

APRIL 1970



Seabeacon

U.S. NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION SIXTY-TWO

View from the bridge



CDR. J.P. JONES, Jr.

By the time this issue of the Seabeacon is published the grind of the homeport deployment will be a thing of the past.

As I write this column (on March 31) we still have homeport project work underway, the crew training exercise is currently in progress, and we still face the arduous personnel and 782 gear inspection by COMCBLANT. But the worst of the grind is over.

When you read this column we will all know how we fared on the annual administrative inspection, and what our superiors in the chain of command think about the readiness of NMCB62. I am willing without prior knowledge of the results of the inspection, to confidently predict that we

will have done very well indeed.

One of the old sayings that I have found to be nearly infallible is "hard work always pays off." I know that you, that each and every one of you from executive officer to constructionman recruit, have really worked hard during the past five months. It was necessary. Without hard work no amount of wishful thinking could turn this battalion, after a 60 per cent turnover in personnel, into the close knit, well organized and smoothly functioning command that is essential for safety and success in Vietnam. But I believe that you have done just that.

As I have personally told many of you, Captain Krick-

burger's inspection is his way of evaluating the overall level of readiness of the battalion. I know that the readiness is high. That's why I'm confident that we will do well on the inspection. To all of you who have worked so hard to get us ready to deploy I extend to you my sincere "well done." I am proud of you and what you have accomplished while we were in Gulfport. I have said before (and been proven correct) that NMCB 62 is the best. I will say it again and trust that you are as proud of this fine battalion as I am.

But the proof of the pudding is in performance in Vietnam. We have trained hard, and we are ready, but we must not become complacent. If we are to maintain outstanding performance there must be a positive "can-do" attitude on the part of all hands. Each of you has a job to do, and each of you must do it with determination and attention to detail. With this approach to our Vietnam work, and with all hands pulling together I know that we can quickly achieve maximum production, and at the same time get our job done well and safely. And that of course is my goal, with special emphasis on the word "safely."

Hard work always pays off. Your hard work has made us ready to meet the challenges of a Vietnam deployment. I personally am certain that you can and will meet those challenges in a manner befitting the "Best of Type" battalion!

J. P. JONES, Jr.
CDR, CEC, USN



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On the cover

In the Keesler Air Force Base DeSoto National Forest Training Area one finds strange things growing on trees. Especially during MCB 62's Battalion Field Exercises (FEX). In case you cannot identify the unusual growth, it's really the best "aluminum cookware" the Navy offers its Seabees and it symbolizes "fond memories" for us all. (Staff photo by EA2 Harry Goforth, Jr.)

PHOTO AT LEFT -- Fearless battalion point men from Alfa Company lead off on the tactical troop march to the defensive perimeter site. Photographer's Mate First Class Peter Kamishlian risks his "life" to get this shot of the Seabee "warriors."

Seabeacon

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Commanding officer CDR J. P. Jones, Jr.
 Executive officer LCDR D. H. Gerdel
 Public affairs officer LT R. R. Crowe
 Editor Don Mynar, JO2
 Staff Harry Goforth, EA2
 Staff Ron Barker, EA3
 Staff Bill Jones, EACN
 Photo lab. Peter Kamishlian, PH1
 Photo lab. Marcel Charpentier, SA

From the XO's desk



LCDR D.H. GERDEL

As the battalion finishes the Administrative Inspection and commences to depart for our Camp Hoover deployment, our whole environment and day-to-day living habits make a drastic change. Gone are the casual evenings with your buddies at one of the local pubs or the evenings and weekends spent with your families and friends. No more part-time job with a local contractor or merry weekends along Bourbon Street, no more opportunity to help a faltering son with his homework or provide a pat on the back when a little encouragement is needed; you have been trained, inspected and pronounced capable and ready to carry out your assigned mission. If you are going to carry out that mission and return to your loved ones and your goals in life, you had better remember and apply all you know about security and safety.

The ability to avoid enemy harassment and accidents just doesn't happen; it requires constant alertness and knowledge on the part of all

hands at all times. The Camp Regulations, which you will be required to read during the flights and maintain in your locker, are very specific in regard to security conditions. Know your position in the camp defense organization, never travel unswept roads, don't bring loaded weapons into camp, always wear your helmet and flak jacket when working out of camp and always obey and properly respond to alert signals. These are some of the do's and don't's that you must know and obey. Your life and that of your shipmates may depend on this knowledge and the proper response. Never tend to relax. A majority of the combat casualties suffered by this battalion during the last two deployments could have been avoided if people always kept in mind that "it doesn't always happen to the other fellow."

The disregard for safety rules and regulations is another area where the human negligence factor is responsible for so much suffering and maiming. How many accidents can you recall where you honestly believe there was not some degree of human fault? Maybe there were many where you thought it was the other guy's fault, but how easy it is for you to be that "other guy." The prevention of accidents is a human function up to each and every one of you. Don't take short cuts where a safety hazard is involved; don't do the task the careless way because the supervisor or safety chief is not around, and don't ever take the attitude that "it will never happen to me." The cemeteries are full of those people.

Safety, alertness and secu-

MCPO's pen

Your senior enlisted advisor recently attended the COMCBLANT senior enlisted advisors' symposium which was held in Davisville, R. I. In this article I would like to pass on to all of you some of the things that transpired at this meeting.

First of all I think it is a tribute to COMCBLANT that this meeting was held in the first place. The fact that four Master Chiefs were brought back from the Republic of Vietnam, one from Puerto Rico, four from Gulfport and three from Washington, D.C.



EQCM J.W. ENRIGHT

rity are your responsibilities. Practice them all day, every day. Don't be a statistic at the end of the deployment and the subject of heartbreak and anguish for your friends and family. Practice safety and security and encourage your buddies to do the same. Be ever alert to anything that could prevent you from returning to that son or the merriment of a New Orleans weekend.

plus all the senior enlisted advisors from the Davisville area shows the importance attached to the battalion master chief and senior enlisted advisor program by COMC-BLANT and by Admiral Enger, the Chief of Civil Engineers.

