

Statement by Norm Hahn, NMCB 62 Alumni Group Secretary.

Prior to the NMCB 62 1st deployment (Dec 66 thru Aug 67) and 2nd Deployments (Jan 68 thru Oct 68) to Vietnam, our battalion was sent to military training provided by the Marine's at Camp Lejeune, N.C. The documentation of that training is now contained in website link #6, MCB 62 Minutemen History and also on our website in link #11, Cruise Books 1966-89. This documentation proves that NMCB 62 did successfully conduct that military training at Camp Lejeune prior to deployments 1 and 2. Captain Chuck Fegley has provided a copy of the Gulfport Daily Herald which states that NMCB 62 did NOT train at Camp Lejeune prior to our 3rd Vietnam deployment. Years later the authorities at Camp Lejeune discovered serious contaminated drinking water problems which has and is causing an increased rate of death from specific cancers and other chronic diseases to civilian workers, Marines and other service members who trained at Camp Lejeune. Tragically, some of our NMCB 62 Minutemen have now become sick from drinking that water when they were training at Camp Lejeune all those years ago. Others have died.

For those wishing to file or refile a claim for the Camp Lejeune contaminated drinking water problems they must get a copy of their service record to prove that they were members of NMCB 62 and took the pre-deployment training. Then they need to contact an attorney who specializes in VA claims. To facilitate that process I offer the following attachments:

Attachment 1. Headquarters Marine Corps letter dated Aug 25, 2014 regarding this problem and a "Camp Lejeune Health Studies" document.

4 pages.

Attachment 2. How to get a copy of your service record. 1 page.

Attachment 3. Two advertisements regarding legal representation for VA claims. 2 pages.

Also attached are six pages containing fifteen edited emails from myself and alumni members of NMCB 62 and two members of the Seabee Museum, Pt. Hueneme with regard to the Camp Lejeune water problems, indicating the need to get a copy of the Navy Service Record and the necessity to engage the services of an attorney to successfully win their VA claim. Gina Nichols' email of September 26, 2019 explained it very well. I've edited it for space. Here it is below.

See also in the Camp Lejeune Problems and Correspondence document, (which is attached) the paragraph written by Gina Nichols of the Pt. Hueneme Seabee Museum dated Thurs, Sep 26, 2019. It deals with the claim documentation required and she says, in part, that written statements from other witnesses (your Seabees brothers) are accepted too. (It is attached to this email) I'm sure if the claimant had photos from the training at Camp Lejeune that would also be helpful.

The following nine (15) emails are conversations between Norm Hahn, Secretary, NMCB 62 Alumni Group, Gina Nichols & Amber DelaCruz, Naval History and Heritage Command, Chuck Fegley, Captain, CEC, Retired, Roman Hnatowski, EAC Retired, NMCB 62, Richard “Chico” Ruiz, PNC, Retired and Raymond “Rocky” Ruiz, PN2, NMCB 62. These emails are edited.

From: Nichols, Gina L CIV USN USNSM (USA)
To: Norm Hahn
Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2019, 09:56:30 AM CST
Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] Fw: Pre Deployment training at Camp Lejeune our 1st and 2nd Deployment OP Orders and Seabees possibly getting an entry in their service record

Here it is: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=13ullaIi3aiKXVyyqPuxBoA5vPtMciG5Ki>

Let me know if you have any issues with access. V/r, Gina Nichols, MA, CA, MLIS,
Head, Collections Department/Supervisory Archivist, U.S. Navy Seabee Museum, Naval History and Heritage Command, Office: (805) 982-6497.

From: SeabeeMuseumArchive To: normhahnjr@yahoo.com
Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2019, 02:18:48 PM CST
Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] Fw: Pre Deployment training at Camp Lejeune our 1st and 2nd Deployment OP Orders and Seabees possibly getting an entry in their service record.
Mr. Hahn, I didn't find a mention of Camp Lejeune in the Operation Orders, but I did find three separate articles that cover MCB62's time there. One of them is a very descriptive FamilyGram, which is signed by the CO. I've attached all of them to this email.
v/r, Amber D. DelaCruz, MLIS, Archivist, U.S. Navy Seabee Museum, Naval Heritage and History Command, Office: 805-982-6191.

(2 attachments) MCB62news_1967LeJeune

MCB62_1967LeJeune

From: Norm Hahn
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2019 11:57 AM
To: Nichols, Gina L CIV USN USNSM (USA)
Subject: Re: [Non-DoD Source] Fw: Pre Deployment training at Camp Lejeune our 1st and 2nd Deployment OP Orders and Seabees possibly getting an entry in their service record.
Hi Gina,
I didn't get any reports from you as yet. Are you going to wait until you can email them all? Thanks,
Norm. NMCB 62 Alumni Group secretary.

On Tuesday, November 5, 2019, 08:38:24 AM CST, Nichols, Gina L CIV USN USNSM (USA) wrote:
Hi Norm,
Tom finished scanning the monthly reports but the rest will need to wait until the classifiers have left at the end of next week. I'll send the reports to you later today.
v/r, Gina Nichols, MA, CA, MLIS, Head, Collections Department/Supervisory Archivist, U.S. Navy Seabee Museum, Naval History and Heritage Command, Office: (805) 982-6497.

