

MAY 1971



Seabeacon

U.S. NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION AT THE ENSI

Seabeacon

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COVER — Looking like a war-weary fighting man, Equipment Operator Constructionman D. L. Laroy stands guard on NMCB 62's defensive perimeter during the battalion's annual field exercise which was conducted March 7-11.

Chaplain's Communique

Unlimited Potential

Attitudes help formulate the ground rules which govern the activities we participate in. The person with positive thoughts concerning the future expectations for life, is certainly in a better position to take full advantage of promising developments. Negative thought is the breeder of inactivity and self-condemnation which left unchecked will lead to self-inflicted misery.

It is to the advantage of the individual that he attain the highest level of self-respect by becoming as productive as possible. The limit of your potential is unknown (unto you) until you strive to reach beyond today's accomplishments with the expectation of accomplishing more tomorrow. Scientific research is proving every day what man thought was impossible a few years ago. Why? Because researchers will not accept no for an answer and continue to reach into the unknown for the knowable.

Unless you are setting goals far beyond your present level of attainment, it is possible you are short circuiting your potential. In order for any person to do his own thing, the self must be understood, and released from the burden of negativism. For the Christian to deny himself the advantage of a better understanding of God's Word through individual study is to lose sight of the principles of our faith which inspired the Apostle Paul with the attitude, "I can do all things through Christ which strengthenth me."

The Holy Scriptures contain positive instructions for living, and when properly understood can provide enlightenment toward a positive and active way of life.

Chaplain Roy C. Wood

View from the bridge

Repeatedly in this column I have made reference to pride — pride in ourselves, pride in our unit, pride in our Navy, etc. I have also discussed briefly professionalism in reference to the way we do our jobs.

The forthcoming deployment to the Caribbean will truly test our metal. Test us to see if we can perform in a professional manner without the impetus of a tactical situation influencing our actions. It is a far easier task to build facilities to support tactical military operations than it is to refurbish dilapidated structures so that our fellow Navyman will have a better world to live, work and play in.

The emphasis has already shifted from quick, tactical constructions to quality, finished workmanship. Similarly the military aspect of the Seabees mission has shifted. No longer will we be primarily concerned with the preparedness for defense of our camps and projects. Instead, we will concentrate our energies on attaining and maintaining a readiness to mount-out and respond quickly to a contingency requirement for engineer support of U.S. Army, Navy, Marine or other friendly forces anywhere in the Atlantic Ocean area.

In order to do this we must truly be professionals in every endeavor. We must strive for efficiency of effort and the highest quality workmanship possible. We must also govern ourselves in such a manner that everything we do is done with the realization that at anytime we may be called



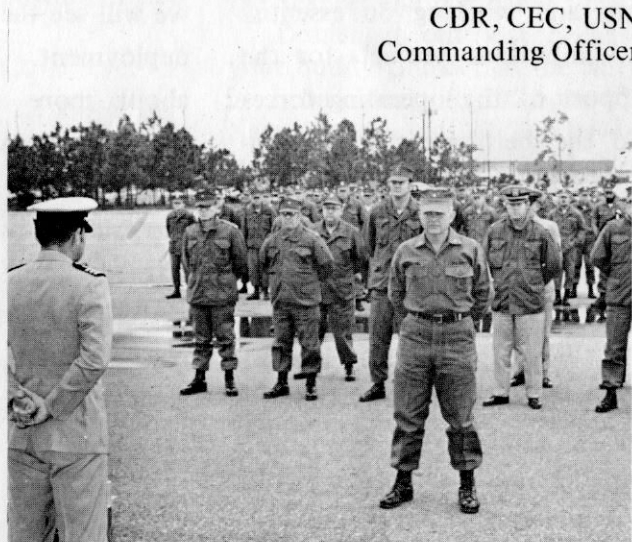
upon to pack up and mount out in as little as 48 hours.

Sixty-Two is an organization of professionals. You have proven that over and over again. By this I do not mean that every man in the Battalion is a professional or correct Navyman. What I do mean is that we pride ourselves at doing the very best job at all times no matter what the job. That is the true spirit of professionalism within the military or civilian life.

