legged frog, and other important wildlife, plants and their habitats.

MCMWTC color guard at Bodie State Historic Park, California, circa 2013.

GEOGRAPHIC OVERVIEW





Cutout: Seat shoulder rappel, circa 2010. Opposite page: Lance Cpl. Eleanor H. Roper (right) pulls a Marine Corps Cold Weather Infantry Kit up a slope during a field exercise aboard MCMWTC.

TRAINING

MCMWTC conducts unit training and formal school courses to prepare units and individuals for operations in mountainous, high-altitude and cold-weather environments.

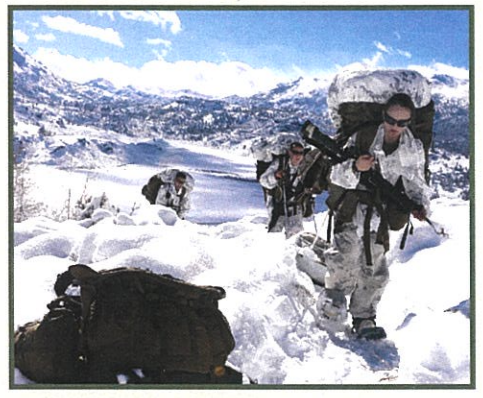
The installation is the only Department of Defense (DoD) mountain- and cold-weather training center that includes specialized courses for individuals as well as tactical exercises for all elements of the Marine Air Ground Task Force, year-round. Approximately 6,000 Marines, soldiers, sailors, airmen and coalition/NATO forces train at the MCMWTC each year.

The Mountain Exercise (MTX) provides an operational assessment to a Marine unit before deployment. It trains Marines across a wide spectrum of missions in a cold-weather and mountainous environment, including offensive and defensive operations against a live, near-peer opposing force.

MAJOR TRAINING EXERCISES CONDUCTED AT MCMWTC

- **Winter Mountain Exercise** — Twice a year
- **Summer Mountain Exercise** — Three times a year
- **Reserve Mountain Exercise** — Once a year

TRAINING COURSES



- **Summer Mountain Leader Course** trains Marines to become experts in mountain operations.
- **Winter Mountain Leader Course** trains Marines to become experts in cold-weather operations.
- **Mountain Scout Sniper Course** trains scout snipers to be tactically and technically proficient in a mountainous environment.
- **Mountain Medical Course** provides Navy corpsmen and Marines with the ability to plan and conduct medical operations in a high-altitude, summer mountain environment.
- **Cold Weather Medical Course** provides Navy corpsmen and Marines with the technical, tactical and medical skills necessary to provide unit support in cold weather.
- **Animal Packer Course** teaches Marines how to use pack animals to transport weapons, ammunition, supplies and wounded personnel.
- **Special Operations Horsemanship** teaches Special Operations forces how to employ horses in a mountainous environment.
- **Mountain Survival Course** teaches Marines necessary survival techniques for mountainous environments.
- **Mountain Communications Course** trains communications specialists in a mountainous environment under all weather conditions.

MCMWTC also provides support to Marine Corps and DoD agencies engaged in the development of warfighting doctrine and specialized equipment for use in mountain and cold-weather operations.

ECONOMIC HIGHLIGHTS

MCMWTC's economic benefits extend past the installation's borders into neighboring communities. The installation's financial impact on the local economies is more than its spending on payroll, goods, services and construction. Money spent locally by MCMWTC often stays local as employees and businesses purchase goods and services in the region. This is referred to as indirect and induced economic impact.