From: Norm Hahn. **Sent:** Monday, November 04, 2019 8:16 PM

To: Nichols, Gina L CIV USN USNSM (USA)

Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Fw: Pre Deployment training at Camp Lejeune our 1st and 2nd Deployment OP Orders and Seabees possibly getting an entry in their service record

Hi Gina, No one has come back with any comments about the string of emails (below) regarding OP Orders for the NMCB 62 pre-second deployment training at Camp Lejeune. I'll take that to mean they all approve of what we have done so far. Good.

That leaves only the OP Orders for the training at Camp Lejeune prior to the 2nd deployment remaining to be located and scanned so we can publish them. If you have any photos or newspaper articles that would be wonderful. NMCB 62's 2nd deployment was Jan 68 to Oct 68, deploying to Danang, RVN. I've also attached two documents relating to the Camp Lejeune medical problems.

Do you have any timeline on when you will have someone do the research and copying? Please let me know.

As always, best regards and thanks, Norm. Norm Hahn, NMCB 62 Alumni Group secretary.

From: Norm Hahn **To:** Chuck Fegley; Roman Hnatowski; Gina Nichols; Raymond Ruiz; Richard Ruiz; Bill Hilderbrand. **Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2019, 05:13:19 PM CDT. **Subject:** Pre Deployment training at Camp Lejeune our 1st and 2nd Deployment OP Orders and Seabees possibly getting an entry in their service record.

Greetings to all, Thank you all for your patience. This is a continuation of our NMCB 62 pre deployment conversations. I've received an email 10-27-2019, from Captain Fegley saying he reported to NMCB 62 just prior to the 2nd Deployment to Danang and did not participate in the Camp Lejeune pre deployment military training and does not have that OP Order. He can confirm that the 3rd Deployment pre deployment military training was NOT at Camp Lejeune. He has provided an article from the Gulfport Daily Herald dated 2-24-1969 to confirm that. Accordingly, we must regroup and again call on the resources of Gina Nichols at the History and Heritage Command to do her due diligence to locate the OP Order and any other paperwork or newspaper article or photos sending NMCB 62 to Camp Lejeune for their 2nd deployment pre deployment training. That pre deployment training did happen at Lejeune. Now we need the pre- deployment documentation.

Regarding the individuals "proof" of that Camp Lejeune pre deployment training for the 1st and 2nd deployment it would be necessary to provide a document from a Command person directing the YN's and PN's to physically make those entries in each persons service record. I would again ask Gina Nichols to conduct a search for such a document. In the 50+ years since those deployments, no one can say for sure if the document exists. Additionally, since to our knowledge, no one who has been on those first two deployments has provided a copy of his service record showing that documented pre deployment training. Conversely, no one on those first two deployments has provided a copy of their service record that has no documented pre deployment training. A conundrum for those who have developed these diseases. So, for now, we must wait until Gina Nichols and her capable staff does their research. As always, your comments are welcome and appreciated. Please forward this to anyone who may be of help. Thank you. Best regards, Norm NMCB 62 Secretary

From: Chuck Fegley To: Norm Hahn Cc: Roman Hnatowski, Gina Nichols, Raymond Ruiz, Richard Ruiz, Bill Hilderbrand. Oct 27, 2019 at 10:23 AM

Hi Norm.

As I previously wrote about Camp Lejeune military training, in my short 20 days in Gulfport before deploying to Danang in January '68, the 2nd NMCB62 Vietnam deployment, I didn't participate in and hadn't heard anything about military training at Camp Lejeune. My files actually begin in January '68.

However in going through my files now I found this article regarding Military Training before our third deployment to Dong Ha in '69. I'm sorry, I have no names.
In summary, the full battalion most likely got military training at Camp Lejeune before the first two deployments (Phu Bai and Danang) and from then on it was conducted at Keesler/Camp Shelby with only a 150-man detachment going to Camp Lejeune for military training. Later, when I had the battalion, 150-men detachments went for cold weather, desert or jungle training during homeport.
Sorry I couldn't have been more help. Chuck (Fegley, Captain, CEC, Retired)

(1 attachment) NMCB 62Mil Tng 1969.pdf

From: Roman Hnatowski To: Norm Hahn, Oct 20, 2019 at 4:34 PM

Norm,

Can't even start to tell you how much all your efforts are appreciated. Even though we still have a ways to go, with your assistance we are moving by leaps and bounds in helping a number of Vietnam Seabee Vets who have been denied care and disability compensation due to administrative errors not of their own doing. Please keep your efforts going strong. I will personally try to get backing from the Navy Seabee Veterans of America (NSVA); let's see how committed they are to their own members. Thanks again and God Bless! Roman (Hnatowski)

From: Roman Hnatowski

To: Richard Ruiz **Cc:** Norm Hahn; Raymond Ruiz,

Sent: Sunday, September 29, 2019, 05:26:15 AM CDT

Subject: Re: [Non-DoD Source] I want to publish your statement about Seabees getting a copy of their service record

Rich, Thanks, another piece of the puzzle. O Corps is the key and needs to get involved. Disappointed in the NSVA for being so silent, lots of expertise there to help the troops!