Let us all rededicate ourselves to this spirit. Let us all make it a habit to do our utmost every day to do our very best at whatever task is at hand — whether it's shining our boots or building a new Enlisted Men's Club at Guantanamo. Personal pride and personal responsibility are the key traits in this regard. Without them no man is worth his keep and no man can consider himself a "professional."

So let's get all our stuff together in one bag and show the world that NMCB SIXTY-TWO truly is the "finest of the finest."

F. M. Newcomb
CDR, CEC, USN
Commanding Officer



From the XO's desk

As this issue of the SEA-BEACON goes to press, the commencement of NMCB-62's fifth deployment since recommissioning is rapidly approaching. For the vast majority of the men of Sixty-Two, this represents a marked change from the past — a non-Vietnam deployment. Gone are the 65-hour work weeks and the need to carry your M-16 wherever you went; also gone is the utter sense of isolation and rather primitive living conditions.

But with this change comes added and new responsibilities. As the Atlantic Fleet Alert Battalion, each and every one of us is charged with maintaining a maximum state of readiness to meet contingency and disaster recovery situations anywhere in the world. Replacing two battalions and working on essential and important projects for the support of the operating forces and the betterment of the enlisted's life requires quality construction and pride in your own individual effort. The opportunity to enjoy liberty and hopefully some leave during the deployment means conducting oneself ashore in the manner befitting the best Seabee Battalion in the eyes of our fellow Navymen, local citizens and visiting tourists.

Along with the changes this deployment represents to us, the whole Navy has been undergoing some dramatic changes. Many of us had the opportunity to see and hear Admiral Zumwalt during his recent visit to Gulfport and recognize the sincerity and force he is applying to make the Navy a more pleasant and enjoyable experience for the career as well as non-career oriented individual. I think we would be naive if we didn't believe that the long term goal of the majority of these changes is a stronger, less fluctuating, smaller but more effective Navy.

The key to the success of these programs is a more satisfied Navyman and hence higher reenlistment rates. We have seen a reduction in the early outs and we will see them end during this deployment. We have heard about more stringent reenlistment quality control standards. We have recently seen some of our shipmates weeded out or warned because they were not performing at their potential and pay grade. If the Navy is to achieve this professional cadre the chaff must be separated from the wheat.

What this means in NMCB-62 is that if you are doing a good job and have potential for in-



creased responsibility, regardless of your present outlook on Navy life, we want you to have an opportunity to learn what the Navy has to offer and give us that opportunity to present these programs, benefits and advantages to you. Many of you joined the Navy for some intangible reason that is hard to put your finger on: a recruiting poster, a buddy, the Navy's reputation, the opportunity to be a Seabee, etc. It is to your advantage and ours to expand that spark of interest and insure that you have weighed all the pros and cons of a Navy career. Don't let the barracks or social pressures from the obviously not interested types prevent you from learning all that we have to offer and then making your own independent decision.

To insure that you have every opportunity to make this decision we have recently created

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MASTER CHIEF UTILITIESMAN B. JONES (right foreground) becomes NMCB-62's Master Chief. He relieved Master Chief Equipmentman J. W. Enright who was given a special assignment by Commander F. M. Newcomb, the commanding officer.

MCPO's Pen

As your new Senior Enlisted Advisor, I would like each of you to know my door is open at all times. However, I do believe in the chain of command. If your chain of command cannot or will not help you solve your particular problem, come and talk it over with me. I will give you the best advice I have to help solve your problem.

Now I would like to say a word or two to the people that are thinking of getting out of the Navy. The Navy is not for everyone. But if you are a constructionman and intend to make a living in construction work in civilian life, why not take a little time to investigate the construction trade in the area that you live, find out what the union dues are, what the hospital plans are and what they cost and consider the cost of living there — house rent, etc. Also consider the months out of a year that the weather will be bad enough to stop most construction work. Subtract all this from your expected income and then see your Career Counselor and see what your potential prospects are in the Seabees and compare.

