

FEBRUARY 1970



Seabeacon

U.S. NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION SIXTY-TWO

View from the bridge



CDR J. P. Jones, Jr.

For many of you this is my first opportunity to share with you my "view from the bridge." It seems appropriate then, to pass on to you new men a few of my policies as commanding officer, along with what I see as the goal for MCB 62. For the old hands who read this column there won't be anything really new, but I urge you to read it anyway. If nothing else you will then be assured that the policies and goals are unchanged, and I think this is important. One major fact stands out in my mind as a result of nearly 20 years of Naval service—consistency is good. Everyone, me included, likes to know that what is right in the boss' eye today is right tomorrow.

The goal of this battalion is to be the best. As far as I'm concerned that is the only worthwhile goal for any man, or any organization. Each squad should aspire to be the best. Each platoon should aspire to be the best. And so forth. When I say, "to be the best," I don't mean only that we want to win the Battle Efficiency "E" for the second year in a row. Certainly that would be an honor, and that honor would be rewarding. But what is more important is the personal satisfaction of knowing that you are part of an organization that always strives to do the best possible job, whether that job is training, preparing for inspection, or construction in the field.

Everything we do here in homeport is aimed at making MCB 62 the best. We have had a full and meaningful technical training program. We have developed crew integrity and sharpened our skills by working on various projects in the base repair program. As this issue of the Seabeacon is published we will be in the middle of our four weeks of block military training. Here we sharpen our military skills and strive to develop stronger unit integrity, particularly at the squad and platoon levels. We have conducted numerous inspections—782 gear, weapons, uniforms. These inspections help us to prepare for later inspections by COMCBLANT, but that is only incidental to their real purpose. That purpose is to insure that every man knows his gear, has it all and knows how to take care of it. This knowledge may very well save

your life a few months hence.

The results of all this hard work then, if it is done conscientiously, should lead to making this battalion the best. Best suited to defend ourselves if need be. Best suited to turn out large quantities of quality construction on our next deployment. It worked last year. Ask an old hand and he will tell you so. We worked hard in homeport then. As a result we were highly successful in Dong Ha. And, incidentally we won the "E" for 1969. I am convinced this hard work will serve us well again.

As for my policies, they all are established with the command goal in mind. A few examples to let you know what I mean: (1) Sharp military appearance, courtesy and good discipline are stressed in this command. They assist in development of pride in the battalion. Without pride, no outfit can be "the best." (2) Active command support of a meaningful training program, both technical and military, to improve our readiness to perform. (3) Active command support, and use of the chain of command. Each leader in this battalion, be he company commander down to fire team leader, has a job to do. And I expect, and demand, that he do it.

To some of you my policies on occasion may seem hard nosed. Perhaps they are. But remember, Seabee, that there aren't any nice guys where we are going, and the sharper you are the better you will survive the coming months.

One other last word on one of my policies that isn't hard nosed—the request mast. If you have a legitimate gripe or problem, and if you take that problem up the chain of command to your squad leader, platoon leader, etc. and they can't (or won't) help you, my door is open. I may not be able to help, but I'm ready to listen and try. See MCB 62 instruction 1336. 1A for details on how to request a request mast.

That about winds it up for this month's column. I'm not satisfied yet that we are ready. But I am confident that with hard work and determination on the part of all hands for the remainder of the homeport period, we can, and will be "the best."

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On The Cover

The hands of a Navy builder at work is our way of symbolizing the mobile construction battalion in this month's issue of the Seabeacon. With BU1 Prentice W. Walker lending his hands to the cause, Navy photographer Jim Worley captures the symbolism through selective focusing.

Seabeacon

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UP ON THE ROOF—Charlie Company personnel reroof MCB 62'S headquarters building. The job was just one of many tackled by battalion men during the early weeks of homeport.

From the XO's desk

This is my first opportunity to address members and friends of the battalion as the executive officer. As the operations officer during the last half of the deployment at Dong Ha, I developed a deep sense of pride and respect for the capabilities and dedication of all men in this battalion. Homeport has brought some change—new officers, new men and an increasing responsibility to produce as well as train.

As I watch us reorganize and increase our readiness capability for the next deployment, I sense a blending of the new with the veterans of Dong Ha that is resulting in the continued spirit of 62—that of knowing that we are the very best. And in our quiet, dedicated, professional way we will surpass our records of the past.

This month I would like to discuss two areas in which there appears to be some confusion or lack of knowledge on the part of some members of the battalion. The first is the age old argument, at least since the beginning of Seabees, that revolves around the "fleet sailor" versus the "Seabee." How many times have the non-group-VIII's needled the group VIII's and vice versa regarding their intelligence, heritage and industriousness. And who could get along without the other. Of course, the majority of this ribbing was in a jocular vein, and who would deny that a bit of good-natured fun isn't one way to ease tensions. But occasionally someone will twist the needle and hit a sensitive spot resulting in hurt feelings and misunderstandings.

Therefore it probably comes as a surprise to many, particularly old-time Seabees, that all members of this battalion regardless of their rate are fleet sailors as well as Seabees.

