

View from the bridge

With this month's issue of the SEABEACON we are instituting a new concept. Henceforth the SEABEACON will be a combination of the familygram and the Battalion news magazine. We have instituted this as an economy measure as well as an attempt to upgrade the familygram.

During the first four months of this deployment we have been approached with several questions relating to the employment of the Battalion. These questions arise frequently from both the Seabees as well as their dependents and families. While we have attempted to answer these questions each time they arise we still never seem to be able to get through to everybody.

QUESTION: Why don't the Mobile Construction Battalions deploy on the same rotational basis as other fleet units--namely, six months deployed and six months in homeport?

ANSWER: As you know the Battalion Deployment Schedule calls for eight months deployed and six months in homeport. This rotation schedule has been adopted by the Chief of Naval Operations as the most efficient, taking into consideration the cost of moving the Battalion to and from the deployment site and the number truly productive man days of time required to get unpacked, "snapped in" and get packed up for return to homeport.

One other factor which is not readily apparent is the fact that while fleet ships are "in" their homeport they are not necessarily in port. The Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Atlantic Fleet has levied a requirement that ships conduct operational underway training 42 days per quarter while in homeport. This training is conducted in one, two or several days spurts throughout the homeport period.

Admittedly there are some personnel in the Battalion who must be sent away to schools, etc., during the homeport period. However, if we assure at worst a 30-day average for all hands which is far from the actual fact we still are in homeport for slightly more than 35 per cent of the total 14 months rotation cycle.

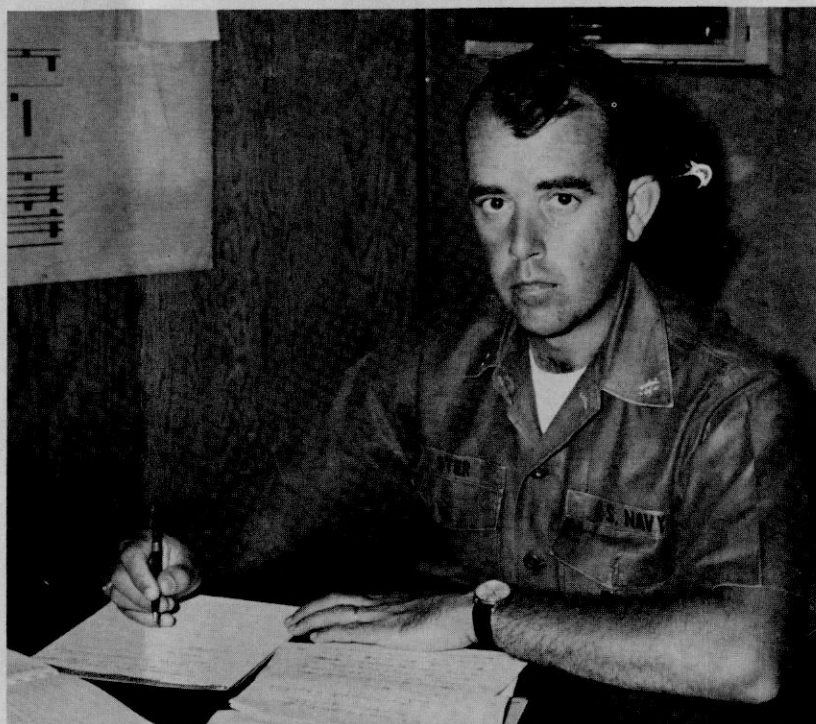
On the other hand the fleet is home for slightly less than 27 per cent of their 12 months cycle.

I would certainly like to see us get more time in homeport and CBLANT and CBPAC are working to that end. Our lot now is considerably better than the case 10 years ago. And I feel we have a better deal than our compatriots aboard ship.

QUESTION: " Why did we only get 5 1/2 months in homeport last time while NMCB-74 gets

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From the XO's desk



As the Battalion finishes mid-deployment, a pause to reflect on our initial goals and adjustments for the coming months is required and is taking place. These adjustments are not only concentrated in labor production or project accomplishments, but also include adjustments in work habits, living environment and attitude toward our fellowmen.

Attitude toward our fellowmen--a willingness to help and assist in fair or foul weather we have done well in this area and I know we will continue this same level of proficiency. I also know that each and every man in the Battalion

has worked hard during the past four months.