Don't get out just because your buddy thinks that the Navy is a bad deal. Right now the Navy is shrinking. We will have a smaller Navy, but I think a better one. There is more consideration being given to people in the service by people that count than ever before in the history of the Navy. Pay and allowances are getting better, deployment schedules are better now than in the past, and there is a chance that they may improve even more.

Think twice before you decide to make your move.

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a Career Enhancement Board made up of qualified, interested Petty Officers from all the Companies and Details. They have the information on educational programs, pay, travel, allowances, promotion, shore duty and many other matters. Go see them and make *your own* decision on your place in the future Navy.

This is my last column as a member of NMCB-62. It has been a sincere pleasure and the highlight of my Naval career to

"Ours must be a Navy family that recognizes no artificial barriers of race, color or religion. There is no black Navy, no white Navy — just one Navy — the United States Navy."

*Admiral E. R. Zumwalt, Jr.
Chief of Naval Operations*

have been associated with the outstanding men and officers of the Battalion. You have established an enviable reputation of "Can-do-and-have-done." I challenge you to continue this performance which is so essential to the well-being of our Navy and the posture of free world defense.





ADIEU — Admiral E. R. Zumwalt, Jr., CNO, and Commander F. M. Newcomb, NMCB-62's CO, say farewell after the Admiral completed a tour of Battalion headquarters during a recent visit to CBC.



TWO CROWS ... ONE ANCHOR — (l-r) R. L. Wheeler, H. A. Cason and C. H. Goodman were promoted recently to Communications Electrician Third Class, Shipfitter Second Class and Chief Utilitiesman, respectively. The cap and collar devices were presented by Commander F. M. Newcomb, CO. Watching the proceedings is Lieutenant Commander D. H. Gerdel, XO.

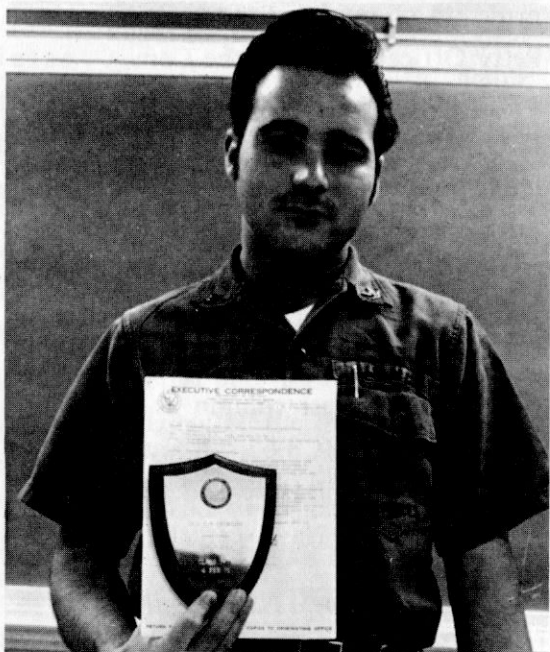


COMMODORE W. H. ROGERS, CBLANT, talks to the officers and enlisted men of NMCB-62 during a visit to the Construction Battalion Center in Gulfport, Miss.

Seabees in the Spotlight



PROMOTION — Lieutenant D. W. Marshall's cap, bearing Lieutenant's bars, is placed on his head by his wife, Susan, on the effective date of his promotion to his present rank. Watching is Commodore W. H. Rogers, CBLANT.



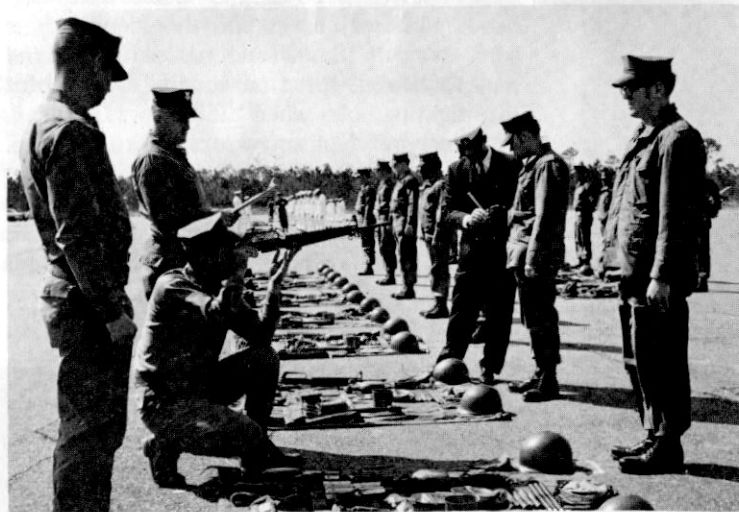
HONORMAN — Construction Electrician Third Class R. T. Primeau holds honorman plaque and letter of congratulations given to him during graduation ceremonies for NMCB-62 personnel who attended Disaster Recovery Training. His average was 94.5.