As a member of a mobile construction battalion you are a "Seabee." All mobile construction battalions report to Commander, Service Force, Atlantic Fleet or Commander, Service Force

Pacific Fleet. In our case, MCB 62's type commander is COMSERVLANT, which is a fleet command. As such, all members under his command belong to the fleet force and are "fleet sailors." We have always belonged to the fleet so regardless of the color of your shoes or the design of your rating device you are a member of the fleet.

The second area I would like to discuss is the position of senior enlisted advisor. Most everyone is aware that Master Chief Enright is our battalion master chief, but I wonder how many of you realize his functions and responsibilities. This position has been established, and undergone a rapid evolution, ever since the chief of naval operations established the Navy's first senior enlisted advisor and appointed Master Chief Black a little over two years ago. Since that time the Naval Facilities Engineering Command has appointed the senior group VIII advisor, Master Chief Shannon. COMCB-LANT has appointed Master Chief Egglus, and the 20th Naval Construction Regiment has appointed Master Chief Byrd. Just recently, COMCBPAC established their first master chief petty officer and selected Master Chief Utilities Man Olson who was slated to become our battalion master chief.

The primary purpose of providing these billets at all command echelons is to provide a direct channel of communications between the enlisted personnel and the commanding officer on problems or questions that cannot be solved or answered through normal channels. It is not meant as a method of circumventing the chain of command, but rather an avenue for the transmittal of suggestions or considerations of problems of a personal nature which a man may be reluctant to voice through other channels.

This billet is provided to assist you, the individual. Master Chief Equipmentman Enright reported to the battalion in February to relieve Master Chief Construc-



LCDR D. H. Gerdel

tionman Bell as the MCB 62 senior enlisted advisor. He has no other duties and has a separate, private office. If you have a matter you think he might help you on, go see him.

MCPO's pen

MCB 62 instruction 1300.2A establishes the office and sets forth the duties and responsibilities of the battalion master chief petty officer.

In this, my first column for the Seabeacon, I would like to take some excerpts from the instruction that will give you, the Seabees of MCB 62, an idea of what these duties are and how the commanding officer expects them to be performed.

"The battalion master chief petty officer. . . has the overall duty and responsibility of senior enlisted advisor to the commanding officer." In this capacity, he will provide a direct line of communication between the enlisted men and the commanding officer for the transmittal of suggestions or consideration of problems of a personal nature which an enlisted man may be reluctant to voice through other channels. In establishing this channel, it is the intent to supplement, and not replace, existing procedures of request mast and normally would be expected to accommodate the large volume of routing administrative and personal matters.

Some of the specific duties and responsibilities include:

(1) Keeping appraised of the policies of the commanding officer and assist him as directed in the development and execution of command policy.

(2) Reporting to the commanding officer on the status of all matters pertaining to the efficient operation of the command.

(3) Being particularly concerned with developing high standards of military courtesy, personal appearance and exemplary conduct among enlisted members of the battalion.

(4) Counseling with subordinate petty officers to improve the general effectiveness of the command.

(5) Counseling enlisted personnel on any professional or personal matters which may effect the efficiency of the command.

(Continued, page 15)

Chaplain's column

Chaplain R. R. Crowe



Sir Isaac Newton had a friend who, like himself, was a great scientist. But he was an infidel, while Newton was a devout believer, and they often locked horns over this question, though their mutual interest in science drew them together.

Newton had a skilful machanic make him a replica of our solar system in miniature. In the center was a large gilded ball representing the sun, and revolving around this were smaller balls fixed on the ends of arms of varying lengths, representing Mercury, Venus, Earth, Jupiter, and Saturn in their proper order. These balls were so geared together by cogs and belts as to move in perfect harmony by turning a crank. One day, as Newton sat reading in his study with his mechanism on a large table near him, his infidel friend stepped in. He was scientist enough to recognize at a glance what was before him. Stepping up to it he slowly turned the crank, and with undisguised admiration watched the heavenly bodies all move in their relative speed in their orbits. Standing off a few feet, he exclaimed, "My! What an exquisite thing this is! Who made it?"

Without looking up from his book, Newton answered, "Nobody!" Quickly turning to Newton the infidel said, "Evidently you did not understand my question. I asked who made this thing." Looking up, Newton solemnly assured him that nobody had made it, but that the aggregation of matter as much admired had just happened to assume the form it was in. But the astonished infidel replied with some heat, "You must think I'm a fool! Of course somebody made it, and he is a genius, and I'd like to know who he is."

Laying his book aside, Newton arose and laid a hand on his friend's shoulder and said, "This is but a puny imitation of a much grander system whose laws you know, and I am not able to convince you that this mere toy is without a designer and maker. Yet you profess to believe that the great original from which the design is taken has come into being without either designer or maker! Now tell me, by what sort of reasoning do you reach such incongruous conclusion?"

The infidel was at once convinced and became a firm believer that "Jehovah, He is the God."—1 Kings 1:39

Glimpse of the past...

A quarter century of tradition built on achievement has been the legacy of U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 62. From the blood-stained slopes of Mt. Suribachi, Iwo Jima to the jungles of Vietnam, it has maintained the pattern set by its namesakes, the 62nd Naval Construction Battalion, whose "Minutemen" gained fame during World War II as one of the hardest groups of that new breed of fighting man, the Seabee.