This meeting was intended as a sounding board for recommendations for solutions to some of the problems facing today's Navy, particularly the Seabees. There were several good suggestions made, some of which, no doubt, can be implemented in the near future, some of which will take longer and some of which may be impossible to ever put in practice. It became very evident soon after the meeting started that all were aware that we have many problems but that what we need are solutions and suggestions for making our Navy more effective and a better way of life for our young men coming into the service for the first time.

While the entire agenda that was discussed is too lengthy for this column, some of the major topics discussed were:

- 1) Housing for enlisted personnel
- 2) More equitable pay for lower enlisted rates
- 3) Change in survivor's benefits
- 4) Ways of alleviating the tremendous workload placed on the "service rates" of the battalions in homeport.

Most of the meeting pertained to ways of making life in the Seabees better for our troops. Every one recognizes the fact that presently our rotation and duty assignments leave much to be de-

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Chaplain's communique

In these days of frantic rush it is good to remember the Biblical injunction, "Be still and know that I am God."

Many problems that press upon our minds are not our problems at all--they belong to God. How presumptuous to think that we can solve them. They are way beyond our capabilities. We should remember that we are not God. We should not interfere with His prerogatives. We can, however, let God know our desires in the matter then leave the solutions in divine hands. Let GOD BE God.

Our wasted energy about things over which we have no control saps our energy and keeps us from caring for the problems that we can handle. We shall be held accountable for the thousands of little every day tasks that we can handle. How senseless it is to excuse ourselves for not caring for the needs of our loved ones by saying that we were concerned about the "big issues" of our times. If we cared for our business and let God take care of His business this world would be a better place to live. God has never defaulted in taking care of His business but we surely have made a mess of our jobs through neglect.

There is something "re-creative" about being still. Especially if we take a good look around us and know that God remains God. He hasn't abdicated His power nor given up His throne. It is comforting to know that God is taking care of the "big things" while we "mind the shop" down here. With this peace of mind we also are amazed at the amount of work we can get done all by ourselves.

Some people have misguided themselves into the notion that they must solve the world's problems. Most have never been given these tasks by the Creator. They spin their wheels, pipe their dreams, waste their time and neglect their real duties. They ruin the lives they claim they are trying to save. They are like the froth and foam always trying to get to the top but usually are filled with nothing but air.

Be still--and know that He is God.

CHAPLAIN R. R. CROWE

B.M.T. . .

This is the XM-16E1 rifle. It is a gas operated, air cooled, magazine fed, shoulder type weapon of straight line construction which weighs 6.5 pounds empty or 7.6 pounds loaded and fires the 5.56mm or .223 calibre round at a muzzle velocity of 3250 feet per second at a cyclic rate of fire of 700-800 rounds per minute and is effective at a maximum distance of 460 meters or 502.78 yards, which ever you prefer.

The first three weeks are divided into classroom procedure, tactics week and rifle range. One or two companies will be in classroom while others are in the field or on the range. But all eventually get the same exposure to the same material.

Classroom week is just that. Five full days of class after class on every conceivable segment of military training. From weapons orientation to field communications to find-



Now our next course for the day. . .

And that's how the military training program begins for the Seabee during homeport at Gulfport. Well, almost like that.

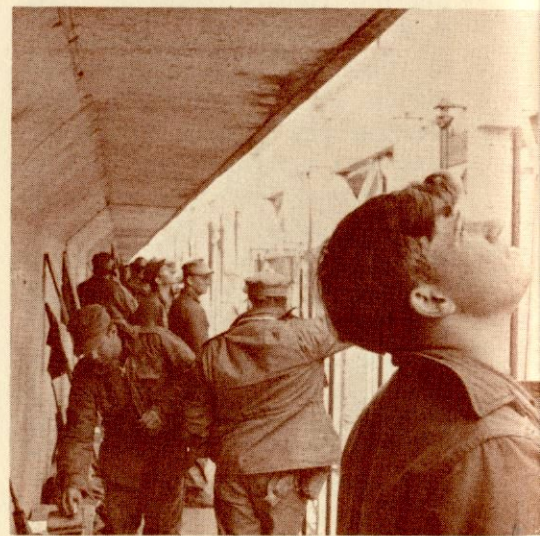
Basically the training consists of four consecutive weeks of instruction. Three at the company level and the last a battalion field exercise.

Block military training is what it's called.

ing a back azimuth on a compass.

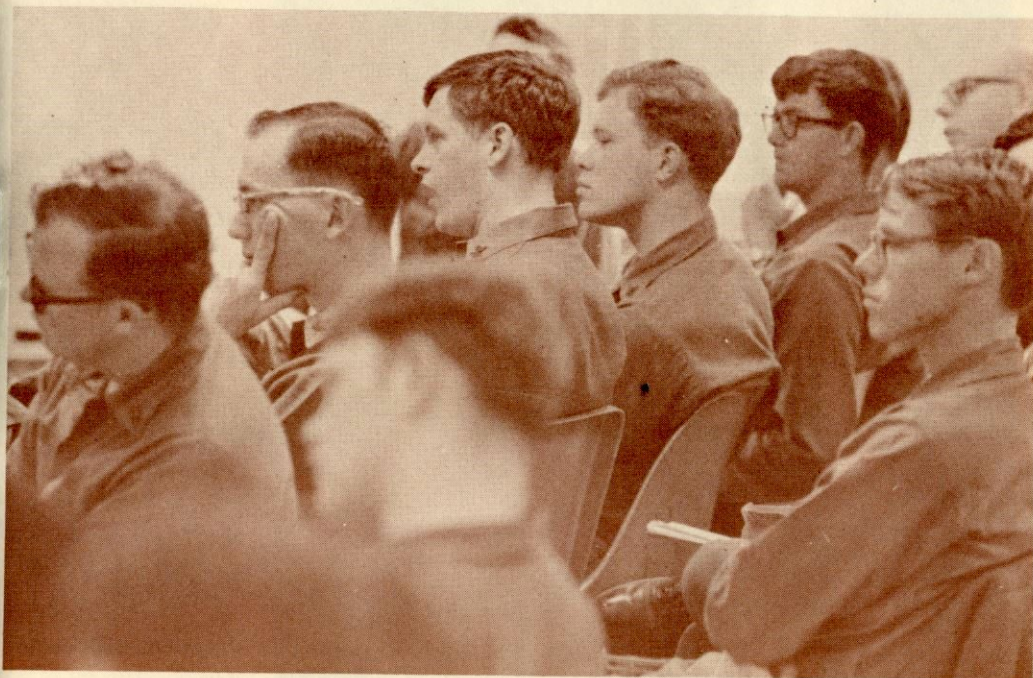
Tactics week gives you an opportunity to put data gathered in class to work in the field. During these five days the Seabee learns the proper method of constructing a fighting hole, running patrols and opening C-ration cans.