Recent inspections and visits by command personnel reaffirm my belief that NMCB 62 was, is and shall continue to be a closely knit group of professional men dedicated not only to defending our country, but displaying our construction abilities. Hard work, devotion to duty and a helping hand to each and all men is an attribute befitting this unique Battalion.

J. W. Ster
J. W. Ster
LCDR, CEC, USN
Executive Officer

MCPO's Pen

In view of the latest freeze on PCS orders, I think a few comments are in order.

(1) This is not the first time this has happened. It has happened before and will probably do so again.

(2) The Navy needs people on Sea duty. We are all in the Navy because the Navy needs us. Without sea duty there would be no Navy. Just like the Navy needs men to operate ships, the Seabees need men in the construction force. This is where we are needed most.

(3) I think when we join the Seabees, we realize that there will be separations from our loved ones. Shore duty is only about 30 per cent of the total duty.

(4) Serving where we are needed and when we are needed is all part of being in a total force.

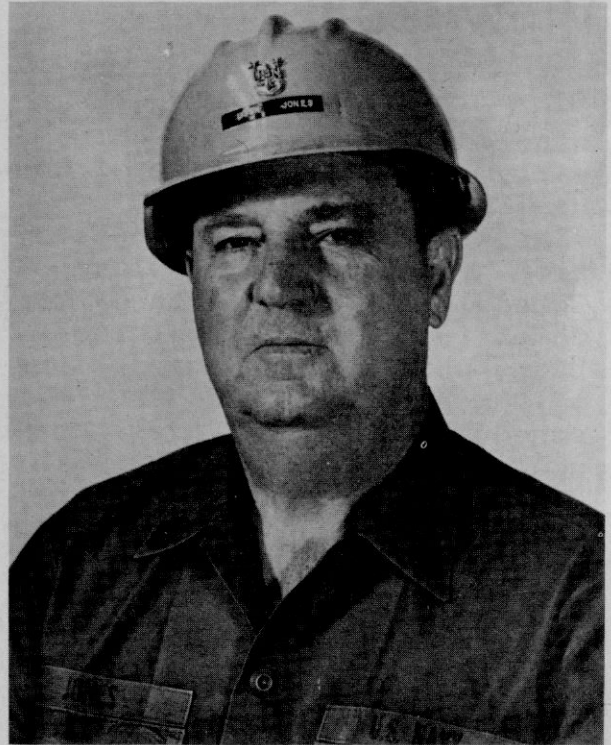
(5) We have our ups and downs just like everyone else, even in civilian jobs there are rough spots.

(6) The new sea duty lengths are in the Sept. 15th issue of Navy Times for all rates. If you study the length of sea duty, you will see that they are about the same as in the past.

Quotable Quote

"No capable man who is conscientious willing and industrious will remain unnoticed for long. The outstanding man is too precious a quantity to be disregarded."

Admiral Claude Ricketts
Feb. 7, 1964



'Happy battalion'

A "happy battalion" consists of a group of individuals who:

a. Exist in a well defined, and well-structured organization where lines of authority and responsibility, lines of communication and action are clear to all;

b. Clearly understand their individual responsibilities and obligations toward their unit and toward each other;

c. Are well versed as to the objectives of the group and who possess appropriate individual objectives in support of the group;

d. Have high, meaning standards of military and professional conduct placed before them;

e. Understand the reasons for high standards and know they are fully expected by enthusiastic, conscientious, well-informed superiors to adhere to them;

f. Have seniors who are aware of them as individuals and who are willing to and capable of observing, understanding, guiding and directing, rewarding and correcting them;

(CONT. ON PAGE 12)

View from the bridge

nine months? Can't we go home early and share some of the wealth with them?"

ANSWER: The Mobile Construction Battalion Deployment Schedule is published by the Chief of Naval Operations, based upon the recommendations of COMCBLANT and COMCBPAC. This schedule is very dependent upon the number of Battalions deployed to the various fleet areas and the total number of Battalions available.

The reduction in the number of Battalions deployed to Vietnam and the Pacific Ocean area last fall and spring created the necessity to revise the deployment schedule. From personal experience in making up proposed deployment schedules while I was on the CBPAC Staff, I can say without fear of contradiction each time the schedule is changed someone gets a short tour while someone else gets a long tour, both at homeport or deployed. This is just a factor of the numbers game and while very undesirable morale-wise is unavoidable.