The Navy's construction battalions were first organized during the Second World War to provide the building and repair forces greatly needed in time of war. The Seabees, for the most part, were typical American laborers. Professional men. Plumbers, carpenters, masons, steam shovel and bulldozer operators, engineers, architects, surveyors and draftsmen. Raw civilians having only the bare essentials of military training and indoctrination. But the men were proud Americans. High of morale, and confident of their skills.

It was from this mold that the predecessors of Mobile Construction Battalion 62 were formed in December of 1942. After a short training period NCB 62 boarded ships at Port Hueneme, Calif. bound for Pearl Harbor. There, as the first military construction unit to take over from civilian builders, they constructed repair and service facilities until September of 1944.

Finishing its work in Hawaii, the battalion went through three months of jungle, marine and amphibious training and weapons instruction. Then for the big job ahead. Iwo Jima.

NCB 62 landed on Iwo Jima on D-Day plus seven. The island was not yet secured and living conditions were squalid, but the men were Seabees and there was a job to be done. They started on that first day, working continuously despite mortar attack and sniper fire. Moving inland with other American Forces, the 'Bees began to repair captured enemy

airstrips as soon as they were taken. This was the first chapter in the gallant history of 62.

The battalion went to Japan soon after V-J Day and was disbanded there. The "Minutemen" returned to their homes and families leaving behind a record of valor and something new. Something called "Seabee spirit."

Twenty-one years later, on July 2, 1966, NCB 62 was recommissioned as Mobile Construction Battalion 62 in Gulfport, Miss. under the command of Commander William J. Richeson.

It was then that MCB 62 began a new chapter. Meeting the high demands made necessary because of a new conflict of world peace in Vietnam.

Arriving at the Phu Bai Combat Base in Northern I Corps just as the monsoon season started, the battalion assumed sector command of a 2,000 meter portion of the defensive perimeter. Construction on numerous essential combat-related projects started immediately, despite the foul weather, knee-deep mud and unstable ground.

Eight months later it was home again to prepare for a return to RVN. This time to Camp Haskins, Danang.

The beginning of the deployment was especially harrowing. The Tet Offensive was in full swing. Battalion men manned their bunkers and lines at night, and built for other military units by day.

On July 30 a change of command ceremony was held as Commander John Paul Jones, Jr. assumed command of 62, relieving CDR Richeson. Work continued its frantic pace until the battalion began mounting out back to the States.

In March of 1969, MCB 62 headed for 'Nam once again. This time with about a 75 percent changeover in personnel. Home away from home was Camp Barnes, Dong Ha. Just seven miles from the demilitarized zone, and the northernmost Seabee base in Vietnam.

NCB to MCB

At Dong Ha the battalion was forced with a wide variety of horizontal and vertical construction projects. The major portion of the work with which they were tasked were highways and bridges. Essential to Vietnamese commerce as well as to tactical and logistical convoys which carried men into combat. And then kept them supplied.

The Cam Lo Bridge was one of the first projects undertaken. It was a 488-foot-long steel and timber bridge. Especially designed to allow for quick and easy repair if damaged by the enemy.


Patterned after it, a 560-foot steel, concrete and timber span across the Mieu Giang River was next completed. Dubbed the Dong Ha Bridge, the two-lane link is now the longest in the Northern I Corps.

By far the largest, most extensive and time consuming job undertaken by the battalion during the Dong Ha deployment was the lines of communication (LOC) highway project. Sixty-two was tasked with the maintenance, up grading or paving of about 39 miles of the roadway.

At the beginning of August it was announced that 62 had been awarded the Battle Efficiency "E." "Best of Type" Atlantic Fleet Seabee battalion.

With this announcement to boost an already high morale, battalion men set to work with a new goal. Not only maintaining their superior record, but also bettering.

In late October, as a result of recent troop withdrawal decisions, MCB 62 was notified it would not be relieved. It was tasked with the close-up of Camp Barnes. Then in November the battalion began deploying to homeport. They would begin another round of training and resupply in preparation for further duty. Camp Hoover, Danang, RVN.



OF TIMES PAST—Members of the original Naval Construction Battalion 62 of World War II days reflect the pride that still lingers with the Seabees who followed after them—MCB 62.

Homeport means work...

As we all know, there are several ways of doing most things in this world today. And one of them is the Navy way. So how can a civilian construction man, when he becomes a Seabee, make the transition from his way of doing things to the Navy way? Mobile Construction Battalion 62 has the answer.

During its homeport training period the battalion assigns its new recruits to various repair or renovation projects at the Seabee Center. Working with the primary goal of making the center more livable for personnel stationed here, the men gain valuable experience. Learning the Navy way and developing the skills they will need when deploying again to Vietnam.

During the current homeport period MCB 62 finds no scarcity of projects. Hurricane Camille has seen to that. Buildings all over the Seabee Center that were not demolished were damaged to varying degrees.

Receiving their renovation work orders from the 20th Naval Construction Regiment, MCB 62 analyzes each project and schedules the use of manpower. In control of all the battalion's construction projects, the operations office assigns each individual task to the company most able to perform it.

Charlie and Delta Companies consist of builders and steelworkers. Their capability is most suited to general construction work. Jobs involving the operation of heavy construction equipment are assigned to Alfa Company. And jobs requiring plumbing and electrical installations are assigned to Bravo Company.