Rifle range is the fun week. That's when you finally get to fire that little jewel, the M-16, and practically every other



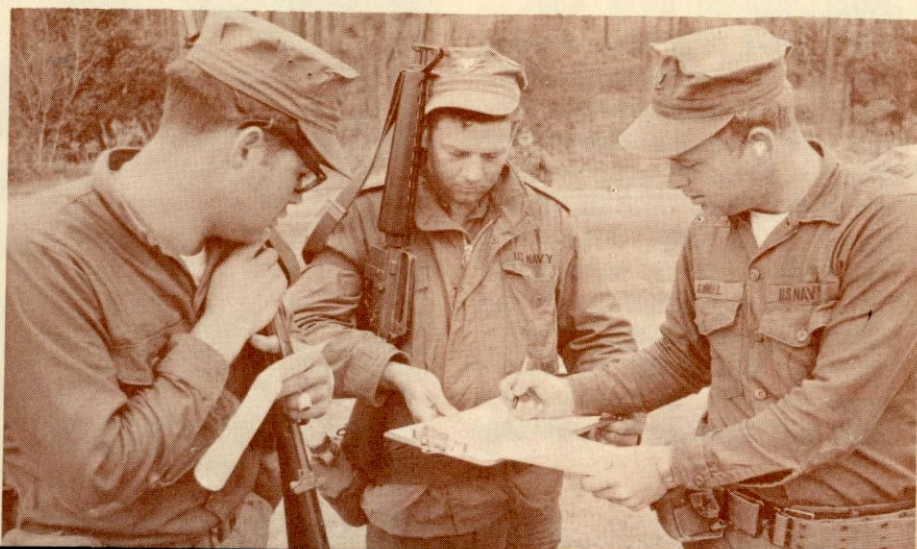
A BULL IS FIVE POINTS, NOT SEVEN -- (Right) During range week of block military training, three Bravo Company construction electricians, Third Classes Michael F. Landes, Charles D. Freeman and Daniel L. Gammel, compare M-16 qualification scores at the Keesler Air Force Base rifle range.

Three steps to survival



THE MARINES DO IT THIS WAY --
(Far left) During a class on field communications, a Marine instructor from Camp Lejeune explains the use of equipment to (Left) a group of Second Platoon, Headquarters Company engineering aids. The classes were held in buildings used by the 20th NCR military training department at the Gulfport Seabee Center.

LEANING INTO IT -- (Far left) Steelworker Second Class Randal W. Pack of 82's Charlie Company takes aim in a standing position during M-16 qualification week. (Left) Straining their necks in the target butts, men in rotating relays watch targets and mark and disc the scores made by the men on the firing line. (Right) In tactics training Charlie Company's Builder Third Class Ronald A. Osborne watches silently for aggressors while sitting on a tree limb above and out of site of the action below.



weapon known to a Seabee unit. Ear plugs are a necessity.

These first three weeks are important to a battalion. It gives the company level an opportunity to function as a team. Company commanders on down through the platoon leaders, squad leaders and fire teams must rely upon each other to successfully carry out their mission.

And now the battalion is ready for the supreme test--FEX.

FEX . . . readiness personified

The night air exploded with automatic rifle fire. Running footsteps crashed heavily on dry pine needles. Men shouted. And then came the cry--referee!

That's about how it went for two days and nights during the battalion's combat field exercises last month at the Keesler Air Force Base military training grounds. Not to mention the long marches heavily laden with battle gear and weapons, the C-rations and the "40 days and nights" of rain which fell all on the last night of the exercise.

Activity began with the drawing of weapons on Monday morning and the squeezing of human bodies into buses and "six-bys" for the trip out to the training site.

Once there the battalion took up tactical formation, and the long march to the bivouac area began, setting the FEX underway.

The 750-man line spread itself through the woods. Alfa Company took the point. Headquarters Company followed with Bravo and Charlie next and Delta acting as security.

It wasn't long before "enemy forces" hit the Seabees. Aggressors, made up of NMCB-62 X-Company and 20th Regiment personnel, set up a continuous ambush along the trail to the bivouac area. Armed with M-14s and M-60 machine guns, they "sprayed" the air with blank ammunition.

Flankers were sent out to flush the enemy. Alfa Company called in mortar fire and H-Company complied. Referees scuttled about designating casualties. It was amazing how many "good guys" a sniper could get from one



shot of his trusty M-14. And it was equally amazing how sturdy a bunch those aggressors were. They just refused to die.

Once at the bivouac site, the enemy fell back. Mortar positions were set up, patrols skirted the perimeter and the Seabees began to "dig in." This would be home for the next two days.

Two defensive lines were set up. H-Company formed an inner perimeter around the main command post, and the rest of the battalion settled down in a larger perimeter some hundred yards farther out.

