



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
U. S. NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION SIXTY-TWO
FPO NEW YORK 09501

August 11, 1978
Camp Covington
Guam

Dear NMCB 62 families and friends,

I assure you that all is well with your husband, son or sweetheart. The Guam deployment is going well, and we are looking forward to marking and celebrating the half-way point with a picnic on Labor Day.

With the mount-out exercise, operational readiness inspection and change of command all done, we are settling into a routine that is heavily production-oriented. We hope the weather will cooperate, so we might fulfill commitments and accomplish goals that we have made for this deployment.

NMCB 62 is truly an outstanding unit. I have been most impressed with the men's attitude and their dedication. Everyone is justly proud of their past accomplishments, which were so appropriately rewarded by the battalion being named Best of Type and winning the Peltier Award for fiscal year 1977 (October 1, 1976 through September 30, 1977).

In my short time aboard, I have experienced the great sense of pride that each man feels in being a Minuteman. This is because each knows that hard work, high standards and a positive attitude are the hallmarks of being a professional.

Attached is a copy of the remarks I made at the change of command ceremony. I hope it will give you some further insight about how I feel and the nature of my personal philosophy.

Captain Fegley was a great skipper and left me a battalion that's in great shape. With your support, I will do everything possible to insure it stays that way.

If my wife, Momilani, or I can be of assistance in any way, please do not hesitate to write me or call my wife. Again, we dedicate ourselves to helping you and your loved ones have a full and rewarding tour with the Seabees of the Navy.

I close with warmest regards.

Most sincerely,

Julian M.F. Kau
CDR, CEC, USN
Commanding Officer

Remarks by Commander Julian M.F. Kau, made at NMCB 62's change of command ceremony at Camp Covington, Guam on Aug. 5, 1978.

"Admiral Cruden, Commodore Fraser, Captain Fegley, officers and men of NMCB 62, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen:

"It is indeed a privilege and pleasure for me to be here today to assume command of one of the finest units of the Naval Construction Force, NMCB 62.

"During the 12 years since recommissioning, NMCB 62 has distinguished itself as a unit which sets high standards and goals in carrying out its assigned missions, and has--in fact--been the example for others to follow. I am proud to be given the opportunity to become a part of the heritage of NMCB 62 and approach this assignment with humility and dedication.

"While contemplating what I would say today, three things became the focus of my thinking and I call them the three "R" goals: readiness, retention and responsiveness.

"With respect to readiness--we must be able to deploy anywhere in the world in support of Navy and Marine Corps operations, and we must do so in the time frame specified; namely, within 48 hours for our air detachment, and within six days for the entire battalion.

"There is no compromise in these time frames, and everything that we do must be evaluated in terms of being able to meet the 48-hour and six-day time schedules, and to be able to fully perform the construction mission once on site.

"With respect to retention--we want to provide an atmosphere that meets our operational requirements, yet permits us to motivate our greatest resource--the men of the Naval Construction Force (all ratings: fleet, construction and support)--toward a full and rewarding career in the Navy.

"With respect to responsiveness--as we do our peacetime construction training, we want to do the best job possible for our customer, which is the fleet, in a timely and cost-effective manner.

"Now, in trying to prioritize the three "Rs", I found that there is no discernable priority--we must do all three concurrently in order to have success. Each "R" is very strongly dependent on the other two.

"My immediate goal, which I hope you--the men of NMCB 62--already sense, is to get to know each one of you personally as quickly as possible. I am genuinely and sincerely interested in you as individuals: your families, your well-being, your concerns and your hopes for the future. I dedicate my energies to insuring that the investment that you have made in the Navy brings you rich rewards.

"To our bosses--Rear Admiral Clements and Commodore Fraser--I am ready to serve and will do my best to get the job done. To our customers, I thank you for your patience and your support and pledge our best efforts in trying to meet your needs. To our host, Rear Admiral Cruden, we want to continue to be good tenants, and will do our best to be good representatives of the Navy here on Guam. To our friends and other commands represented here today, we thank you for your friendship and your presence here. To my good friend and model Seabee skipper, Captain Chuck Fegley, good luck and Godspeed in all future endeavors--may you have a fair wind and a following sea."

"Finally, I desire that all orders and policies established by my predecessor remain in effect for the present, and that the essence of a standard entry in a ship's log--"steaming as before; maintaining course and speed"--be our guide.

"So, men of NMCB 62, let's keep the momentum going and--with respect to the "E"--let's do it again! Thank you."



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
U. S. NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION SIXTY-TWO
FPO NEW YORK 09501

November 8, 1978
Camp Covington
Guam, Marianas

Dear Friends and Families of NMCB 62,

As you read this familygram, we're about three-fourths of the way through our Guam deployment, and I'm pleased to again report that all continues to go well with the Minutemen.

Thanks to your support, morale is high and production is outstanding. We are getting the job done, and your loved ones are displaying a high degree of dedication and professionalism in their work. Please keep encouraging your Seabee to do his best so we can maintain our outstanding reputation at this deployment site.

Of course we were disappointed that our command wasn't given the "E" Award for Fiscal Year 78. But it doesn't change the fact that I'm very proud of our accomplishments during that time. There was very little difference between our performance and that of NMCB 74; Commodore Fraser had a hard time deciding which of us should get the "E". As I've indicated to the men, Fiscal Year 78 is behind us now. It's time to work toward getting this year's "E", and I firmly believe we're already ahead of the game.