BY THE NUMBERS

$20 MILLION Total annual payroll of active-duty and civilian employees at MCMWTC

762 Number of jobs generated by MCMWTC payroll and spending

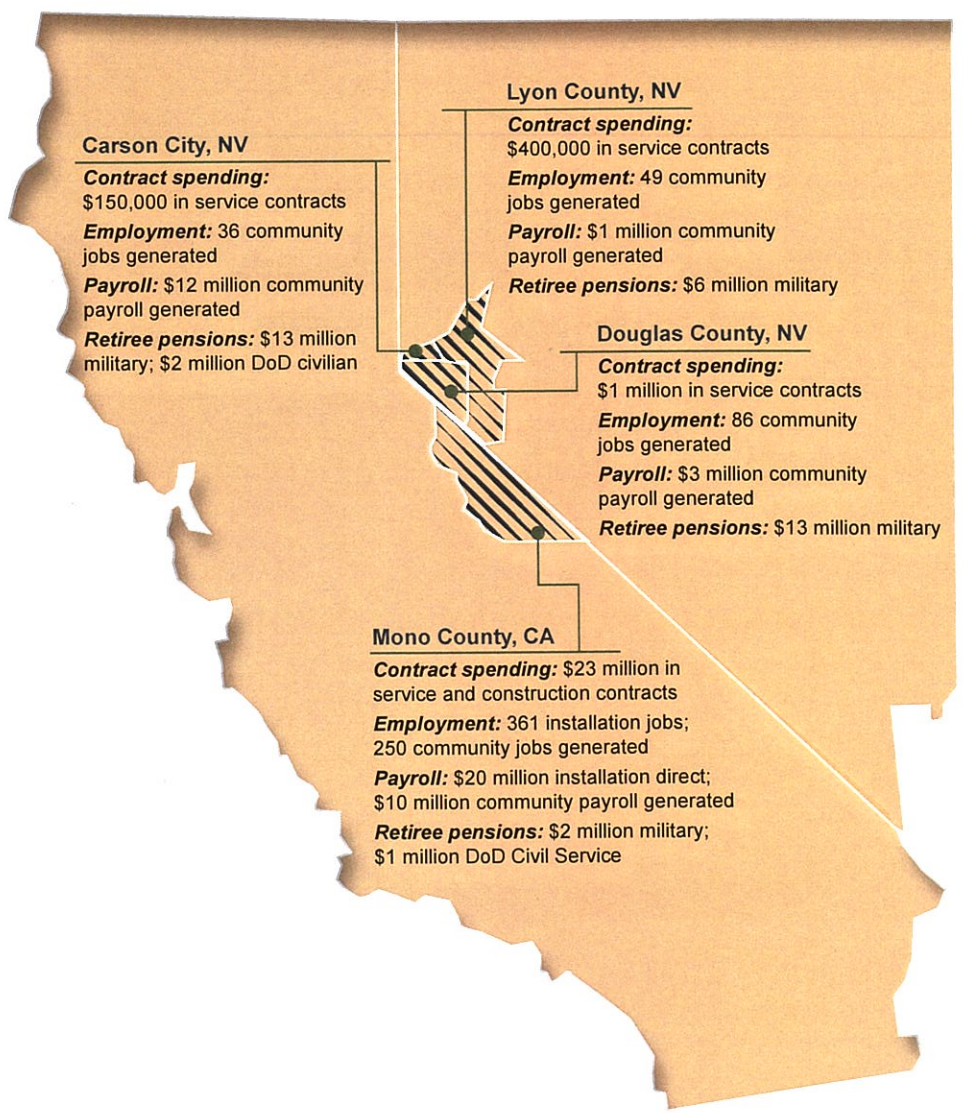
$5 MILLION Annual amount in health expenses paid to civilian providers for military residents and their families in the local area

$36 MILLION Annual combined pensions of military and civil service retirees in the local area

$600,000 Amount of state and local taxes generated by MCMWTC annually

$23 MILLION Average amount spent on construction contracts at MCMWTC annually

ECONOMIC IMPACTS BY COUNTY

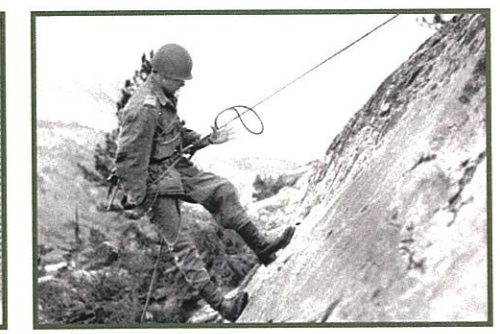


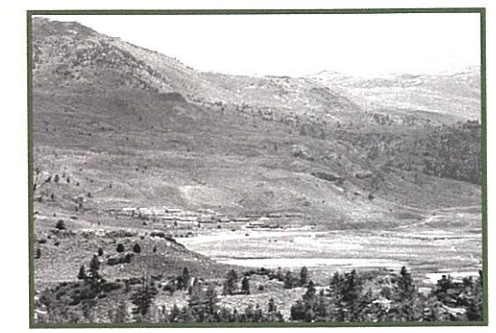
MCMWTC HISTORY

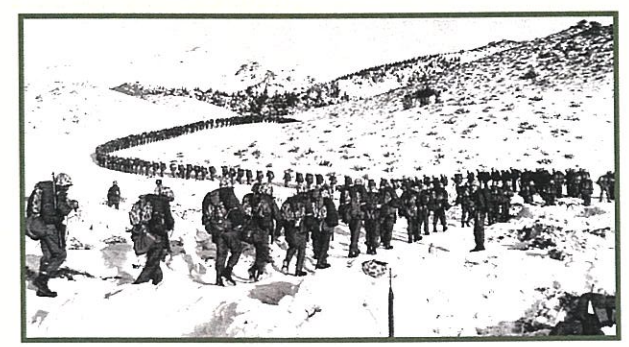
In 1951, the Marine Corps established the Cold Weather Battalion on 20 acres in Pickel Meadow, to provide cold-weather training for replacement personnel bound for Korea.

By 1957, Cold Weather Battalion had grown to 113,000 acres. In 1963,the installation's training role was expanded and its name was changed to the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center (MCMWTC).

In 1967, MCMWTC was placed in a caretaker status as training shifted to jungle locations due to demands of the Vietnam War; it reopened for training on 60,000 acres in 1976.







During the 1980s, MCMWTC's focus was on preparing Marines and operational units for deployments on the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO) Northern Flank, particularly in Norway.

Today, MCMWTC trains personnel from all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces, as well as troops from several foreign nations, for combat in mountainous, high-altitude and cold-weather environments.

Top right: Opposing Forces at the POW Camp for the Escape, Evasion and Survival course, circa 1950s. Middle, from left to right: Full instructor cadre of 11 for the Mountain Leader Course, 1962. Tying off on rappel, circa 1960. Base camp, late 1950s or early 1960s.Bottom: The 15th Draft marching to higher elevations to begin cold-weather training at Pickel Meadow, November 1951. Below: U.S. Marines participating in MTX 2-17 stay in squad tents during the first phase of the training evolution.