It wasn't long before those long hours of class room camouflage techniques and tactics week began to show their effect. Some pretty professional-looking fighting holes began to emerge out of the landscape. Some were difficult to distinguish from the natural surroundings.

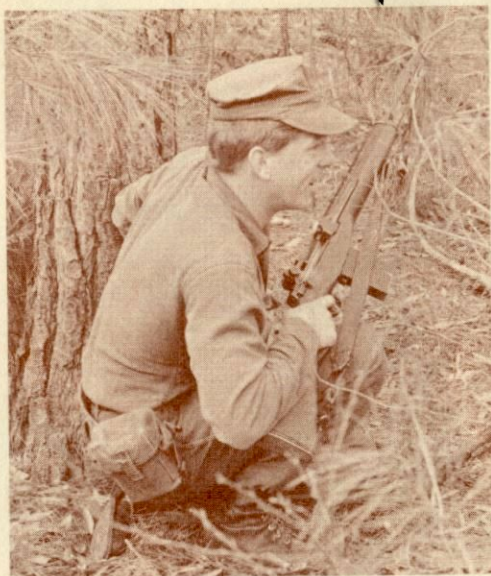
There was little harassment the rest of the day, but night fall brought on new life

AIN'T TACTICAL YET -- (Above) On the members of 62's Headquarters Company keep (Right) nasty old aggressors hiding in the (Below) Construction Electrician Third Class enjoys the warm sun and soft grass after the to defend their perimeter.



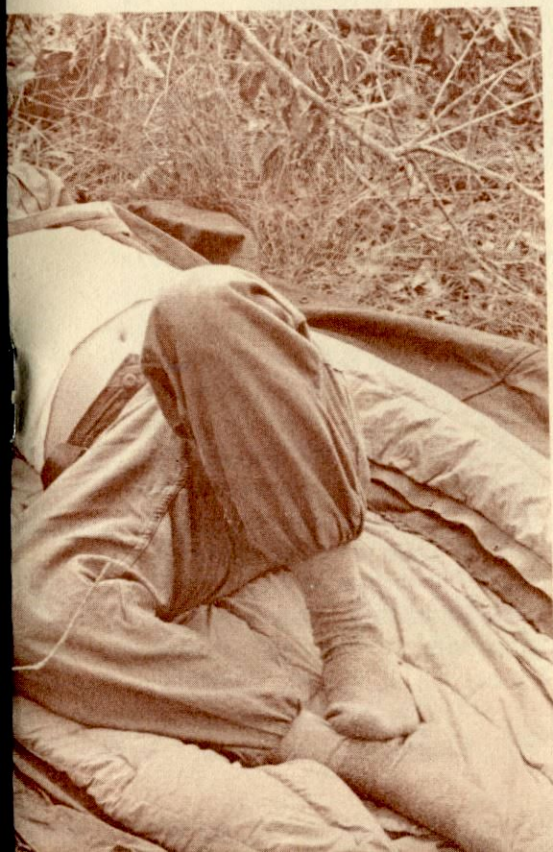


WE AIM TO DISPLEASE -- (Left) Bravo Company utilities men, Third Class Glenn Emslie and Constructionman Walter Ferine train their M-60 machine gun on a moving twig. (Below) Chief Builder Arthur Hotopp and Engineering Aid Third Class Timothy Day align their 81mm mortar with aiming stakes for a simulated fire mission.



actical troop march
their eyes open for
actical zone ahead.

Robert Howell en-
men had "dug in"



from the enemy forces. This was the first test for the battalions defensive lines. All night the fighting continued. Often it would grow quiet for a time, only to have the M-14s come crashing through the night air in a new rush of taunting fire.

The dawn brought forth a truce. Bleary eyed Seabee and aggressor alike filed into the chow line for ham and eggs and a hot cup of coffee. That was one of the most remarkable accomplishments of the whole exercise. How those mess cooks could coax such tasty meals from those crude field ovens. Why with pork chops, mashed potatoes and the like one night, and steak and strawberry short-

cake the next, that's mighty good chow for a field mess.

The rest of the day was spent resecuring the lines. Fighting holes were worked over, camouflaged better, and H-Company spent long hours stringing com-wire around the C.P. as simulated concertina wire.

Then at dusk all heck broke out. The enemy swarmed at the outer perimeter. The skies literally lighted up with the muzzle flash of M-16s, '14s and '60s on full automatic.

And it never really let up. Until the rains came. Clouds which had been threatening for two days suddenly opened

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Navy constructionmen turned "leatherneck"

Most fleet sailors serving with the U. S. Navy today, unless they are hospital corpsmen, don't come much closer to homeport Marine Corps life than watching Gomer Pyle each "Wednesday night on Channel 9." During March however, at the Second Marine Division's homeport, Camp Lejeune, N. C., approximately 250 MCB 62 Seabees spent two weeks undergoing Marine type combat readiness training to prepare them for their upcoming deployment to Vietnam.

Formed into a provisional rifle company while at the Marine Corps Base, the unit was sponsored by the Second Marine Division's Third Battalion, Eighth Regiment (3/8 Marines). The host battalion, among other things, was responsible for scheduling classroom time, reserving berthing spaces and carrying out a limited technical inspection (LTI) of all crew-served weapons to determine their serviceability.

Berthing accommodations for most of the men were provided at Camp Lejeune's main base at Hadnot Point. For the ones in special schools such as Field Cooking School and Field Communication School, training as well as berthing areas were located at another site. Almost all classes were held at either remote firing ranges or at camp sites away from the main base. The men were bussed away to begin daily training immediately after morning muster.

Since individual assignment for this training was accomplished far in advance, each of the men who were not responsible for supporting activi-

ties, were students of at least one special or crew-served weapons school. Classes began on March 9 in Field Cooking, Field Communication and Demolition and Mine Warfare Schools. Each of these courses lasted the full two weeks and covered highly specializ-

struction.

