

# SIXTY-TWO SEABEACON

Vol. IV No. 2

Mobile Construction Battalion Sixty-Two

April, 1969

## 62 BEGINS DONG HA TOUR

### Com30 NCR Visits Here

Rear Admiral John G. Dillon, Commander, Third Naval Construction Brigade, welcomed MCB 62 to Vietnam and briefly inspected the Battalion's operation at Camp Barnes on April 19.

The Admiral was visiting the camp for MCB 62's arrival conference, a briefing for Battalion officers and chiefs by members of senior SEABEE commands.

Captain Albion W. Walton, Jr., Commander, 32nd Naval Construction Regiment, and Captain Joseph E. Powell, Commander, 30th Naval Construction Regiment, were also aboard for the conference.

In his remarks for the officers and senior enlisted men of MCB 62, RADM Dillon described the SEABEES as "probably the best disciplined units in Vietnam." He attributed this primarily to the fact that Navy construction men are "kept busy with meaningful work."

He added that SEABEES are also among the best supported units in country, and he said that material management procedures now being instituted in Vietnam should improve support even further.

The Admiral also touched briefly on such topics as quality of workmanship, care of tools and safety.

CAPT Walton, who introduced the Admiral at the conference, set some guidelines for officers and chiefs during the Battalion's deployment in country.

"I am interested primarily in what I call the last five per cent," he said.

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Commander John Paul Jones Jr. accepts the command of Camp Barnes from MCB 7 Commanding Officer, Commander Jack Rickles, at ceremonies held at the base on April 2.

### Cam Lo Bridge Project Gets Underway; SEABEES on Job Face Varied Difficulties

By Mike Woolley, SN

"There was an ambush out there yesterday, so be careful."

These were the last words of instruction given to me as I donned my combat gear and headed for Alfa Company where I was to catch a ride to the Cam Lo Bridge project.

All the sweating I was doing wasn't due to the heat alone, although it was certainly hot; eight o'clock in the morning and it was over 80 degrees. We had been at the Dong Ha Combat Base for only a little more than a week, but already the calls of "Hot enough for you?" were getting very old.

The Alfa Company equipment yard looked as though it had been in operation much longer than a week.

The apparent confusion caused by the noise and bustle belied the organization and hard work of the Alfa Co. men who had begun their tasks immediately following their arrival in Vietnam.

Climbing into the "base taxi," a small weapons carrier truck, the journey to the Cam Lo site began.

Winding through the base to the main road, we passed the Marine, Army and Air Force installations which make up, along with MCB 62's Camp Barnes, the Dong Ha Combat Base.

Finally, we were out on the highway, away from the protection afforded by the camp. Helmets were adjusted, armored jackets zipped up, and magazines inserted into M-16's.

The trip was quiet and uneventful until we got about two miles from the construction site.

The road, which must be swept for mines and ambushes each morning, had not yet been cleared. We took our place in line behind an old truck full of Vietnamese workers and ahead of an Army tank and crawled along as the Marines and Army out front carefully checked the road for signs of enemy activity.

Reaching our turn-off we pulled away from the slow, snake-like caravan and continued down the dusty road past clusters of small cardboard and tin houses spilling over with Vietnamese Children.

Finally, there we were. The construction site, a lion-colored scar on the banks of the Cam Lo River, resembled a huge ant hill crawling with men and equipment.

To the left were huge earthen berms surrounded by barbed wire.

Inside the area bordered by the berms was the miniature camp. Consisting of heavily sand-bagged living quarters, a chow hall, a shower, Marine tents and a once ornate but now crumbling Vietnamese

### Battalion Workload Heavy For Dang Ha Deployment

Camp Barnes, Dong Ha Combat Base, Republic of Vietnam, is the new home for the men of MCB 62.

The Battalion's flag was hoisted in front of the headquarters building April 2, as Commander John Paul Jones Jr., 62's Commanding Officer, accepted command of the camp from Commander Jack C. Rickles, Commanding Officer of MCB Seven.

The last flight of MCB 62's main body of personnel arrived in Vietnam on Sunday, April 6.

Located about seven miles south of the Demilitarized Zone, Camp Barnes will be the main base of operations for the SEABEE

Battalion throughout its deployment. However, 62 will work on projects scattered all across northern I Corps.

Almost as soon as they arrived at Camp Barnes, 62 SEABEES started to work, and several projects are already well underway.

One of the major jobs being undertaken by the Battalion is the upgrading of part of the Vietnamese highway system.

The SEABEES are commissioned with the task of converting 35 miles of old road, built by the French during their occupation, into a modern highway capable of handling 50 miles-per-hour traffic.

MCB 62 men will also build bridges and culverts as they are needed along the roads.