QUESTION: "Will the Battalion be home for Christmas?"

ANSWER: As I announced prior to deployment from Gulfport, the schedule calls for us to return the latter part of January 1972. That schedule has not been changed and to the best of my knowledge there are no plans to change it in the immediate future.

We will spend Christmas here in the Caribbean. There will be one exception to this. Since the Advance Party should return to the States three to four weeks prior to the return of the Battalion, I intend to send them back approximately Dec. 20 so they may take some leave before going to work.



SESSION ENDS--Commodore W. H. Rogers, CBLANT, and Commander F. M. Newcomb, NMCB-62's Co, leave Acey Deucey lounge following a question and answer session with First Class Petty Officers.

I have previously announced this to all hands and at the same time I have stated that we will not be seeking volunteers for the Advance Party. This group is selected from individuals within the Battalion who must perform a specific task for the Advance Party. Normally the individuals selected are performing the same or quite similar tasks here on deployment (i. e. training, supply, personnel, etc.)

I sincerely hope that I have answered some of the questions foremost in your minds. In future issues of the SEABEACON I will discuss more of these questions. If you have more please let me know.

Until then, be very proud of your SEABEE because he is a member of the finest Battalion in the Navy. This Battalion is what it is only through the individual efforts of each and every SEABEE assigned.

Sincerely,

F. M. Newcomb

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

62 Seabees in Civic Action



HAMMERING--Utilities Man Third Class K. E. Norton uses a pneumatic hammer to break up cement floor so a new sewer line can be installed in Fajardo's future recreation center for the aged. Like his co-workers, PO3 Norton is assigned to Bravo Company with NMCB-62.

**Ready, willing and able
to help humanity**

"Ambassadors of Good Will" from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Sixty-two have completed one Civic Action and are working on another in Fajardo, Puerto Rico.

"Civic Action One" took place at the Community Mental Health Center which handles 1,000 to 1,200 patients a month. Most of the patients, referred to as clients at the Center, are out-care patients.

The Center's Advisory Board asked the Seabees' assistance in converting a covered patio into a day-care therapy room. Builders Third Class Alfred Medina and David R. St Jean were assigned the task. They provided the labor and used materials supplied by the Center.

The therapy room is now completed. It will be used for occupational, group, family, recreational and psycho-drama therapy.

"Civic Action Two" involves a group of "Ambassadors" using their spare time to make life easier for Senior Citizens in the future.

The volunteers, from Bravo Company, began working Aug. 28 to convert an old building which once housed a store into a recreation center for the aged. The Seabees are working on weekends to complete the task.

The job entails putting in new light fixtures, plumbing, partitions, making general repairs, cleaning and painting the building.



HIGH LEVEL TALK--Commander F. M. Newcomb, NMCB-62's CO, and Mayor Osvaldo Molina of Fajardo, Puerto Rico, discuss Civic Action project. The work is being done by volunteers from NMCB-62.



SAWING AWAY--Builder Second Class P. J. Vishaway cuts a two by four which will be used as part of the office partition at the future recreation center for aged persons.

A "kick-off ceremony" for the job was held the evening of Aug. 24. Attending the "ceremony" were: Commander Frank M. Newcomb, NMCB-62's commanding officer; The Mayor Osvaldo Molina of Fajardo; Lieutenant Commander Gerald H. Ross, The Operations officer; Lieutenant (junior grade) Gregg D. Hagedorn, Civic Actions officer; Chief Construction Electrician Bobby R. Coplin, Bravo Company Commander; and members of Bravo Company.