The first weapons training also began March 10 and covered the usage of the M-79 grenade launcher and fragmentary hand grenades. One day later the counterguerrilla warfare students divided into groups to study the 81mm



IT WORKS HOW? -- (Above) During the second week of special and crew-served weapons training at Camp LeJeune, N. C., in March, MCB 62 personnel learn to operate the M-60 machine gun during live field firing.

ed material.

Classes in NCO Leadership School, Company and Platoon Commander's School and Counterguerrilla Warfare School began March 10 and lasted three days. The NCO leadership group, during the second week, moved to Assault Bridge School and were instructed in standard and non-standard military bridge con-

mortar, the 3.5 rocket launcher and the 106mm recoilless rifle. The M-79 and grenade group, during the second week covered the employment of the M-60 and .50 caliber machine guns. All weapons training began with lectures on function and operation and concluded with several days of live field firing.

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62's new breed of Seabee

Seabee teams--the Navy's own "Peace Corps."

Mobile Construction Battalion 62 has three teams comprised from its ranks. They are Seabee team 6203, '04 and '05.

Seabee teams are composed of 12 veteran Seabee enlisted men with one Civil Engineer Corps officer assigned as officer-in-charge. Their mission is to provide technical assistance with "grass root" diplomacy to help underdeveloped countries help themselves. Through on-the-job training, simple construction projects, new sanitation measures and on-site medical assistance they are spreading goodwill throughout the world.

Teams instruct, train and work directly with the local people. Once trained, these people can carry on the work after the Seabees have left.

This mission of construction and training and the people-to-people program is why today the Seabee teams are often referred to as the Navy's "Peace Corps."

Before deploying, each team undergoes 18 weeks of intensive training as a unit. Subjects such as country familiarization, host country language, multi-construction skill training, counter-guerrilla warfare and counter-insurgency indoctrination are taught. They also receive instruction in communications, leadership, demolition, instructor training, field medicine and other subjects needed to make the team a highly qualified construction and civic action unit capable of independent operation in a foreign country.

6203 was the first MCB 62 team to deploy this year. Headed by Lieutenant (junior grade) Richard C. Johnson, the team members are BUC Keith Nelson, SW2 James Cook, BU2 Charles Davis, UT2 Forrest Churchill, EO2 Calvin Mathews, CE2 Roy Berlin, CM2 William O'Brien, HM2 John Richford, EA2 Donald Guay, BU3 Douglas Shindler, EO3 Frederick Slaw and CM3 Rodger Groetzinger.

The team will be spending the next eight months at My Tho, Republic of Vietnam.

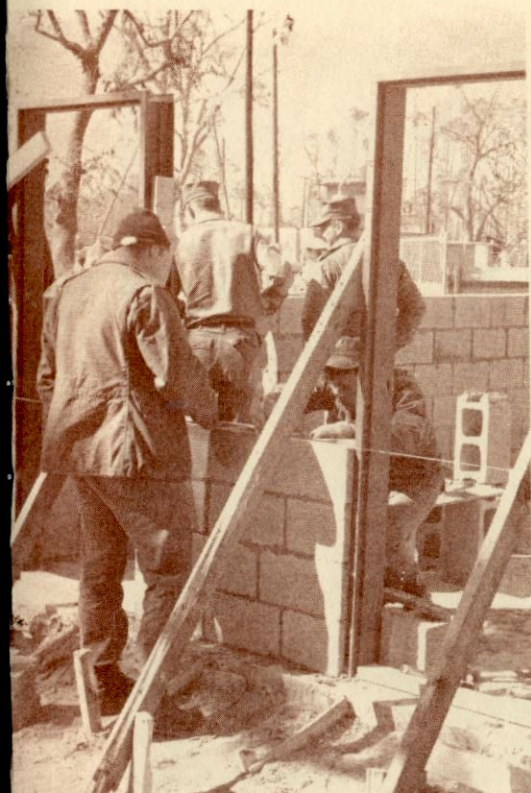
Leaving in May for Tho Duc, RVN, is team 6204. En-

sign Louis R. Campbell is the OIC. His team is made up of Chief Construction Electrician Robert R. Ward, Hospital Corpsman First Class Rodger Parks, Equipment Operator First Class Gary Henzen, Construction Electrician Second Class Mikel Wright, Construction Mechanic Second Class Robert Crosby, Utilitiesman Second Class John Misenheimer, Builder Second Class Lonnie Blackwell, Steel Worker Second Class Anthony Blua, Equipment Operator Third Class Edward Mainguy, Builder Third Class Francis Ryncarz, Engineering Aid Third Class William Skoglund and Construction Mechanic Third Class Gary Green.

6205 is supervised by Ensign Gregg D. Hagedorn. His team is comprised of Chief Steel Worker Donald La Flamme, Builder First Class Arthur Smith, Hospital Corpsman First Class Larry Young, Equipment Operators Second Class Jack Bounds and Robert Turner, Construction Mechanic Second Class William Seale, Construction Electrician Third Class Dennis Spartz, Steel Worker Third Class Kerry Luttrell, Construction Mechanic Third Class Randal King, Engineering Aid Third Class Charles Thibodeaux, Utilitiesman Third Class John Gilbert and Builder Third Class Ted Owens.

All these men are part of that new breed of dedicated Americans looking out for the world's underprivileged citizens. And as members of this new breed--the Seabee team--they will be carrying on the mission of "helping others help themselves."

BLOCK BY BLOCK -- (Left) Members of MCB 62's Seabee Team 6204 strengthen their coordination in home-port training while they construct facilities for the O'Malley Dixie Youth Minor League Ball Park in Long Beach, Miss.



Awards pin Success on 62

The commanding officer and 31 other men of MCB 62 were cited by the President of the United States and the Secretary of the Navy last month for outstanding professionalism, leadership and devotion to duty while serving recently in the war zone of South Vietnam.