Next time I see Jim Fury (NSVA's National Commander) I'll ask what the NSVA's position is concerning this issue. Thanks again Chico! V/r, Roman

Sent from my iPad

On Sep 29, 2019, at 1:42 AM, Richard Ruiz wrote: We (Rock & I) we're in the field training the whole 30 days. We had no access to records during those periods. Have no idea who was keeping track of who qualified on weapons. Maybe the gunner's mates? Our marine trainers? No temporary duty orders for Camp Lejeune were processed before departure or after return to my knowledge. What about flight manifests? That's about all I can help with. Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 28, 2019, at 8:22 PM, Roman Hnatowski wrote: Norm, You are truly fighting the fight! You are right a DD 214 wouldn't show s... from a shingle as far as Camp Lejeune. Some Bees went training to Camp Lejeune before each deployment. As far as I can determine the time they spent there does not have to be continuous or concurrent, but cumulative! As long as it totals 30 days, they should be good. It's a damn shame that except from Captain Hilderbrand we have virtually no assistance from the Officer Corps. I believe most of us not only complied with their instructions and orders, and in many cases exceeded their expectations! What we need is our former COs, XOs, Admin & Training Os joining in righting a wrong, but that would take guts and be morally correct.

The Marines are known for taking care of their own, unfortunately the Navy and maybe even the CEC are not. Hope I'm wrong! Norm thanks for fighting even though you have nothing to gain personally, that is except for the sincere Thanks and Gratitude of your fellow Bees that served years before!

V/r, Roman

Sent from my iPad

On Sep 28, 2019, at 5:03 PM, Norm Hahn wrote: Greetings Gentlemen,
As you can see, I'm still working on an explanation of WHY our guy, or any Seabee, needs to get a copy of their personnel record, DD-214N to document their training, be it Camp Lejeune or any other training for that matter. Because without that individual documented info they are basically SOL for their illness / disability claims.

As you can see Gina Nichols from Pt. Hueneme has provided a few excellent paragraphs that I will use to clarify why individuals must get a copy of their service record in order to be successful with their claims. And we have a civilian person who can get their service record, for a fee.

What I would like to ask of you two, Ray & Richard are some kind of statement from you both that to the best of your knowledge the Camp Lejeune military training was entered into each person who was physically there for that training. Did you both do entries for enlisted and officer or did the YN's do the officers? If the YN's did the officers is there a YN you can email to ask if they made those entries in the officers personnel records? Rocky, you are an alumni group member so you can access the database. Any assistance you can offer will be very much appreciated by those who are looking for this information. And any suggestions to make the process go smoother are also appreciated.

You can email this to anyone you feel can help us. Thanks, Norm Norm Hahn NMCB 62
Alumni Group secretary

Raymond Rocky Ruiz: Sep 28, 2019 at 4:45 PM

To: Norm Hahn, Roman Hnatowski, Richard Ruiz

If anyone can provide some guidance it would be Rich. To my knowledge it was necessary to document everyone's training with exact dates at each location. It's been way too long since I had anything to do with personnel records. I don't even have my own record. Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Nichols, Gina L CIV USN USNSM (USA)

To: Norm Hahn

Sent: Thursday, September 26, 2019, 12:40:23 PM CDT

Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] I want to publish your statement about Seabees getting a copy of their service record

Hi Norm, Here is the edited version:

We received an email from Roman Hnatowski, EAC, (Retired), in August 2019 and sent him the information he requested concerning the 1966 FEX at Camp Lejeune. For the last several years we have assisted numerous Seabee vets from various units concerning their time at Camp Lejeune, but the pace is increasing lately. I'm assuming the word has gotten out as we were inundated this summer with individual requests. As you point out, the government requires 30 days on the ground and most FEX that I have seen at Camp Lejeune run about 3 weeks. They need their DD-214s and as much of their service jackets as they can get if they plan to win their claim. One of the issues is that the National Archives isn't great on sending the entire file, but only a few pages, if that. Make sure they request their entire file and, if possible, go to the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis to do the research themselves. The National Archives runners are inundated and won't always scan everything or put in much effort into finding the files. They also need their Deployment Completion Reports, cruisebook, and any supporting documentation to verify their claim. Any written statements from other witnesses are accepted too.

The issue is that there won't be any information on FEX at Camp Lejeune in any of the reports as the battalion only wrote monthly reports for deployments, not homeport. For that, we have to dig deeper into alternate documents and periodicals, etc. We do this as we get requests. Each one is unique and needs to be researched on a case-by-case basis. We keep digital copies of each request to speed up any similar request from the same unit/year, but when we get a new one we start from scratch again. We don't have the manpower to focus just on this issue but have to spread the wealth to others who need assistance as well.

Have a great day!! V/r, Gina Nichols, MA, CA, MLIS

Head, Collections Department/Supervisory Archivist, U.S. Navy Seabee Museum, Naval History and Heritage Command, Office: (805) 982-6497

From: Norm Hahn, **Sent:** Thursday, September 26, 2019 10:21 AM
To: Nichols, Gina L CIV USN USNSM (USA)
Cc: Roman Hnatowski; Raymond Ruiz, Richard Ruiz
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] I want to publish your statement about Seabees getting a copy of their service record

Hi Gina, Thanks for signing in to the website and providing info for your bio. It is much appreciated.

I want to put some of the info you gave me in your email into some of the NMCB 62 and the Operation Seabee Knowledge Facebook pages. I might also send it to the "Can Do" magazine and the Seabee Quarterly newsletter. Also to several of my buddies who maintain their battalions website.