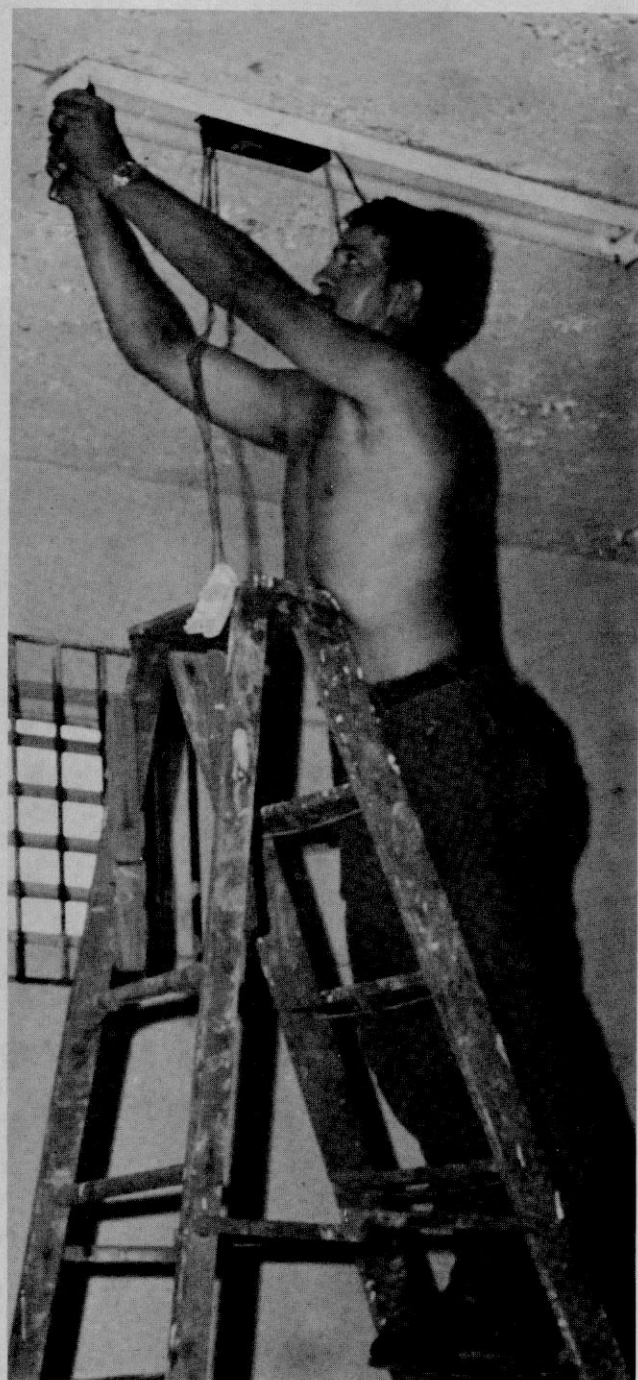
Though the facility will be small, it will be a step in the right direction. And the Seabees of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Sixty-Two are always ready, willing and able to take that "first step" or more in the interest of humanity.



DIGGING IN-Lieutenant (j.g.) G.D. Hagedorn uses a pick to break ground near old water line so it can be taken and replaced. Utilities Men P. R. Hagedorn and C. H. Owenby discuss the operation.

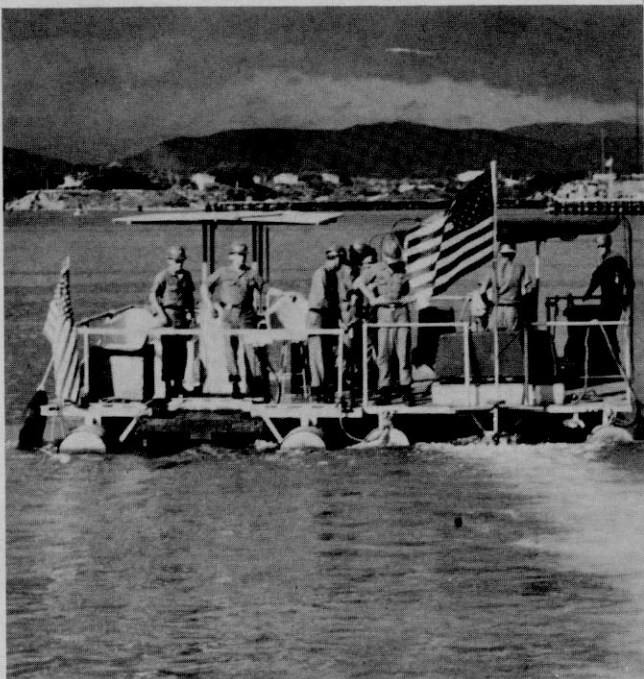


BUILDERS Third Class David R. St Jean and Alfred Medina add a wall to the patio at the Community Mental Health Center in Fajardo, Puerto Rico. (top r.) PO3 Medina puts the finishing touch on the outside of the day-care therapy room after the walls had been added to the patio, making it multi-purpose room



TO MAKE IT BRIGHTER-- Construction Electrician Constructionman George R. Eaves replaces a light fixture in old store being converted into a recreation center for Senior Citizens in Fajardo, Puerto Rico.