Commander John Paul Jones, Jr. received the nation's fifth highest military commendation, the Legion of Merit for "exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service" as CO of MCB 62 at Dong Ha from April to December 1969.

His battalion, working under arduous conditions, extended working hours and unusually heavy enemy harassment, provided construction support to military operations which contributed directly to the increased combat efficiency, improved defensive posture and increased health and welfare of allied forces.

CDR Jones' "initiative, devotion to duty, dynamic leadership, professional expertise, management competence and sustained exceptional performance were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

Two other men received commendations from the President. Awarded the Bronze Star were LT Ronald Bates and Senior Chief Equipment Operator Jarvis Wood.

Lt Bates was cited for his leadership and professionalism as Alfa Company commander and officer-in-charge of Detail Barracuda. He molded his 300-man company into an efficient and coordinated fighting and construction for-

ce, and was successful in completion of all phases of construction of some 45 miles of highway in the Northern I Corps.

EOCS Wood was decorated for his performances as assistant officer-in-charge of Detail Barracuda. Despite arduous conditions, monsoon rains and enemy harassment, he expertly directed his personnel in the completion of a 9-mile all-weather highway designed for 50-mile per hour speeds.

The Navy Commendation Medal went to Builder First Class Arthur Smith for expert supervision as a building crew leader, Chief Steelworker John Brown for his leadership as chief petty officer-in-charge of construction of the Dong Ha Bridge, Senior Chief Construction Mechanic Armol Davidson as maintenance chief of Alfa Company, Chief Construction Mechanic William Allison for forming an effective platoon organization and competent heavy equipment maintenance crew, and Equipment Operator First



HIGHEST HONOR -- (Above) During a ceremony at the Gulfport Seabee Center NAVFAC Commander Rear Admiral Walter M. Enger pins Legion of Merit medal on the uniform of MCB 62 Commanding Officer Commander John Paul Jones, Jr. (Below) Observing the awards ceremonies on the parade ground, Bravo Company Platoon Chief, Chief Construction Electrician Donald E. Norman and the rest of his platoon stand at attention with the entire battalion.



32 men cited for meritorius service

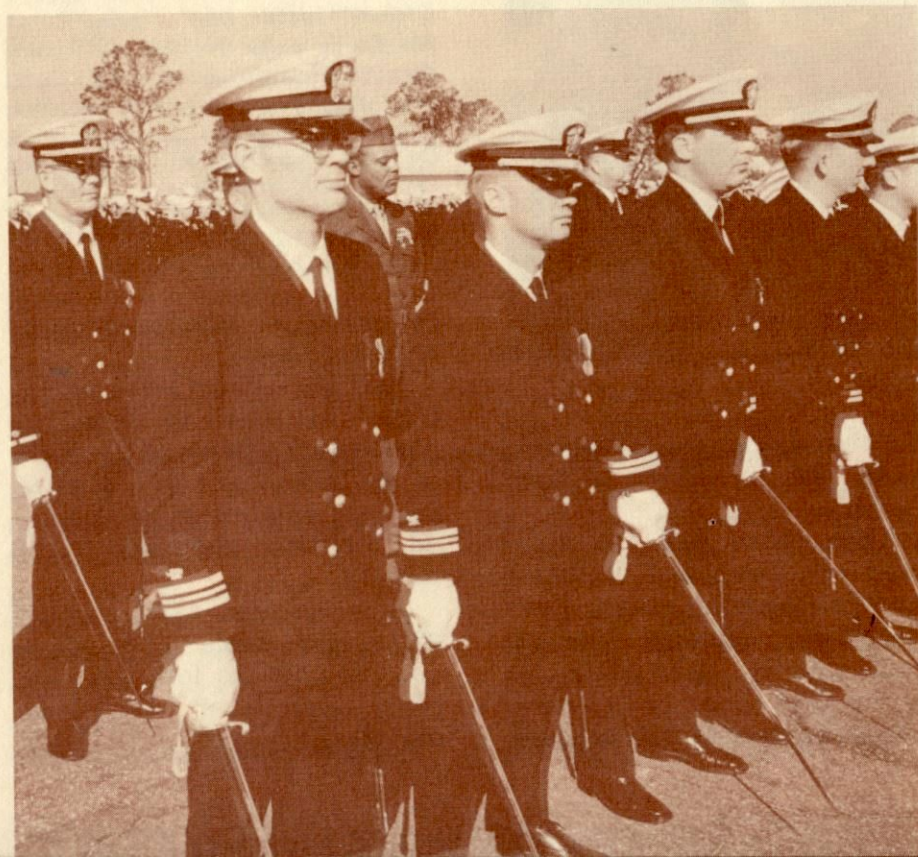


STARS FOR THE STARS -- (Above left) With a smile on his face Alfa Company Commander Lieutenant Ronald G. Bates receives Bronze Star Medal from RADM Enger. (Above right) Alfa Company's Senior Chief Equipment Operator Jarvis O. Wood renders hand salute to RADM Enger after being presented with Bronze Star medal. (Below) MCB 62's staff officers stand at parade rest with sabers during the full dress ceremony on the Gulfport parade ground.

Class Hubert Bass as petty officer-in-charge of a 7-man blasting crew which was instrumental in completion of 9-miles of tactically essential highway.

The Navy Achievement Medal went to Chief Equipment Operator James Jacobs as chief petty officer-in-charge of the A-Company rocking crew, Equipment Operator Second Class Robert Turner as heavy equipment operator and crew leader, Construction Mechanic Second Class Fritz Kohler as mechanic-in-charge of the electrical and specialty sections of A-Company automotive shops, Equipment Operator Constructionman Calvin Crane for outstanding professional talent as an equipment operator, Personnelman Second Class Raymond Ruiz for outstanding professionalism in carrying out his duties in the personnel office. Builder Second Class Michael Ryan as Charlie Company expeditor, and Builder Third Class Bruce Walpole as planner and estimator in the operations office.