The words you put out to me in your email are very important to the many Seabees who think their DD-214N is the magic answer to all their health problem claims. Before I do this, I want to send two paragraphs back to you and give you a opportunity to edit the parts I would like to use. Your email to me, dated Sep 17, 2019. Here it is:

(Beginning of Gina Nichols email of 17 Sep 2019) Hi Norm,

We received an email from Mr. Hnatowski (perhaps Roman Hnatowski, EAC, Retired) in August (2019) and sent him the information he requested concerning the 1966 FEX at Camp Lejeune. For the last several years we have assisted numerous Seabee vets from various units concerning their time at Lejeune but the pace is increasing lately. I'm assuming the word has gotten out as we were inundated this summer with individual requests. As you point out, the government requires 30 days on the ground and most FEX that I have seen at Lejeune run about 3 weeks. They need their DD-214s and entire files if they plan to win their claim. One of the issues is that NARA (what is the NARA?) isn't great on sending the entire file but only a few pages, if that. Make sure they request their entire file and, if possible, go to St. Louis to do the research themselves. The NARA runners are lazy (maybe not the word "lazy") and won't always scan everything or put in much effort into finding the files.

(I took out the middle paragraph of your email to me)

The issue is that there won't be any information on FEX at Camp Lejeune in any of the reports as they only write monthly reports for deployments, not homeport. For that, we have to dig deeper into alternate documents and periodicals, etc. We do this as we get requests. Each one is unique and needs to be researched on a case-by-case basis. We keep digital copies of each request to speed up any similar request from the same unit/year but when we get a new one we start from scratch again. We don't have the manpower to focus just on this issue but have to spread the wealth to others who need assistance as well. (Signed) Gina Nichols, MA, CA, MLISH (end of Gina Nichols email of Sep 17, 2019)

Thanks for all your help. Take care, Norm NMCB 62 Alumni Group secretary

MCB 62
1967

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 5, 1967
Release #61-67
MCB 62

There was heavy fighting on one front this week, and while there were plenty of Marines nearby, they didn't join in the battle.

The front was in one of the many wooded areas of the Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, and the shooting was part of a field exercise climaxing an intensive training program for the Seabees of Mobile Construction Battalion (MCB) 62.

More than 530 men from the Seabee Battalion arrived here about three weeks ago from their homeport at the Construction Battalion Center in Gulfport, Mississippi. Since then, the Marines of the Third Battalion, Sixth Regiment, have served up a thorough, in-depth and somewhat grueling program of ground warfare instruction to the construction men.

With weeks of instruction crammed into a few days, the Seabees have undergone training in communications, field medicine, infantry weapons, field messing, leadership, mine warfare, bridge building, counter guerrilla warfare and individual combat techniques.

Some of the time was spent in the classroom, but mostly, the Marines employed their favorite "learn-it-by-doing-it-yourself" technique to polish up the fighting skills of the Seabees.

For many of the Navy builders this meant crawling over a good portion of Camp Lejeune's 120,000 acres on patrols, fighting their way out of simulated ambushes or blowing up earth, trees and chunks of metal with a wide variety of weapons.

The training began for MCB 62 on the Monday before Thanksgiving, and the four-day holiday weekend provided a welcome break from the work in the field. Classes resumed on the following Monday, and the training was unusually intensive the second week to make up for lost time.

MORE

The field problem this week put MCB 62's fighting abilities to the test. Early Monday morning the Battalion marched to its defensive area, encountering ambushes and sniper fire along the way. Once there, the Seabees set up a bivouac and dug in to defend their position for two days and nights.

During this period the construction men were attacked repeatedly by Marine aggressors and MCB 62 Seabees who had gone through the Second Marine Division's Counter Guerilla Warfare School earlier in training.

While the men were dug in they ate canned field rations and slept in sleeping bags under shelter halves between vitals in the fox holes.

Wednesday morning the Seabees broke camp and returned to their barracks for hot food, showers and liberty.

On Friday the Battalion passed in review in honor of the host Battalion, the 3/6 Marines. Later, the first of the planes returning the Seabees of MCB 62 to the CB Center, Gulfport, will take off.

The instruction at Camp Lejeune is actually the second phase of training for the Seabee Battalion. Before arriving there the men had already had two weeks of classroom and field training plus a week of target firing with the M-16 rifle.

For most of the Seabees, this was the second time through the training program at Camp Lejeune. The first time was about 11 months ago, shortly after the Battalion was activated.

Since then MCB 62 has spent about eight months in the combat area of South Vietnam. Deployed at Phu Bai, Battalion Seabees erected buildings and bridges, built highways and worked with the Vietnamese people in civic action projects.

The Battalion took part in one of the largest Marine operations in Vietnam, Operation Prairie, providing support for the Third Marine Division.

MORE

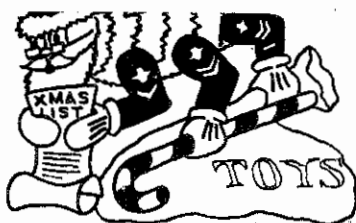
The construction of an interrogation center in the city of Hue for the use of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam, a road through Viet Cong held territory from Phu Bai to the South China Sea and a field hospital for Alfa Medical Company, Third Marine Division, are among the achievements of MCR 62 Seabees during their deployment.

The Battalion was also responsible for maintenance of all water, electrical and road systems in the Phu Bai Combat Base and for the establishment, operation and security of a rock quarry in an outlying area.

MCR 62 expects to meet new kinds of challenges when it leaves for a second Vietnam deployment in late January. There will be other roads to build and bridges to mend, and there will be the ever present threat of enemy attack.

Of course, like any fighting men, the Seabees hope they will never be involved in battle. But if the occasion arises, they will be ready to call on their combat training and the Seabee "CAN DO" spirit to fight for their country in the best American tradition.