Seabees turn sailors



NMCB-62 Seabees at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, have joined the "fleet" with their own flotilla of boats.

Under the leadership of "Commodore" Louis F. Campbell (LTjg. in charge of Detail Gitmo), the boats are used for recreational purposes.

"Commodore" Campbell commands four barrel boats.

The flagship was constructed by the Detail Chiefs. A second boat was built by Equipment Operations Ron Lange, Kirby Youngblood and Richard Kirby; a third by utilities Men Jerry Adams and Terry Bittle; and the fourth by the dredge crew, engineered by Construction Mechanic Norman Flowers.



ANNOUNCING NEW SEA, SHORE TOURS

WASHINGTON, D.C. (NAVNEWS)..BUPERSNOTE 1306, Aug. 27, 1971 gives a complete list of sea and shore tours for all rates and NECs as of Sept. 1. Hundreds are new and revised tours, so you should check yours now.



Ltjg. Campbell
"Commodore" of
Seabee Flotilla

People, places and things



Miss Carmen Millan
Seabee Labor Day Carvinal Queen



BU2 P.J. Vishaway, receives
MCB-62's Safety Penant for
Bravo Company



Cook-Out NMCB-62 Style



SEABEE OF THE MONTH--BU3 A.C.
Jackson; Runner Up, CECN H.S.
Bash for the month of Sept.

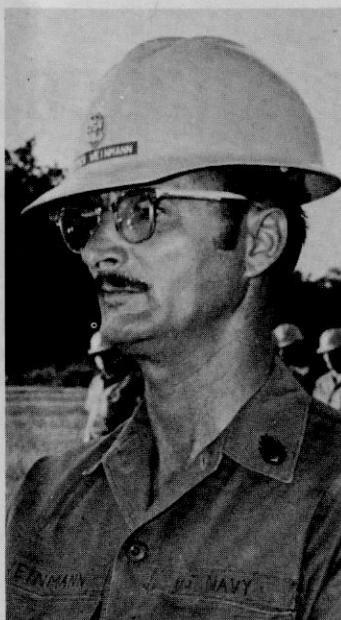
Good Conduct Awards



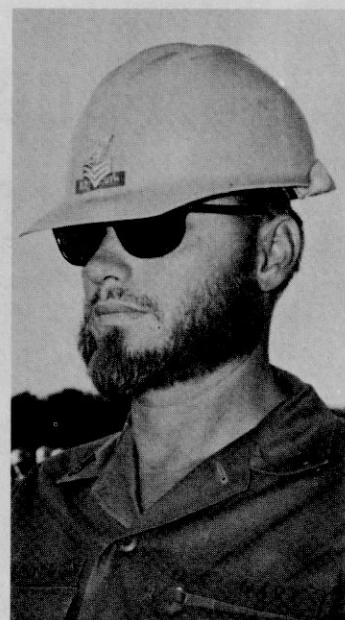
EO2 C. M. Haines



EO3 J. R. Connolly



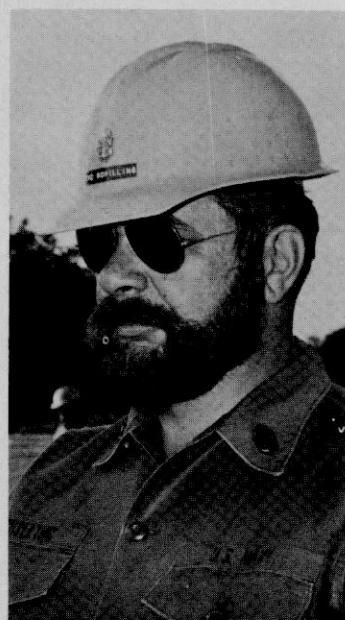
CMCS R. Weinmann



EO1 R. W. Kluth



CMC J. L. Curry



CMC C. Schilling

A Happy battalion

g. Strongly exert themselves in well planned, well organized efforts in fulfillment of their roles as required, and relax and amuse themselves when that is in order;

h. Experience success as a result of hard work.

O. K. Welborn, CUCM, USN
Seabee Senior Enlisted Advisor

NMCB-62's 'Can Do' at work.....