NMCB-62 personnel wait for inspection by Captain James M. Hill, Commodore of Seabee Battalions in Gulfport, Miss.

Administrative inspection

Commodore finds NMCB-62 squared away



Combat gear is closely inspected.



Commodore comments on the inspection.

NMCB-62 heard the call, met the challenge, but . . .



"War is hell."

This statement was made by Union General William Sherman during the Civil War, but it still holds true today. Would you believe it also applies to simulated wartime conditions? Ask the men assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Sixty-Two who took part in the battalion's field exercise (FEX) March 7-11.

Their probable answer would be "There is nothing like a week in the field living under simulated wartime conditions. Try to imagine how it feels to see a guy you shot come back time and time again."

NMCB-62's FEX began March 7 when the first group of men donned their field packs and boarded transportation to Camp Swampy, the Seabees' base camp in Desota National Forest at Gulfport, Miss. From that time until NMCB-62 mounted out to return to CBC, battalion activities were characteristic of war zone operations — fighting holes were dug, hands blistered, backs and shoulders became sore, tempers flared and nerves frayed and muscles became sore from running and jumping into fighting holes when the alert was sounded. The "enemy" had no respect for a tired man. They attacked day and night.

The attacks were so realistic due to the use of blank ammunition, the men sat in their fighting holes keeping a sharp look out for



NMCB-62 personnel clear "Vietnamese" village located near their base camp. (Right) "Aggressors," 62 and 20th NCR personnel, move through the woods enroute to attack the Seabee camp in the Desoto National Forest at Gulfport, Miss.



“aggressors” moving in to hit their positions. There was one thing worse than peering into the darkness – sitting in those cold fighting holes just waiting. The “enemy” was using hit and run tactics. They would attack the perimeter one place, pull out and hit somewhere else. All one could do was wait until they hit or the alert ended. This type of activity continued for two days and nights.

On the third day NMCB-62 marched out of the base camp to the bivouac area, making and breaking “enemy” contact along the way. After reaching the area, a command post was set up and the men “dug in.” Nightfall brought the first test for the battalion’s defensive lines. The Seabees held their positions.

The “enemy” attacked throughout the night, trying to find weak links in the perimeter. Often it would become quiet long enough for the Seabees to begin to relax, only to have the soothing night sounds shattered by the blasting of M-14s. The area then lit up from the muzzle flashes of M-16s and M-60s as the Seabees cut loose with a heavy volume of return fire.

Dawn brought a welcome relief for the “war” weary men. NMCB-62 had maintained its position. Now it was time to break camp, return to CBC, clean weapons and return home for hot showers.



(Top) A Seabee sometimes travels on his stomach. (Center) On-the-job training is an integral part of NMCB-62’s homeport period. This practical instruction is given to men in all the construction ratings in addition to military training. (Bottom) Weapons must be operative when needed. One way to insure they will function properly is to clean weapons thoroughly after they have been used.



NMCB-62 personnel and guests relax . . .