Story by Dennis Helder, JO2
Photos by Charles E. Ayers, MCR2
C.D. Dick, PH1



SIXTY-TWO SEABEACON

Vol. III, No. 1

MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION SIXTY-TWO

Thursday, December 28, 1967

Advance Party Leaves Here For Vietnam

The Battalion's advance party to the Republic of Vietnam leaves any day now to begin setting up facilities for MCB 62 in country.

The 125 men of the party, led by Lieutenant Commander W. L. Wood, the Battalion Operations Officer, are flying to Vietnam aboard Air Force C-141 Star-lifter jets. The trip should take only about 24 hours.

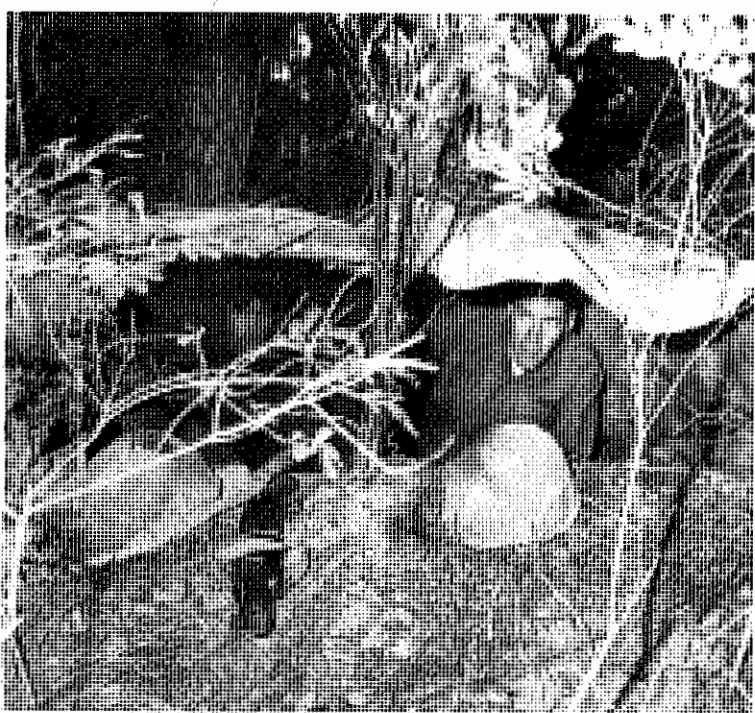
These men deploy about a month ahead of the main body of the Battalion to make it possible for MCB 62 to relieve another SEABEE unit smoothly and efficiently with little interruption of the construction effort or camp operation.

Essentially, the advance party has four missions to carry out in the 30-day period before the arrival of the rest of the Battalion.

First, they must determine the condition of all rolling stock and equipment and make any necessary repairs. Then they inventory all tools and spare parts and order replacements.

The third task is to check out all camp maintenance, operation and administrative functions.

Finally, the men of the advance party must familiarize themselves with all construction projects including plans, specifications, material lists, inventories and progress.



HELLO WORLD — Richard L. McClenaghan, BUR3, (left) and Richard L. Wendt, BUR3, both of Delta Company, peer from their fighting hole during the field exercise climaxing three weeks of training at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. For more pictures of training, see page three.

Battalion Completes Training At Marines' Camp Lejeune

With weeks of instruction crammed into a few days, the SEABEES of Mobile Construction Battalion 62 finished their military training with the Marines at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina in early December.

About 530 men from the Battalion went through the three-week program, which included intensive training in communications, field medicine, infantry

weapons, field messing, leadership, mine warfare, bridge building, counter guerilla warfare and individual combat techniques.

Some of the time was spent in the classroom, but mostly, the Marines employed their favorite "learn-it-by-doing-it-yourself" technique to polish up the fighting skills of the SEABEES.

For many of the Navy builders this meant crawling over a good portion of Camp Lejeune's 110,000 acres on patrols, fighting their way out of simulated ambushes or blowing up earth, trees and chunks of metal with a wide variety of weapons.

The training began for MCB 62 on the Monday before Thanksgiving with the men dividing into groups to attend various specialized classes according to their skills and their assignments in the military organization of the Battalion.

The four-day Thanksgiving weekend provided a welcome break from the work in the field, but when classes resumed the following Monday, training was unusually intensive to make up for lost time.

The third week of training brought the Battalion back together for a final test, a field exercise in which MCB 62 set up an encampment in one of Camp Lejeune's wooded areas and defended their position from simulated attack.

For three days the SEABEES ate canned field rations and slept in sleeping bags under shelter halves between vigils in the fox holes. During this period they

Admin Inspection Grades 62 High

Mobile Construction Battalion 62 has received an overall grade of excellent in a two-day administrative inspection conducted by the Commander, Construction Battalions, Atlantic, December 13 and 14.

An 11-man team headed by Commodore A. C. Perkins came to the Gulfport CB Center from COMCBLANT headquarters in Davisville, Rhode Island to inspect the Battalion.

The purpose of the inspection was to determine the Battalion's readiness for its deployment to Vietnam scheduled for late January. All Atlantic SEABEE units undergo a similar examination each year before going overseas.

The inspection team spent the first day of their visit touring the Battalion's office spaces, going over books, examining records and files and questioning the men.