In the organization of all construction efforts, the "lead company" inherits the majority of the work in a particular project. It is responsible for coordinating all construction specialties to insure that each performs in the proper phase with the others.

Working with the lead company crew, Bravo Company's plumbing and wiring specialists installed plumbing fixtures and electrical wiring. All Bravo Company personnel on renovation jobs are assigned

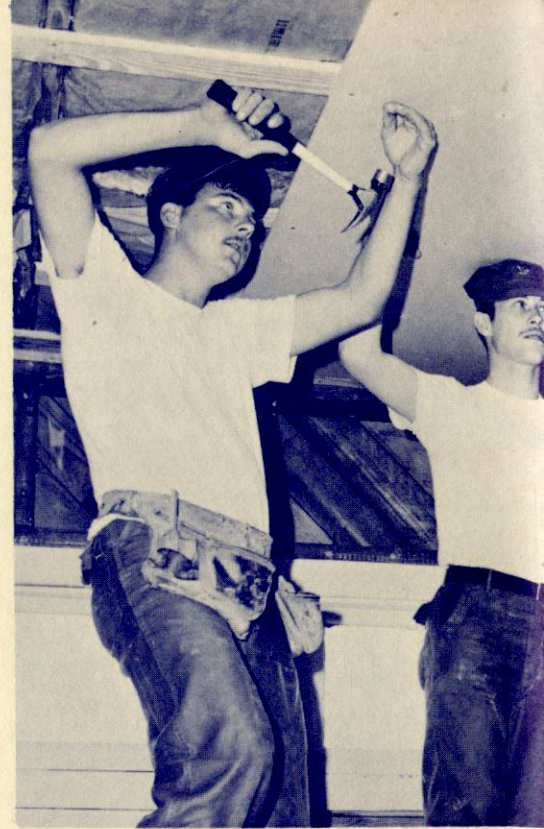
by Senior Chief Utilitiesman Travis L. Haymons and Chief Construction Electrician Donald E. Norman.

Alfa Company provided three 10-man crews and three 5-man crews of equipment operators and construction mechanics to help with general repair and renovation work.

Considered most important among the projects undertaken has been the fix-up, clean-up, paint-up of the battalion's headquarters office spaces in building 59. Almost immediately after returning to homeport, Charlie Company began interior work here. They repaired paneling and trim, replaced loose or broken floor tiles and painted all office spaces and hallways both on the first and second floors.

Although a respectable appearance in the battalion's office spaces must be maintained, it is important to the welfare of enlisted personnel that they be provided with adequate living quarters.

Charlie Company was tasked with the upgrading of Camille battered barracks 133, 135 and 136. Repairs included plumbing and electrical installation by Bravo Company, interior and exterior patchwork and roof replacement. Barracks 135, now a one-story structure, was damaged so badly by Camille that previous construction crews removed the upper story en-



THE WORD IS CAN DO—
(Above) Construction Mechanics Third Class Robert Edgerly, David Arnold and Mike Lang lay aside their wrenches to try a hand at carpentry on building 154. (Below) Builders Third Class Vincent Scopa and Eledon Northcut and BUCN Rodney Courter tackle the job of reroofing MCB 62's headquarters building.





lots of it, too!

tirely.

Classroom-shop building 95 is being completely remodeled by a "C" Company crew directed by BU1 Floyd McKamey. According to 20th NCR designs, the entire interior of the building is being changed to allow a more efficient use of the teaching space.

A large percentage of the companies' new members attend construction training schools at different times in the homeport period. They then must fill their billets on a rotational basis. Following the guidelines prescribed by the operations office in the form of man-day estimates, cost and material estimates and critical path schedules, each company assigns work to a particular crew with a particular job captain in charge.

Repair or renovation work on assigned buildings is usually broken down into categories of either interior work, exterior work, plumbing and electrical work or reroofing.

Interior repair work generally involves replacing existing water-damaged dry-wall gypsum panels with new panels, finishing the joints and painting all new and discolored wall surfaces. Interior repair work may also include laying new floor tiles. Exterior patchwork usually involves replacing damaged or loosened asbestos siding and asphaltic building paper protecting the exterior wall from weathering.

The roofing installed in the wood frame barracks is of the built-up type. It consists of numerous layers of asphaltic building paper sandwiched between layers of solidified asphalt and topped with a covernig.

With the task of general construction assigned to Charlie and Delta Companies, responsibility of "lead company" fell into their hands. Charlie Company men, under the leadership of Chief Builder Charles M. Austin and Delta Company men under the leadership of Chief Builder Earl C. Braley, immediately began tackling reroofing, rewalling and repainting jobs in the damaged buildings they were assigned.

Delta Company men were assigned to job specialty crews to learn individual construction methods. Moving from crew to crew they learned the uses of as many different building materials as possible. Delta crews have done interior repair, exterior siding replacement and new roof installation on Barracks 154, 155, 135 and 14.

So with the Navy way, the repair of Seabee Center buildings and the training of 62's new personnel go hand in hand. This training will soon prove to be extremely valuable to the Navy and to the men themselves. Their performance soon as highly trained construction specialists, will take on an even greater meaning as they are tagged with new responsibilities.