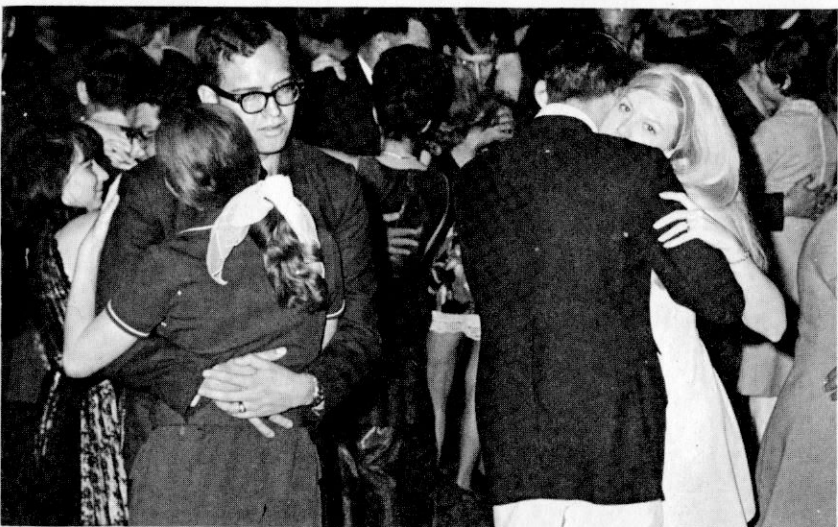
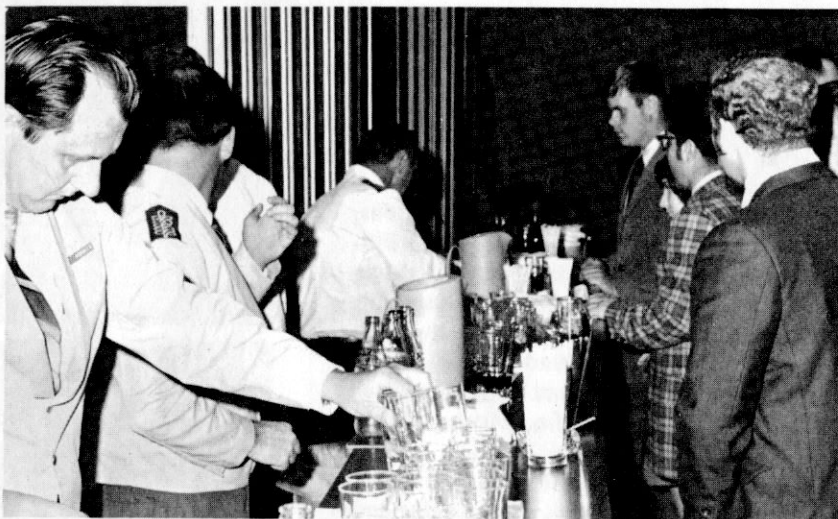
On March 19, one week after Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Sixty-Two's administrative inspection ended, a battalion party was held in the Sheraton Motor Inn in Gulfport, Miss.

The order of the evening for everyone was "Eat, drink and be merry." No red-blooded American could resist an order like that. The activities of the fun-filled evening included dancing, cocktails, door prize drawings and dinner.

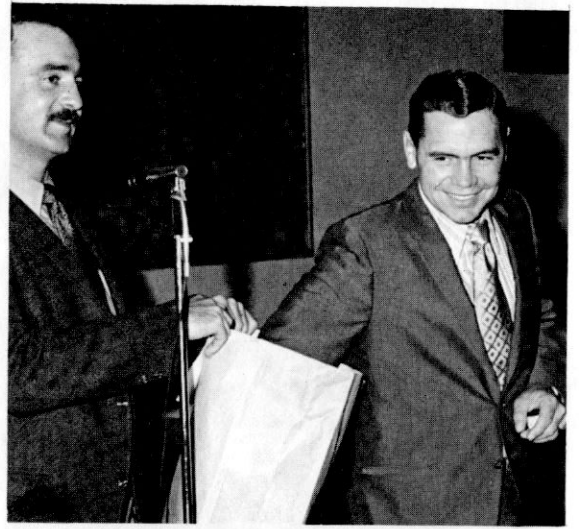
Everyone was welcomed to the party by Commander Frank M. Newcomb, NMCB-62's commanding officer. He also drew tickets for door prizes which were presented to Ltjg G. M. Armstrong and E01 C. D. Wise, colorpack cameras; YN2 M. L. Fultz, PH1 B. L. Tilley and E01 R. W. Kluth, liberty passes.