The second day was devoted primarily to checking Battalion personnel, barracks and combat gear. Individual weapons were inspected to insure that they were clean and in working order, and the men's personal lockers were examined for neatness and cleanliness.

A separate grade was assigned for each function within the Battalion, and by a system of weighted averages, the overall grade of excellent was established.

Commander W. J. Richeson, Commanding Officer of MCB 62, commenting on the inspection said, "We must not be satisfied with this level of readiness. All hands must work together to earn a grade of outstanding in the administrative evaluation next year."

Outstanding, the next mark above excellent, is the highest grade possible in the Administrative Inspection.

In general though, CDR Richeson indicated that the Battalion is ready for the up-coming deployment. "I'm convinced we're in good shape to meet any assigned task in Vietnam," he said.



SEABEE OF THE MONTH — Steven H. Huber, a UTPCN with Bravo Company, receives the first SEABEE of the Month award from Joe Lumpkin, Senior Vice Commander of Gulfport's Alfred Alleman VFW Post. Huber was selected for his esprit de corps, family life and contribution to his community. His wife Pamela and Al Woodard, Chairman of the Post's Selection Committee were on hand for the ceremony.



COULD THAT BE DIRT? — Marine Major B. F. Cole, Training Officer for the 20th Naval Construction Regiment, inspects an entrenching tool belonging to Jack L. Moore, Headquarters Company SKSN, during the Battalion's annual Administrative Inspection. MCB 62 received an overall grade of excellent on the inspection December 13 and 14.

02

MCB SIXTY-TWO

FAMILYGRAM

Camp Lejeune, North Carolina
December 6, 1967

Dear SEABEE Family,

This is the fourteenth Familygram from MCB SIXTY-TWO since our recommissioning nearly a year and a half ago. I know your SEABEE writes home frequently, but many times he fails to tell you very much about what he is doing. These Familygrams try to fill in the information gaps between you families and our SEABEES.

We have been at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina for two weeks. On Wednesday, November 15, 1967, the first of seven flights left Gulfport Municipal Airport. The last plane took off from Gulfport on Saturday, November 18. We traveled in Navy and Marine Corps C-130 Hercules and C-118 (DC-6B) aircraft, and the flying time was about two and a half hours from Gulfport to the Marine Corps Air Station at Cherry Point, North Carolina. This is about a 40 minute bus ride from the Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune. Both activities are on the North Carolina coast northeast of Wilmington.

Our Advance Party to Camp Lejeune had completed their military training with MCB FIFTY-THREE during the previous three weeks and they were able to have the barracks ready to receive each flight of the Main Body as it arrived. We are quartered in the 6th Marine Regiment Area and mess with the 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment (3/6). As our host Battalion, 3/6 has also provided instructors and worked closely with us in setting up our training program and schedules.

As I mentioned in the previous Familygram, the first two weeks have consisted primarily of individual combat training for the majority of our SEABEES. Weapons platoon personnel have received training in the M-60 Machine Gun or 3.5 inch Rocket Launcher. Commissarymen have completed a course in field messing, Hospital Corpsmen in field medicine, communicators in field communications, both radio and wire, and so on. It has been a busy two weeks.

This final week all of the Battalion gets back together for a field exercise (FEX). We made a tactical march into the FEX area and set up a bivouac with a Command Post and dug fighting holes. Here for three days and nights we have lived in the field eating canned rations (C-Rats) and sleeping under shelter halves. (Fortunately we have had sleeping bags, since Carolina nights are very chilly this time of year.) The FEX wraps up tonight with Marine aggressors probing our defenses. Tomorrow we move back to the Main Base Barracks. We held a "Pass-in-Review" to honor our Host Battalion on Friday, and that afternoon the flights back to Gulfport start leaving. All of us will be back by Sunday afternoon, December 10.

Weather was a most important ingredient in both our construction effort and our spirit while we were in the Republic of Vietnam (RVN). For this reason, I usually mentioned the sort of weather we had been having in each of the Familygrams sent out from RVN. Here at Camp Lejeune, the weather has been generally good for this time of year in eastern North Carolina. It gets up into the 60's during the day but drops off below freezing at night. During this FEX, with the temperatures at night down into the 20's, all of us would have been miserable without long johns and sleeping bags. As it is, hot coffee at first light is most welcome.

Years ago, and to a lesser extent today, certain Navy ships had a reputation throughout the fleet as being "good feeders." Any SEABEE will tell you that SEABEE Battalions are also "good feeders." As a whole, MCB SIXTY-TWO returned from RVN several tons heavier than it arrived there, which attests to the quality of the meals served to our SEABEES. Fortunately, most of this extra weight went into the shoulders and arms of the younger men with only a small amount settling at the waists of us older SEABEES.

At Gulfport the CB Center runs a general mess for all hands rather than each battalion setting up its own mess for the relatively short time it is in homeport. Of course, our commissarymen (CS's) are assigned to the CB Center galley and we also provide Messcooks (helpers) to assist. But the administration and operation of the galley is the CB Center's responsibility. Food has been consistently good, but of course, never up to what we can do when we operate our own galley as we do in RVN.

Marines don't seem to be as interested in food as SEABEES, but the 3/6 Marines who operate the galley and mess hall where we eat at Camp Lejeune have been doing a good job. We like to think that it is our Commissarymen (cooks) who are the spark behind this. On Thanksgiving Day they all outdid themselves. They served an outstanding turkey dinner with all the trimmings; corn bread dressing, giblet gravy, mashed and sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, green peas, assorted salad greens, and topped off with pumpkin and minced meat pies. Fortunately, Thanksgiving Day was a holiday for us with training suspended Thursday and, for many, on Friday as well. Many of those SEABEES who live on the eastern seaboard and were not on watch took advantage of this four-day week-end to visit their families.