AND MORE CAN DO —(Above) CM3 Steven Mareau finds himself on the other end of a paint brush in the beautification of building 59. (Right) BU3's Robert Evans, G. Rocco and Erminio Spadino and BUCN W. K. Watson busy themselves with the task of tacking asphalt building felt to the sides of building 154. Later asbestos siding will be nailed in place.



Know your commanding officer...

"My name is John Paul Jones, Jr."

The only introduction needed by the men of MCB 62 upon meeting their commanding officer for the first time. The boom of his voice told everything. He was all military. He expected a lot from his men, and he got a lot. Could be why his battalion was selected the "Best of Type" Seabee command in the Atlantic Fleet.

Commander Jones, or JPJ as he's known among his troops, is indeed all military. The son of a Navy Dental Corps Captain (retired), he attended high school at Georgia Military College in Milledgeville, Ga. Later he graduated from the U. S. Naval Academy. And prior to arriving at his present command, he spent 10 months at the Naval War College at Newport, R. I.

CDR Jones began his military career as an Ensign in 1954. His first assignment was as gunnery officer aboard the attack transport USS Calvert.

In 1955 he entered Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, N. Y. He received a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering in 1957. Then he attended Civil Engineer Corps Officers' School at Port Hueneme, Calif. for eight weeks.

CDR Jones also holds a master of science degree in civil engineering from Stanford University, Calif.

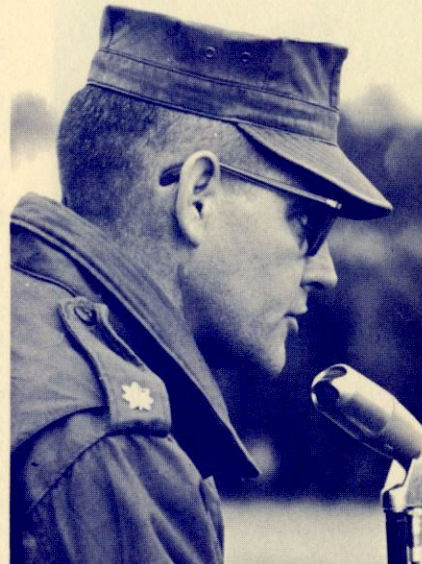
Since entering the Navy's Civil Engineer Corps in 1957, he has served as project manager at the Public Works Center, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and as public works officer at the Naval Auxiliary Air Station, Port Isabel, Texas. He also served on the staff of the Commander, Naval Air Advanced Training Command, Corpus Christi, Texas.

From July 1963 until June of 1965 he was first operations officer and later executive officer for Mobile Construction Battalion Four. In 1966 and 1967 he served as officer-in-charge of the Naval Administrative Unit Annex at Thurmont, Md.

Then on July 30, 1968 CDR Jones took command of MCB 62, then deployed to Camp Haskins, Danang, in the Republic of Vietnam.

Military? Yes. But his true character was probably best summed up by LCDR D. H. Gerdel, MCB 62 executive officer, when he described CDR Jones as an "extremely dedicated man who prides himself in doing his job well—no matter what the job."

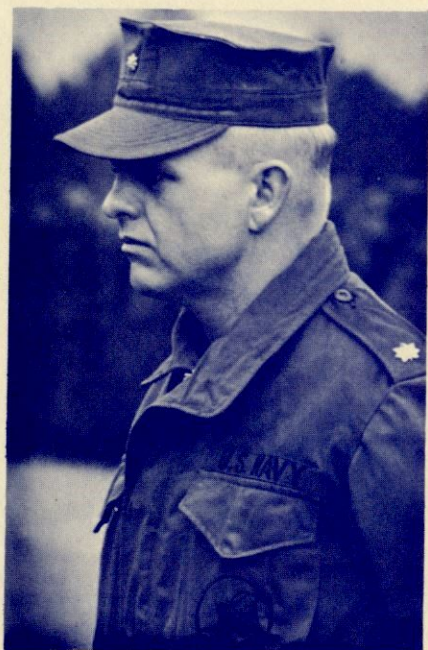
So keep your ears open, men of MCB 62. You'll be hearing a lot of John Paul Jones, Jr. and the jobs his battalion is doing well.



CAPT'N JONES—(Above) CDR Jones introduces himself to the troops. (Below) He makes his first pre-admin 782 gear layout inspection.



executive officer, too



NUMBER TWO MAN—A typical pose of the executive officer during one of his routine functions—presiding over the daily morning battalion muster. LCDR Gerdel musters his staff on the grinder, spreads the word of the day to his officers and then reports to the commanding officer. During the CO's absence the XO acts in his stead in all command functions and business. LCDR Gerdel is also directly responsible to the commanding officer in seeing that the command's policies and directives are handed down throughout the chain of command and properly carried out.

On November 1, 1969 Lieutenant Commander David H. Gerdel became the new executive officer of MCB 62. He joined the battalion in July as operations officer, then stepped up to succeed Commander Charles E. Fegley as second in command.

When asked—now as XO—what he felt could be his greatest contribution to the battalion, he replied, "To see that we attain the readiness condition that will win the 'E' again." When asked what the Seabees could do to bring the award home again, he said, "Develop pride. Pride in themselves as individuals and pride in the battalion of which they are a part."