Other men who also received commendations but who have been transferred or separated are as follows: Navy Commendation--LT J. M. Ramsey, CEC R. L. Ashley, EOC W. Meyers, LTJG R.C. Lundberg, LTJG H. P. Beasley and EO1 D. P. Becker. Navy Achievement--LTJG K. W. Lovell, SWC R. M. McGill, GYSgt C. A. Schlader, BUC C. B. Sizemore, CMC C. G. Thurman, BU2 L. D. Cargill, BU1 O. T. Mills, ET1 W. R. Rayfield, LTJG D. C. Sopko and SW2 M. M. Blersch.



The 12,000-mile link

It was "bon voyage" for 100 men from MCB 62 early this month as they bid farewell to friends and loved ones and began a 12,000 mile journey to the Republic of Vietnam.

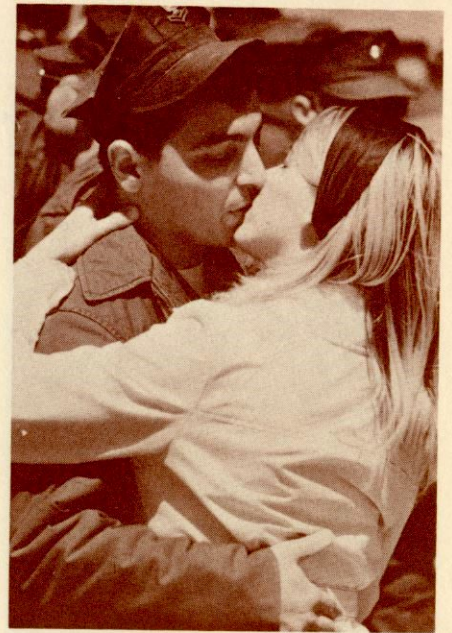
These men were the battalion's advance party, composed of four officers and 96 enlisted men whose job it was to create a smooth transition in the relieving of MCB 74 at Camp Hoover, Da Nang, and to prepare the camp for the arrival of the main body of MCB 62 in late April.

LCDR W. E. Robertson, battalion operations officer, led the party as officer-in-charge. Assisting him were

followed by the cargo flight with six men and 40,000 pounds of battalion gear. All hands arrived safely at Camp Hoover the following day. They would play a vital role in the preparation of the battalion take-over of the camp. Tons of equipment and materials would change hands during a short three-week period.

There was much to be done. Alfa Company with 65 men would face the task of inspecting and taking inventory of over 400 pieces of equipment before taking custody of it.

The supply department certainly had their work ahead of them--a whole ship load of



NO TIME FOR ACCURACY -- (Above) Advance party member Construction Electrician Second Class Roy D. Berlin gets one last goodbye kiss just before boarding the plane for Da Nang.



ALL ABOARD! -- (Left) At Gulfport Municipal Airport on April 2, members of MCB 62's advance party ascend a small ladder into a giant C-141 Air Force cargo jet that will carry them to their destination. At Gulfport, they began the first hop of a three-hop flight to Camp Hoover, Da Nang, where they will be deployed for the next eight months. The rest of the battalion will join them in late April.

LCDR R. A. Cooper in charge of logistics and supply, LT K. W. Meeks, Alfa Company commander, in charge of equipment and ENS G. M. Armstrong material liaison officer.

The main body with 94 men left Gulfport Municipal Airport on April 2. They were

it, containing the battalion's tools due to arrive in mid-April.

Then there was the turn-over of offices and facilities such as service clubs, Navy Exchange, armory, medical and security. And since the paper flow never really ends, admin/personnel had their re-

presentative setting up shop ahead of them.

And then there were briefings. All kinds of them, but particularly those of projects to be taken over and also of the type of work to be expected during the next eight months.

And the next eight months will begin soon. For all of us. So hold the fort, advance party members. We're on our way.

32 Seabee's receive new crowns

With a hand shake and a salute 32 Seabees attached to MCB 62 were advanced in rate March 16 during ceremonies at the Construction Battalion Center in Gulfport and at Camp LeJeune, N. C.

These men who are now enjoying the raise in pay are as follows: Advanced to Steel Worker Second Class were L. H. Boeding, T. E. Dunn, R. W. Porter, and J. C. Frederick. Advanced to Steel Worker Third Class was K. D. Stanley. Advanced to Construction Mechanic Second Class was B. J. Carmack. Advanced to Construction Mechanic Third Class were T. P. Eells

and D. R. Young. Advanced to Equipment Operator Second Class were B. G. McCormick, L. R. Webber, D. W. Fabian, J. B. Foster, G. L. Grogan, F. A. Hammond and C. R. Marsh. Advanced to Equipment Operator Third Class were C. S. Fowler, J. R. Paquette and F. W. Weber. Advanced to Builder Second Class were L. A. Weber and R. G. Schmidt. Advanced to Builder Third Class were J. D. Gilbert and R. K. Courtner. Advanced to Engineering Aid Second Class were F. Gutierrez, T. Vanzwol, W. E. Wilson and P. E. Wollenhaupt. Advanced to Engineering Aid Third Class was G. L. Stouffer. Advanced to Construction Electrician First Class was B. G. Smallwood. Advanced to Construction Electrician Second Class was M. J. Dore. Advanced to Construction Electrician Third Class were R. J. Mecoli and D. D. Morris.

MCB 62 Wives Club

Being Organized

Wives of the battalion's Seabees are currently in the progress of forming a MCB 62 Wives Club at the Seabee Center.

The plan was initiated and put into motion at a "coffee get together" last month. Mrs. Arlene Buss, wife of EOC E. J. Buss, was selected as coordinator of the club. Officers will be elected on April 26 at 2 p.m. in the conference room of building 54. Baby sitting will be free for wives attending. All wives remaining in the Gulfport area are encouraged to come and take part.

ON April 13 the group was building interest in the club through a social/fashion show. Once established, the club promises to offer an opportunity for MCB 62 dependents to meet and socialize together thus providing substance to fill the many long hours of separation from their Seabees.