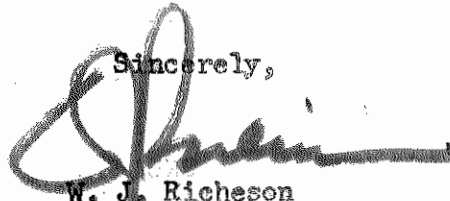
Just as soon as we get back to Gulfport we'll undergo our Annual Administrative Inspection. This is conducted by Commander, Construction Battalions, Atlantic (COMCBLANT) who has headquarters at Davisville, Rhode Island and is our administrative boss when we are in homeport. His staff will visit us on December 13 and 14 and take a detailed look at all of our administrative and personnel handling procedures. Also included is a locker and barracks inspection with the SEABEES lined up alongside their bunks where their personal infantry gear and weapons are displayed for inspection -- a so-called "junk-on-the-bunk" inspection. This Annual Administrative Inspection, conducted about a month before deployment, allows COMCBLANT to be satisfied that each battalion is fully ready to return to RVN.

The Combine Federal Campaign closed just before we left Gulfport. This annual campaign is aimed at raising funds for the organized charities and social agencies in the communities in which federal employees work and live. It covers all those agencies for which the United Fund organizations raise funds, together with certain Health and International Agencies that have widespread recognition for the work they do for our fellowman. In the spirit of personal charity, MCB SIXTY-TWO raised over \$4,000, nearly one third of the total contributions at the CB Center, Gulfport. This is an indication that SEABEES have big hearts and it will make you proud of your SEABEE knowing that he recognizes the obligation to help the less fortunate.

Now that the holiday season is fast approaching, I'm certain that many of you are curious about our Holiday leave schedule. Basically there will be two leave periods -- from December 16 to 27 and from December 27 to January 8, 1968. About 50% of the Battalion can be authorized leave over each of these periods and leave requests have already been submitted and approved for most of the SEABEES. This will give our SEABEES an opportunity for a final visit home before we leave for RVN later on in January.

Every SEABEE in MCB SIXTY-TWO joins with me in sending our very best wishes for a most Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Sincerely,



W. J. Richeson
Commander, Civil Engineer Corps, U.S. Navy
Commanding Officer

P.S. Look for another Familygram just after Christmas.

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WASHINGTON, DC 20350-3000

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LF

AUG 25 2014

9-20-2014

Dear Sir or Madam:

On August 13, 2014 the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry's (ATSDR) journal article "Mortality study of civilian employees exposed to contaminated drinking water at USMC Base Camp Lejeune: a retrospective cohort study" was published (<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/sites/lejeune/civilianmortalitystudy.html>). Enclosed you will find a copy of the ATSDR fact sheet summarizing the results of this study.

The purpose of this study was to determine whether potential exposures to the drinking water contaminants at Camp Lejeune are associated with increased risk of death from specific cancers and other chronic diseases among civilian workers employed at the base. The study evaluated specific causes of death in 4,647 full-time workers who were employed at Camp Lejeune during 1973-1985. ATSDR also evaluated a comparison group of 4,690 full-time workers who were employed at Camp Pendleton during 1973-1985 but were not employed at Camp Lejeune during this period. The Camp Pendleton workers were not exposed to contaminated drinking water.

This study is one of several health initiatives that ATSDR is expected to complete in the next several years. For more information about these studies, visit <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/sites/lejeune/> or call (800) 232-4636.

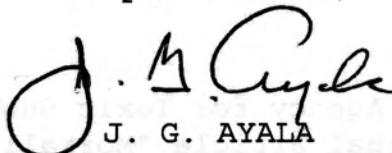
The "Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012" allows the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide health benefits for 15 illnesses or conditions affecting veterans and their families who lived or worked at Camp Lejeune for at least 30 days during the period from January 1, 1957 to December 31, 1987. To learn more about health care benefits provided under this law, please visit <http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/camp-lejeune/> or call (877) 222-8387 (Healthcare) or (800) 827-1000 (Benefits).

Since 1991, the Marine Corps has supported the health initiatives conducted by various scientific agencies. We are also working diligently to identify and notify individuals who, in the past, may have been exposed to the chemicals in drinking water. For more information about these efforts or to update

your contact information, please see:

<http://www.marines.mil/clwater/>, call (877) 261-9782 or e-mail
clwater@usmc.mil.

Semper Fidelis,



J. G. AYALA

Major General, USMC

Assistant Deputy Commandant

Installations and Logistics (Facilities)

Camp Lejeune Health Studies

Mortality study of civilian employees exposed to contaminated drinking water at USMC Base Camp Lejeune: A retrospective cohort study

Rev'd 9-20-2014

Study Purpose

The purpose of the study was to determine whether potential exposures to the drinking water contaminants at Camp Lejeune are associated with increased risk of death from specific cancers and other chronic diseases among those who were employed at the base. The contaminants included trichloroethylene (TCE), tetrachloroethylene (also known as perchloroethylene or PCE), benzene, and two contaminants that are formed when TCE or PCE degrade in ground water: 1,2-dichloroethylene and vinyl chloride.