Cdr. Newcomb introduced Commodore W. H. Rogers, CBLANT, who was principle speaker for the evening. Commodore Rogers spoke of the Seabees' role in the U.S. Navy.

Other guests attending the party were Commodore J. M. Hill, CBC; Commander and Mrs. Q. E. D. Lewis, CTU; wives of the commanding officers of NMCBs 74 and 133, Mrs. J. Kirkpatrick and Mrs. W. C. Connors, respectively.



lucky recipients receive doorprizes



Seabees turn leatherneck

NMCB-62 sent about 200 men to the Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, N.C. for Provisional Rifle/Weapons Company training. The training included crew-served weapons familiarization to enhance military readiness of NMCB-62 and prepare for deployment to the Atlantic area.

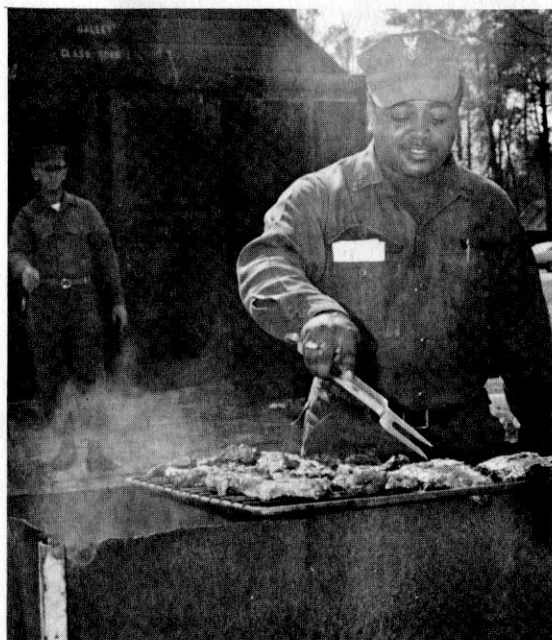
Specialized classroom and field training was given by special schools. Classes included instruction on types of land mines and their detection, military ex-
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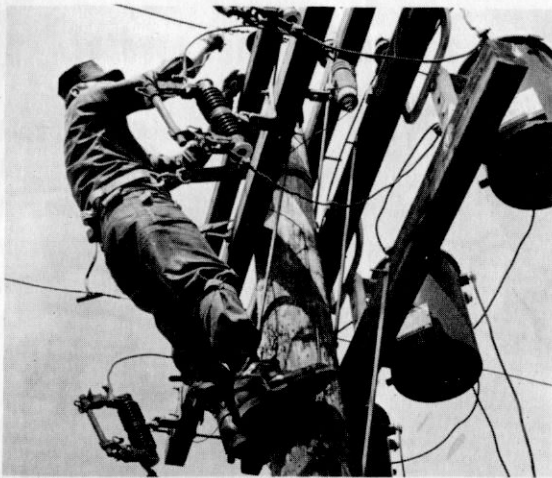


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plosives and employment, food preparation, field range sanitation, immersion heaters, improvised field equipment and field communications.

Lieutenant Commander D. H. Gerdel, NMCB-62's executive officer; Gunnery Sergeant N. Wilson, battalion's military advisor; and Master Chief Equipmentman J. W. Enright, battalion Master Chief, then, visited the training area for an informal inspection.





CROSS-RATE TRAINING — Construction Mechanic Third Class C. M. Ray, 6207, works on power distribution lines during pole climbing school.



GULFPORT ROAD PROJECT — Steelworker Third Class W. Reichardt welds a flange on a culvert.



CBC BALL FIELD — Equipment Operator First Class E. D. Graves operates the crane while Construction Electrician Third Class W. M. Myers removes sling from pole which will support lights for night games.



SEABEE TEAM 6206 members attend Vietnamese language class. The course is designed to give them a basic knowledge of the language.

Seabee Teams are specialists

Naval Construction Battalion Sixty-Two has its own specialists who are deployed to different parts of the world to help others to help themselves.

They are called Seabee Teams, each composed of 13 men. The teams are equipped and trained to provide engineering and construction services and assistance while at the same time training the local populace in the building trades.