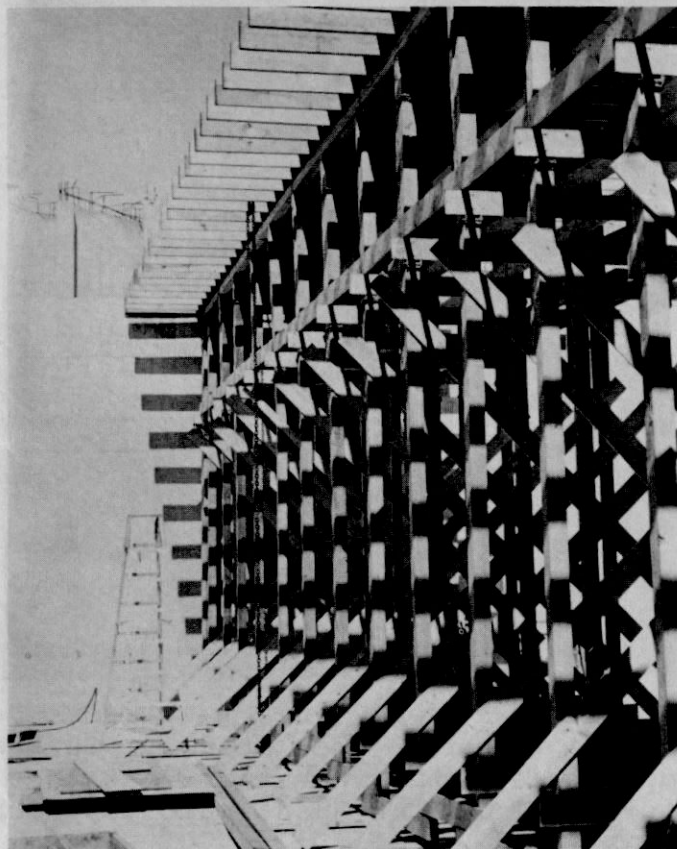
Detail GITMO has a big job to do at Guantanamo Bay and are working in a manner indicative of the Seabee "Can Do" spirit.

More than 100 men from NMCB-62 are deployed in the U.S. Naval Base located on the south-eastern tip of Communist Cuba. They are charged with various projects which include a new Enlisted Men's Club, security fence lighting, dredging operations, 53 "baby" Butler buildings and a radar site.

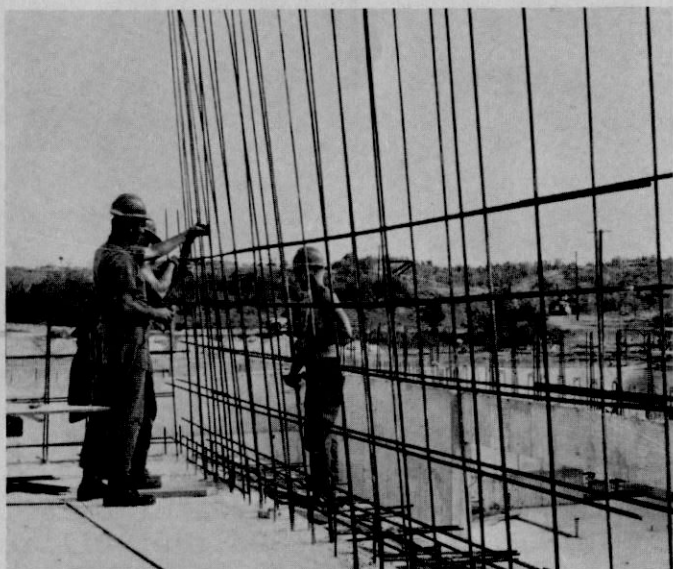
Forty-nine men are working on the EM Club, a two-story monolithic concrete structure, under the supervision of Chief Builder B. H. Newman. The roof area covers 18,000 sq. ft.