LCDR Gerdel began his Naval career in 1960 at Officer Candidate School in Newport, R. I., just after graduating from Duke University with a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering. Later in December 1960 he graduated from the Civil Engineering Corps Officers' School, Port Hueneme, Calif.

His first duty assignment was as assistant public works officer at the Naval Ordnance Plant in York, Pa. where the manufacturing, repair and overhauling of weapons took place.

In January of 1961 he was transferred to the Military Advisory and Assistance Group in Taiwan, where he became an engineering advisor to the Nationalist Chinese Navy.

From Taiwan, LCDR Gerdel moved to officer-in-charge of Byrd Station in the Antarctic. There, as a lieutenant, his small crews provided living and working facilities for scientists occupying the site.

Thirteen months later he became public works officer and resident officer-in-charge of construction at the Naval Mine Defense Laboratory at Panama City, Fla. During the next two years he was involved in the planning and designing of one of the most up-to-date civilian and military underwater testing facilities in the United States.

In August of 1967 LCDR Gerdel was assigned as head management department for the Southeast division of the Naval Facilities Engineering Command in Charleston, S. C. Now as lieutenant commander, he assisted all public works departments in the Sixth Naval District in improving public works management techniques.

With transfer to the 20th Naval Construction Regiment in May of 1969, LCDR Gerdel underwent tactical military training at Gulfport, then joined MCB 62 at Dong Ha, Vietnam.

According to LCDR Gerdel, the past Dong Ha deployment was "as fine a Seabee deployment as ever conducted in Vietnam. The men of the battalion made the finest effort possible, with everyone working together in fulfilling the assigned mission." He said that now "we must prepare during homeport so that we can continue to perform as the 'best'."

The in-and-out of things

As all things are ephemeral, lasting only a day, so again does the "can do" battalion, with its annual personnel turnover, lose a few old faces to gain a few new ones. Every vacuum created is immediately filled and work continues at the same pace.

In November, even before 62's main body departed from Camp Barnes to wrap up its third Vietnam deployment, the advance party, already in Gulfport, was busy handling check-ins at an untold rate. All of a sudden the number of battalion personnel increased to 1200 strong.

The largest group of new men added to 62's ranks from a single source came from recently decommissioned MCB 128. Before the decommissioning ceremony took place on November 17 many of the approximately 130 men from 128 had checked into 62.

The second largest group of new personnel that joined 62 are rated specialists coming from Gulfport's Directly Procured Petty Officer (DPPO) Training School. They are Navy petty officers with civilian construction experience and are new to the Navy. Their five weeks of boot training included military indoctrination and introduction to Navy construction group organization. MCB 62 gained 112 new boot petty officers from DPPO School in December and January.

Coming from either Great Lakes, Ill.; San Diego, Calif. or Orland, Fla., where are located the Navy's three recruit training centers, over 20 new recruits have joined the battalion since November 15. Either as designated strikers or non-rated seamen and seaman apprentices, these men were interviewed upon checking in to determine their work preference. Accordingly they were assigned to a particular company or department. If they expressed no work preference they were placed where a shortage of manpower in the battalion existed.

In addition to all these, the battalion gained 131 men from

AIN'T REALLY THAT BAD—
Veferan Seabee Equipment Operator Construction Apprentice James D. Hardison greets new member of MCB 62 Utilitiesman Constructionman Allen J. Milkiewicz. EOCA Hardison has just returned to civilian life. UTCN Milkiewicz came to 62 from Reserve Mobile Construction Battalion 27 in Springfield, Mass. Having joined the Naval Reserve in September of 1968 he served with RMCB 27 for approximately one year. Just before joining 62 UTCN Milkiewicz attended Utilitiesman Class "A" School at Great Lakes, Ill. for three and a half months.

miscellaneous naval shore establishments in the States and in foreign countries. Approximately 20 men from the Navy's fleet rates were added from sea duty assignment.

Then, around the middle of December, after this large influx, the balance occurred. Former MCB 62 Seabees completing their tours were broadcast over the earth to assume new roles as individuals elsewhere. Many that were added in November were also assigned to other places to help affect the balance.

The largest group, over 40 men, assigned to a single place went to Roosevelt Roads Naval Station, Puerto Rico. As many as



20 were assigned to the 20th Naval Construction Regiment at the Gulfport Seabee Center and over 50 were lost to other shore duty stations.

Some went to sea duty on destroyers, cruisers, carriers or other vessels. Some were assigned to other mobile construction battalions. But more than 140 went ecstatically back to civilian life.

For the new group of builders, steelworkers, equipment operators, construction electricians and so on that make up the new MCB 62, preparing for the next deployment is the immediate task ahead. With some it is not the first time. For most it will probably not be the last.

Early-out duffs buffed

For those of you who have been somewhat confused over the Navy's recent early-out policies for enlisted personnel, here is the latest official news from the personnel office.

ALNAV 62 has granted permission to release from active duty all Group VIII ratings up to nine months early. At the present time only men whose enlistments expire in October, November and December 1970 are effected. If your enlistment expires in any of the above months, you will be released in January, February or March 1971. Under no circumstances will you be released more than nine months early. Nuff said.