There are two teams, 6206 and 6207, going through 18 weeks of training at CBC and in the Gulfport area. Seabee Teams 6206 and 6207 are under the leadership of Lieutenant (junior grade) David L. Burrus and Ensign William J. Morrison, respectively.

During homeport training, the Seabee Teams are taught country familiarization, language, cross-rate training, counter-guerrilla warfare and counter-insurgency indoctrination. Other subjects such as communications, leadership, demolition, instructor training, and field medicine are taught to make the teams highly qualified construction and civic action units capable of independent operation in a foreign country.

The basic mission of each Seabee Team, no matter where it is employed, is to provide on-the-job training and technical assistance for socio-economic development projects and to provide engineering construction support to the extent of the Seabee Team's capability.

Each Team consists of a Civil Engineer Corps officer, hospital corpsman, steelworker, construction electrician, utilities man, engineering aide, three equipment operators, two construction mechanics and two builders.

Bulletin Board

REENLISTMENTS — Senior Chief Construction Electrician J. R. JARRELL and Disbursing Clerk First Class J. L. BIRD recently reenlisted for another tour in the U. S. Navy.

Awards keep coming in as Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Sixty-Two prepares for its next deployment. The awards listed below were presented for the recipients' performance of duty in Vietnam and service in general.

NAVY ACHIEVEMENT

MEDAL presentation was made to Lieutenant (junior grade) LOUIS F. CAMPBELL for service as officer-in-charge of Seabee Team 6204 in Vietnam. He is now Charlie Company Commander.



LETTERS OF COMMENDATION from the Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet, went to Commissaryman First Class C. A. BURTON, Construction Mechanic First Class C. H. ELLIFRITZ, Utilities Man First Class M. ZARBA, Engineering Aid Second Class C. N. HILBERT, Steward Second Class A. D. LEYSON, Construction Electrician Second Class J. H. WYSE II, Storekeeper Third Class K. L. DAWSON and Builder Third Class R. M. BURNS.

GOOD CONDUCT AWARDS went to Equipment Operator First Class H. B. PALMER, Construction Mechanic First Class N. L. FALKENSTEIN, Builder First Class W. D. HAMMOCK, Equipment Operator First Class L. W. MERRILL, Chief Construction Mechanic J. L. PRESCOTT, Steelworker First Class B. E. WOOD, Engineering Aid First Class B. C. BERNAL and Construction Electrician Second Class C. T. DUNN.

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON presentation was made to Engineering Aid Third Class T. J. FORBES.



PERSONNELMAN SECOND CLASS E. L. OLBES, who recently became a U.S. citizen, talks with Captain W. H. Rogers, Commodore of Construction Battalions, Atlantic Fleet, after receiving the Good Conduct Medal.

— NMCB-62 DRT class is tops —

A class of Disaster Recovery Training students from NMCB-62 completed the course with the highest overall average of any class during the preceding two years.

This information was released by Lieutenant (junior grade) R. N. Miller, Disaster Recovery Training Department Head, during the graduation ceremony. The class has an average of 80.78.

Commander F. M. Newcomb, NMCB-62's commanding officer, spoke at the ceremony. He congratulated the class on its excellent academic achievement.

The honorman plaque and letter of congratulations from Commodore J. M. Hill, CBC, went to CE3 R. T. Primeau for finishing with the highest academic average (94.5).

Honor graduates, those with final averages above 90, were: EA2 T. Vanzwol, CE2 H. L. Goldenstein and CMC C. E. Schillings.

A letter of appreciation from Commodore Hill was presented to the class coordinator, Lieutenant (junior grade) G. D. Hagedorn, for his outstanding cooperation, leadership, and academic achievement.

NMCB-62's commanding officer, Commander F. M. Newcomb, speaks to members of Disaster Recovery Training Class from his Battalion on graduation day.



Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 62

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SECOND CLASS



NMCB-62 SEABEES

As constructionmen we do our job

Then walk away with a satisfied nod.

Additionally, our weapons we keep clean,

Returning them to the armory dirt free, with a gleam.

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