The dredge crew, supervised by Senior Chief Equipment Operator B. C. Wray, has completed the ferry turning basin to a depth of 20 ft. The 21 men assigned to the crew have floated the dredge over to mainside for

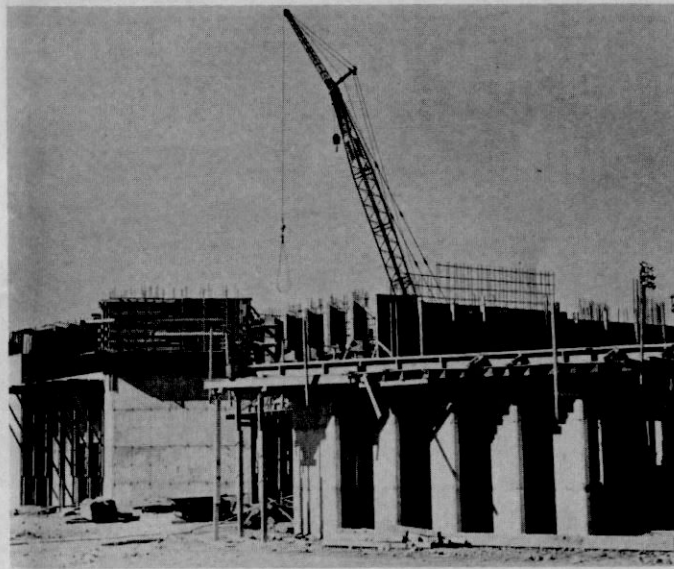
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BRIDGE?--NO! Just a truss for a beam for the roof of the new EM Club at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

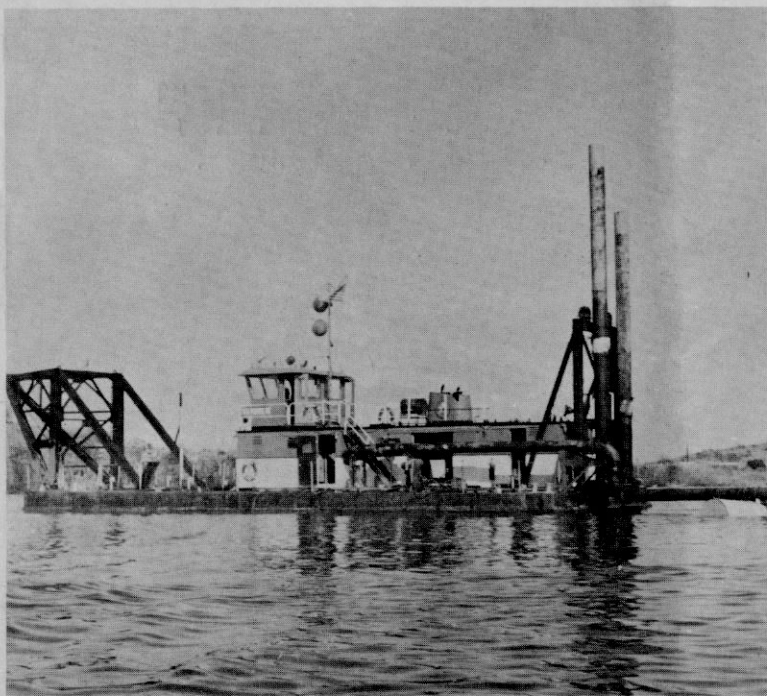


STEELWORKER SECOND CLASS A. A. HINTON directs installation of reinforcing steel on EM Club project.



GOING UP--Forty-nine men from NMCB-62 are working on two-story building to house new EM Club.

Seabees build a 'city'



SEABEE II--Twenty-one men from Detail GITMO operate the dredge, Seabee II, during dredging operations at the ferry turning basin at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.



FINISHING TOUCH--Seabees of Detail GITMO add the sidewalks to the "city" of "baby" Butler buildings that they built at Camp Bulkeley for Marines stationed at Guantanamo Bay.

another dredging job. When it is completed, the crew and the dredge will be transferred to Andros, an island ninety miles south east of Miami, Florida.

Detail GITMO has completed a city of 53 "baby" Butler buildings to house the enlisted personnel of 2/8 Marines at Camp Bulkeley. The huts are complete with electricity, sanitary facilities and sidewalks.

On Crane Hill, 10 men, working on a site less than one-tenth of an acre, are in the process of completing two projects.

One is installing a generator to provide power for the construction of a radar tower.

The second project consists of modifying an existing building, adding two rooms, a new air conditioning system and enveloping the concrete building with a second concrete block wall.



LOOKS GOOD--LT(jg) Louis F. Campbell, Officer in Charge of Detail GITMO, and Chief Builder Billie H. Newman inspect a terminal box on the security fence lighting project.