I consider NMCB 62 to be a professional organization. I've told the men that "because we're professionals and have a reputation to uphold, I expect each one of you to go the extra mile in all areas of our operation." And they're doing it.

As I noted on the videotape we sent to the Wives' Club, no one likes to be away from home and family. But we have a job to do and your continuing support is needed--because we want you to share in the pride of our work.

We were blessed recently when Supertyphoon Rita (with winds over 150 mph) passed more than 70 miles south of Guam. You would have been proud to see how the Minutemen prepared for Rita. We had two full days to prepare our camp, projects and ourselves, plus a number of military housing areas for the storm. Everything went ahead on schedule. Each man responded in a calm and business-like manner, maintaining a serious mood during the storm's passing.

Within Camp Covington, we didn't have any damage to persons or major facilities. The maximum sustained winds were about 70 mph. The most trying part of the storm was Monday evening (Oct. 23). Our men were on vigil until four in the morning. We were well-prepared for any situation. Each man did his job magnificently.

Now I'd like to report on some of our work here on Guam:

- a. Some of our men are working in the Naval Magazine (NavMag)

doing roadwork, drainage work and installing security fencing. Working conditions are quite difficult there due to the area's procedures for maintaining top security. They're required to take meals in the field most of the time; food is adequate. But there are occasions when the food isn't as hot as it could be because of the lag-time involved in getting it out to the jobsite. We're concerned about the men's welfare at the NavMag, and doing everything possible to ease the strenuous work environment that prevails.

b. A number of our men are working at the warehouse project, and that job is progressing well. It's a well-organized effort with plenty to be done for all the construction trades. We hope to have the walls and columns up before leaving in January.

c. Others spend their time at Lima Wharf at the Naval Station, replacing concrete columns and a rubber bumper system at pier-side. Work there is very difficult; some of it is actually done below water level. Besides all the hand work involved, a great deal of welding has to be done in preparing special stainless steel forms for placing the concrete columns. Again, our people are safety-conscious and proper equipment is being used so no one is exposed to danger.

d. Another big job is the salt water ballast line: it's a three-mile, 12-inch pipeline being installed for the fuel piers. We've had to cross a major highway known as Marine Drive, and work has gone smoothly despite poor weather. Again, the effort there has been nothing less than professional.

e. Two other jobs you may have heard about are the compressed gas storage building and the TSC van complex. Work at these sites is progressing rapidly.

f. Our job at the Naval Regional Medical Center is the construction of a helicopter medivac pad. This one is running at a smooth pace, too.

g. In addition to these jobs I've talked about, we have a group of Seabees involved in our mineral products operations at the rock quarry and concrete precast yard (where the motto is "quality products for quality projects").

h. Of course camp maintenance work is a constant chore; Camp Covington is somewhat aged. Air conditioning systems fail from time to time, but Bravo company does a splendid job staying ahead of the problems with steady repair work. To help the maintenance force, we've asked for volunteers to do self-help work to ensure the barracks can be as livable as possible.

In regard to our dining hall, it's not as big as it could be, so we don't allow E5s and below to smoke there because of the ventilation and congestion problems which would arise; I know this concerns some of the men. Given the circumstances, we're doing the best we can.

Some new dining equipment has been installed, which helps to prepare food faster and keep a good variety of entrees in the enlisted dining facility.

We recently opened a coffee house to provide a place for the men to watch television, play games and write letters in an alcohol-free atmosphere. Many of our men are participating in that activity. It's gratifying for me to know there's a place like this where our men don't have to sit and drink alcoholic beverages in order to relax.

For those of you whose loved ones are on details, they're doing a great job without exception; all are in good spirits. You should be aware that because of changing work priorities, the detail in Adak, Alaska is essentially being disestablished. Those men will be forming a detail in Atsugi, Japan very shortly. A number of men from Midway and Misawa will also be moved.

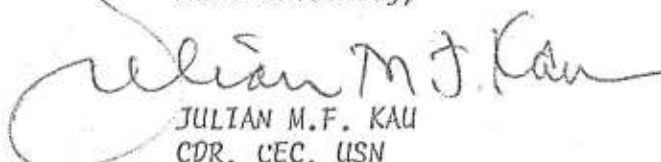
We appreciate the efforts of our supporting staffs; personnel, administration, training, operations, mess specialists, transportation, special services, Alfa company shops and other areas which may seem secondary in nature, but actually are most important to the command as a whole. These individuals in the fleet and support rate are strongly appreciated, also.

We don't like to be away from you during Thanksgiving and Christmas: it will be difficult for us. We miss all of you. You're in our thoughts and prayers. There's going to be a special menu for the holiday meals and we'll probably eat too much. The food prepared by our galley staff will be outstanding, but we still miss your home cooking.

I know many are concerned about who's returning on the advance party; we don't have a list just yet. Unfortunately, some of those who came over early must remain until the main body leaves, due to the nature of the work they're involved in. But we're trying to be as equitable and fair as we can in deciding who'll be coming home on the advance party. We'll communicate that information to the 20th Naval Construction Regiment as soon as it's available.

I'll probably write one more familygram sometime just before Christmas, and will bring you up to date on what's happening in the battalion at that time. As I close, I extend my personal and sincere appreciation to each of you for your support. Have a very happy and pleasant Thanksgiving. With warmest regards.

Most sincerely,


JULIAN M. F. KAU
CDR, UEC, USN
Commanding Officer