If you are thinking of staying in the Navy you must at this time sign a 24-month extension or reenlist for a period of at least two years.

For all other ratings ALNAV 61 grants you a three-month cut. If your enlistment expires in April, May or June 1971 you will be separated in January, February or March.

At the present time only ALNAV 61 and 62 effective. There are no other cuts at this time. Anything you hear other than this is scuttlebutt.

A policy not yet in effect for MCB 62 personnel, but will apply after we return to Vietnam is as follows: If upon completion of a deployment you have less than 91 days of active obligated service remaining, you (all ratings) will be separated unless you extend for 24 months or more or reenlist. If you are on your second enlistment or more upon completion of the deployment (Group VIII only), and have between 91-180 days left, and if you do not desire to extend your enlistment, you will be separated.

If after our next deployment you (Group VIII) have had two MCB tours to Vietnam, and are within 14 months of your EAOS (End of Active Obligated Service) at the time of your return from Vietnam, and providing you do not desire to extend your enlist-

ment or reenlist, you will be separated. If you are in country and realize that you will have 15-20 months of service remaining when the battalion gets back to the States, you can extend for six months in Vietnam. Then if upon completion of this extension you are within 14 months of your EAOS, you will be eligible for separation. However, you must submit a letter to EPDOLANT (Enlisted Personnel Distribution Office, Atlantic Fleet) during the 4th or 5th month of the deployment requesting extension.

Deferments

The Bureau of Personnel has just recently made public conditions under which personnel can be deferred from serving on active duty in Vietnam.

If you have at the time of deployment, immediate kin serving in Vietnam, you may be eligible for deferment. Immediate kin is defined as father, mother, brother, sister, or a brother or sister of the half blood, a stepbrother or stepsister or brother or sister by adoption. Also if the above kin have died or been killed, have been captured or are missing in action or suffer 100 percent physical or mental disability, and by virtue of such disability are hospitalized on a continuing basis and are not gainfully employed, you can be exempt from serving in Vietnam.

In order to be exempt as a "sole surviving son," you must qualify in accordance with BuPers Manual.

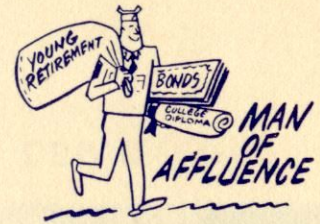
All hands currently assigned to MCB 62 are requested to notify the personnel office if you fall into any of the above categories. A letter requesting your deferment will be forwarded to the Chief of Naval Personnel.

Any man in the above categories who meets any one of the requirements and still wishes to deploy to Vietnam is requested to go to the personnel office and sign a page 13 waiver.



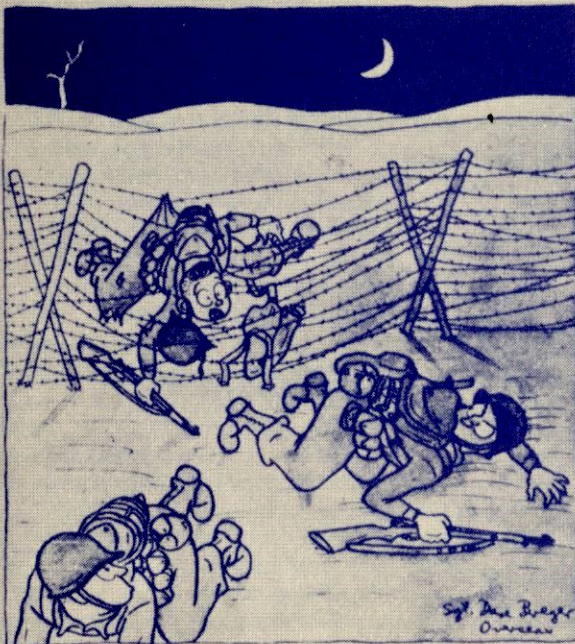
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Answers on Page —



G. I. JOE

by Sgt. Dave Breger



"Kin I help it if I never lived in the country an' stole watermelons like you guys?"

ACROSS

- 1-Cushion
- 4-Decorate
- 8-Humorist
- 11-Macaw
- 12-Danish island
- 13-Arabian seaport
- 15-Reverence
- 17-Attempt
- 19-Diphthong
- 20-Alcoholic beverage
- 21-Music: as written
- 22-Man's name
- 23-Equal
- 25-Sign of zodiac
- 26-Food program
- 27-Organ of hearing
- 28-Through
- 29-Young boy
- 30-Near
- 31-Followed
- 33-Greek letter
- 35-Beam
- 36-River island
- 37-Hindu cymbals
- 38-Reach across
- 40-High mountain
- 41-Pellet
- 42-Number
- 43-Pronoun
- 44-Goddess of healing
- 45-Conjunction
- 46-Possesses
- 47-Begs
- 50-Evergreen tree
- 52-Falsehoods
- 54-Man's nickname
- 55-Base
- 56-Sicilian volcano
- 57-Greek letter

DOWN

- 1-Equality
- 2-Exist

3-Stiletto

4-Mountain lake

5-Communist

6-Prefix: not

7-Slogan

8-Manner

9-Cyprinoid fish

10-Plague

14-Tidy

16-Ventilate

18-Sun god

21-Continued stories

22-Help

23-Edible seed

24-Dine

25-Meadow

26-Parent (colloq.)