What Was Studied

The study evaluated specific causes of death in 4,647 full-time workers who were employed at Camp Lejeune during 1973-1985¹. We also evaluated a comparison group of 4,690 full-time workers who were employed at Camp Pendleton during 1973-1985 but were not employed at Camp Lejeune during this period. The Camp Pendleton workers were not exposed to contaminated drinking water.

Cause of death data from 1979-2008 were used to study the Camp Lejeune and Camp Pendleton cohorts. Information on causes of death was obtained from the National Death Index (NDI) of the National Center for Health Statistics. The study included all underlying causes of death that other studies have shown to be associated with one or more of the chemicals found in the drinking water at Camp Lejeune. Causes of death were selected based on literature reviews conducted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the National Toxicology Program (NTP), the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), and Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry (ATSDR).

The causes of death that were studied include:

- Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)
- Cancers of the bladder, brain, cervix, colon, esophagus, female breast, kidney, larynx, liver, lung, oral cavity, pancreas, prostate, rectum, and soft tissue
- Hematopoietic cancers
 - Hodgkin's Lymphoma
 - Leukemias
 - Multiple myeloma
 - Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
- Non-cancerous kidney diseases
- Non-cancerous liver diseases
- Multiple sclerosis
- Parkinson's disease

¹Continuous quarterly information on DOD employment from the Defense Manpower Data Center began with the second quarter of 1973. The most heavily contaminated wells at Camp Lejeune were shut down in 1985.

Continued on next page



The study also included three causes of death known to be caused by cigarette smoking but not known to be associated with the drinking water contaminants: cardiovascular disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and stomach cancer. These causes of death were included to assess the possible impact of smoking on the findings because we did not have information on smoking status for study subjects.

Features of this Study

The study looked at the Camp Lejeune civilian workers and a comparison civilian worker population from Camp Pendleton. Camp Pendleton did not have a contaminated drinking water supply.

The cumulative exposure of each Camp Lejeune worker was based on the workplace location, duration of employment, and the monthly average estimates of the contaminants in the drinking water serving the workplace. Monthly contaminant levels in the drinking water were estimated by modeling the movement of the contaminants from the source of pollution through the ground water and into the water distribution system.

Key Results

During 1979-2008, there were 654 deaths in the Camp Lejeune group of civilian workers and 869 deaths in the Camp Pendleton group. The median ages in 2008 for the Camp Lejeune and Camp Pendleton cohorts were 58 years and 60 years, respectively.

Compared with the Camp Pendleton workers, the Camp Lejeune workers had higher mortality rates for the following causes of death:

- Cancers of the female breast, kidney, lung, oral cavity, prostate, and rectum
- Kidney diseases
- Leukemias
- Multiple myeloma
- Parkinson's disease

The higher rates of cancers of the kidney, prostate and rectum, leukemias, and Parkinson's disease were mainly among the Camp Lejeune civilian workers with higher cumulative exposures to the contaminants.

When those with higher exposures at Camp Lejeune were compared to those with lower exposures at Camp Lejeune, higher cumulative exposures to the contaminants were associated with increased risks for cancers of the kidney, esophagus, prostate, and rectum, leukemias, and Parkinson's disease.

The findings for the smoking-related causes of death, such as stomach cancer, cardiovascular disease, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease suggested that smoking would have only a minor impact on any association between cause of death and exposure to the drinking water contaminants at Camp Lejeune.

Conclusion

The study found elevated risks in the Camp Lejeune civilian workers for several causes of death, including kidney cancer, leukemia's, prostate cancer, rectal cancer and Parkinson's disease. Because only 14% of the Camp Lejeune group had died by the end of the study, the numbers of cause-specific deaths were small, resulting in wide confidence intervals. Wide confidence intervals indicate considerable uncertainty about the actual risk (it could be higher or lower). Note: ATSDR recently published a mortality study of Marines and Navy personnel at Camp Lejeune. Several cancers with elevated risk in that study were also elevated among the civilian employees: cancers of the kidney, prostate, lung and rectum, leukemias, and multiple myeloma: <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/sites/lejeune/mortalitystudy.html>.

GETTING A COPY OF YOUR MILITARY SERVICE RECORD

From: Norm Hahn, NMCB 62 Alumni Group Secretary

E-mail: normhahnjr@yahoo.com

Website: www.nmcb62alumni.org

Facebook: NMCB 62

Comments

Greetings Seabees, their relatives and all other military folks:

There are many Seabees and military who for whatever reason have never gotten a copy of their own service record, only a DD-214 when they were discharged. Then they lost that. Others are trying to locate service records of relatives or their in-law service members.

The NMCB 62 Alumni Group has located an expert professional civilian researcher who, for a fee you pay, will do what paperwork is required, go to whatever place the service records are kept, jump through all the hoops and get a copy of that person's service record for them.

We recommend Lori Berdak Miller from the St. Louis, MO area. This is her website: www.redbirdresearch.com.

Contact Lori directly. It is not necessary to go through our NMCB 62 Alumni Group. Redbird Research, LLC phone # is 636-448-3275. Remember to explain to her that you are a Seabee and were in NMCB 62. If you are trying to make a claim of any type, make sure you explain *exactly* what info you want her to look for in addition to her normal services. I am personally confident that Lori will get results for those who have been unsuccessful trying to file a claim and desperately need to get a copy of their service record information so their claim will be successful.

Updated 12-16-2019

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