Field exercise

(CONTINUED FROM P. 9)

up, and the fighting Seabee found a new foe to contend with. Shelters held the rain like a sieve. Holes filled with water and mud, and the dawn was a long time coming.

But when it did come, the discomforts of the previous night were soon forgotten. The camp bustled with new activity. The FEX was over. It was homeward bound!

The field exercise was perhaps fun to some. Perhaps silly to others. Most likely it was painful to all.

Though joked about, it was serious. It was an integral part of the training and conditioning needed before deploying to a combat zone.

Camp Lejeune

(CONTINUED FROM P. 10)

The end of each training day for most of the men came just before evening chow and the men were transported back to the barracks in the proverbial "cattle car" or Navy "school bus". Liberty on base was spent by most at either the base clubs, the base bowling alley or the barracks.

Although 62's Seabees didn't see many Gomer Pyles at Camp Lejeune, they did run into a few bull-bellowing Sergeant Carters. And most of them agree that they all seemed to know what they were bellowing about.

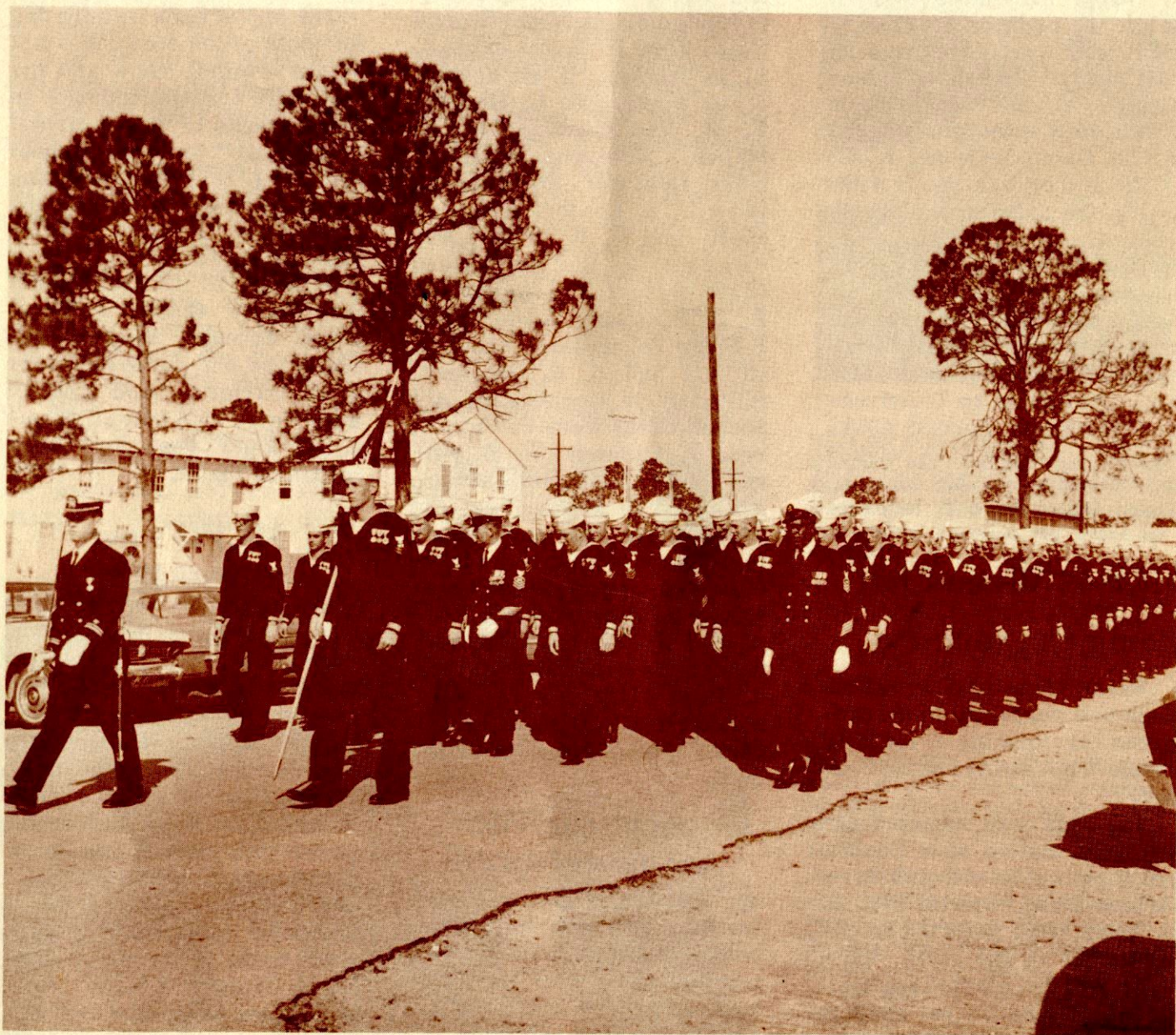
MCPO's pen

(CONTINUED FROM P. 5)

sired, but with our Southeast Asia commitments there is very little that can be done about it at the present time. Our senior enlisted Seabee, Master Chief Constructionman Shannon, is devoting much of his time in an attempt to establish more and better shore duty for the Seabees. Construction Battalion Unit 401 at Great Lakes promises to be the forerunner of many such units in the continental U. S. This will be an excellent opportunity for Seabees to be able to work in their rating while on shore duty. We now have two battalions making peace time deployments, one to Puerto Rico and one to Okinawa, each with numerous detachments.

As I mentioned earlier, we all know we have problems, but what we need are solutions. My door is always open and I'll entertain any suggestions that you may have for improving our Navy way of life.

BEST FOOT FORWARD -- Marching to the Gulfport Seabee Center Parade Ground, MCB 62's Alfa Company strides out. The occasion was the Captain Robert Engram retirement-awards presentation ceremony on February 27.



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