28-Lift with lever

29-Permit

31-Sunburn

32-Part of face

33-Crony (colloq.)

34-Sick

35-Hurried

37-Angry outburst

38-Cease

39-Danger

40-Passageway

41-Baker's product

43-Exclamation

44-"Lohengrin" heroine

46-Cut

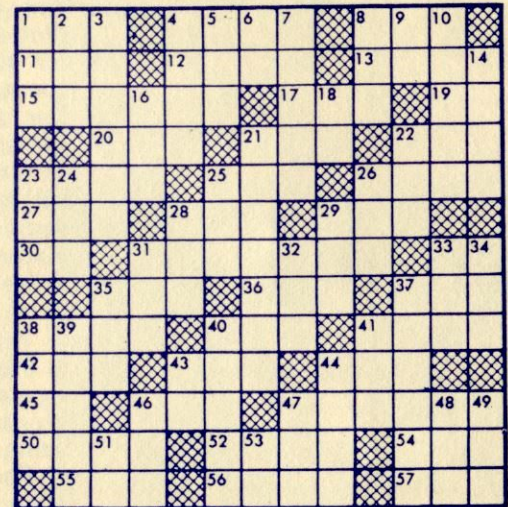
47-Writing implement

48-Speck

49-Nahoor sheep

51-Negative

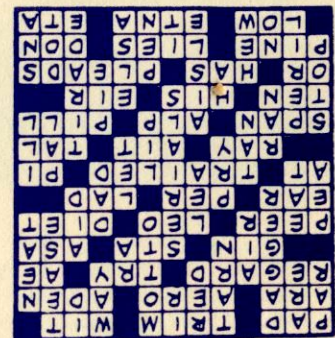
53-Pronoun



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Answer to Puzzle No. 10



DISASTER RECOVERY TRAINING—MCB 62 personnel use a chemical detection kit to make testings on simulated chemical warfare samples. The field training exercise was just one of many they conducted during of a five-week disaster recovery course at the Seabee Center's DRT School.



MCPO's pen

(Continued from page 5)

(6) Providing follow-up counseling with all personnel brought before the mast or tried by court martial.

(7) Providing senior enlisted representation at captain's mast, request mast, meritorious mast and reenlistment ceremonies.

These are but a few of my duties and responsibilities. Further information may be taken from the basic instruction.

Future columns will provide information that I feel will be of interest to you and may cover any subject.

For instance, did you know that the Federal Housing Administration 235 program provides for relief of all but one percent of the interest on home loans for individuals whose income falls below a specific amount depending on dependency status? Military personnel are eligible. It is possible that an E-8, providing he has enough dependents, can qualify. For further information see your career counselor in the admin office or drop by my office on the first deck of building 59 next to the quarterdeck.

I'm looking forward to working with the officers and men of MCB 62 towards our goal of a better battalion for better Seabees.

EQCM J. W. Enright



Here's your Seabeacon

Well, we made it. It's meant a group of overtime hours. And a few weekends too. But the first Seabeacon for the 1970 homeport period is in your hands.

It also takes on another significance. It's my first Seabeacon ever. As editor, I've replaced J02 Holder who has returned to the world of the 8 to 5 white-collar worker.

For those of you new to SIXTY-TWO, the Seabeacon is a battalion publication. It's organized, edited, published and distributed monthly by the public affairs office. All this just for you. To bring you news, photos and features about you and your battalion at work and play.

With this issue, the Seabeacon takes on an all new look. Of course there's still a lot of work to be done. But it's a start.

What we're attempting to do is create visual appeal. Make you want to pick up the magazine. And then hold on to it.

First of all the tabloid newspaper format of the old Seabeacon has been abandoned in favor of the more flexible magazine format. Now more variety can be introduced. Primarily through layout. White space becomes an element of design. Headlines too. And they no longer scream at the

reader. Now they invite his attention. Gone too is the cold drabness of column after column of gray typography.

There's not a whole lot that can be done to dress up a publication on a budget our size. But by taking advantage of color ink and paper stock in place of the old standby black on white, a welcome change can be accomplished.

Creative photography is another aspect we'll be working for. Particularly for use on the front cover. But we'll be striving for it throughout the magazine as well.

Of course with all this emphasis on visual appeal, treatment of the written material must not be neglected. What good is a pretty page if its printed word is poorly written or uninteresting?

Since no one really enjoys reading month-old news stories, we plan to featurize our articles. We deviate from the hard-news style of writing. We add color. The article becomes time-

Well, that's the look of things. less. It holds its interest indefinitely. We need your help. Let us know what you'd like to see in the magazine. Pass the word when something newsworthy is about to break. It's your magazine. Make it a good one.





WE'RE THE BEST—CDR John Paul Jones, Jr., MCB 62 commanding officer accepts the Navy League Proficiency Award presented to his battalion for being named "Best of Type" Seabee battalion in the Atlantic Fleet. Making the presentation at a ceremony held at the Davisville Seabee Center last month is Charles Criss, president of the Navy League Council.

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