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DUPE NEGATIVE TO:

Release No. 43-63

Footage: 300'

4 March 1963

FINE GRAIN TO:

NAVY FROGMEN IN ACTION AT ST. THOMAS, V.I.

(Official Navy footage released by Department of Defense)

Members of the U. S. Navy's underwater demolition teams are currently undergoing their annual training at St. Thomas, Virgin Islands. While there, they participate in a vigorous program of developing skills in all aspects of demolitions and underwater work.

Frogmen operate in the pre-assault, assault and post-assault phases of amphibious landings. They provide reconnaissance of the beach and off-shore waters of enemy held coastlines, remove enemy mines and destroy other underwater obstacles.

At St. Thomas, the Frogmen's training encompasses parachuting, use of the Fulton pick-up method, standard method pick-up, use of the submarine air-lock and beach demolition work.

The Fulton pick-up method utilizes small open-stern fibre-glass boats. The pick-up craft maneuvers between the two boats, snaring the line and reeling in the boats. When the boats are brought close to the pick-up craft, the Frogmen walk up the "magic carpet" and climb into the craft. The "magic carpet" is a mat attached to the stern of the pick-up craft which rides on the water's surface and provides a ramp on which the Frogmen walk.

Under combat conditions, Frogmen operate in close proximity to or within enemy lines. Swim fins, rubber boats or small craft are the principle means of transportation in the combat zones. The swimmers are relatively unarmed, the sheath knife being the basic weapon.

Sequences show:

- (a) UDT jumping from helicopter.
- (b) Landing in the water.
- (c) UDTs leaving submerged submarine.
- (d) Various underwater scenes showing Frogmen performing functions, planting mines (beach demolition),
- (e) "Magic carpet" pick-up.
- (f) Fulton pick up.

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