Another top priority project for which 62 is responsible is the installation of a primary and secondary electrical system throughout the Dong Ha Combat Base.

The base will also receive a new water treatment plant and mains for a permanent water distribution system.

Other projects which the Battalion is tackling or will start soon include a

(Cont. on Page 6)

### Bridge 910 Opens Again After Enemy Demolition

Bridge 910 was destroyed and there was continuing enemy activity throughout the area, but MCB 62 went to work and replaced the bridge with lightning speed, adding a few improvements in the process.

Battalion SEABEES took less than three days to erect a new bridge after the old one, a two-lane, single span structure of steel and timber construction, was ripped apart by satchel charges.

The bridge is located about 11 miles west of the Dong Ha Combat Base on highway nine, a vital supply route across northern I Corps. With the structure destroyed, the heavy convoy traffic along the highway was forced to use a narrow culvert bridge nearby.

Since MCB 62 is responsible for the upkeep and improvement of route nine from Dong Ha to the Vandegrift Combat Base, 25 miles west, the Battalion was assigned to replace bridge 910.

Blown up early in the morning of Sunday, April 20, the debris of the old bridge had been cleared and fabrication of the new one was well underway by Sunday afternoon.

On Monday, a crew from

MCB 62's Charlie Company began putting the new structure in place, finishing up on Tuesday. The new bridge is of the same type as the former structure, but it is wider and walkways have been added along each side.

While the bridge work was under way, there was enemy activity in the area almost constantly. The bridge bypass and the road beyond were peppered with mines, and sweep teams were harassed repeatedly by sniper fire.

MCB 62's initial survey party, examining the wreckage of bridge 910 in preparation for the replacement work, took a round of mortar fire. A Marine driver accompanying the group received shrapnel wounds.

The bridge job was, of course, an unscheduled addition to the Battalion's regular workload, but, according to Chief Builder A. F. Hotopp of the Operations Department, it was taken in stride by MCB 62.

"We had planned to do a lot of work on that bridge, anyway," he said.



MLO OK- Lieutenant Junior Grade Kenneth W. Lovell conducts Rear Admiral John G. Dillon around MCB 62's Material Liaison yard. RADM Dillon inspected the yard during his visit to Camp Barnes on April 19.

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## Editorial

# Remember Nine Guidelines

"We are here in Vietnam, first of all, to beat back Communist aggression, but the second major task of U.S. Forces, nation building, also involves us."

This is part of what Rear Admiral John G. Dillon, Commander, Third Naval Construction Brigade, told MCB 62 officers and chief petty officers during his visit to Camp Barnes April 19.

The Admiral pointed out that, as engineers and construction men, SEABEES are particularly suited to the job of helping the Vietnamese people develop their country. But he went on to observe that what we can build and the contributions we can make through our Civic Action Programs are not all that is required in the task of nation building. More important is the way we as individuals treat the Vietnamese personally, because without the friendship and respect of the people, these other efforts are destined to fail.

The enemy in this struggle in Vietnam is doing everything he can to turn the people here against the United States. We must defeat Charlie in these efforts just as we must beat him on the battlefields, and this can be done only by personal strength, understanding, courtesy and generosity.

Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, has published nine simple guidelines for military men in Vietnam. Each man in the Battalion has been given a copy of these guidelines. Dig yours out now and then to look it over. Keep in mind particularly rule number nine which says, "Reflect honor upon yourself and the United States of America. Chances are that if you remember this one, the other eight will take care of themselves."

## Letter From The Exec

by LCDR C.E. Fegley, III

As we move earnestly into the start of MCB 62's third deployment to Vietnam, I want to pause for a moment to reflect upon the recent mount-out of the main body from Gulfport. Without a doubt that was the smoothest mount-out of 600 men that Gulfport has ever seen. We left our assigned spaces in much better condition than we found them. Actual furniture loss from Headquarters and barracks spaces amounted to less than \$20.00, a record low for any Battalion. From Captain Hill on down, frequent comments were made about how sharp our men looked and how well organized the mount-out was.

MCB 62 is a proud Battalion. This fact was reflected in Gulfport in the military bearing and appearance of our personnel, and in the appearance of our assigned spaces.

The same things hold true here in Vietnam. People will judge MCB 62 not only by our responsiveness, enthusiasm and technical ability on the job, which are of paramount importance; but also by the military bearing of our personnel, whether on or off the job; the cleanliness and appearance of our berthing spaces, bunks, shops and Camp Barnes in general; the final inventory of all camp equipment when we turn it over to the relieving Battalion; and, very importantly, our safety record on and off the job.

Approximately monthly throughout the deployment we will be visited and inspected administratively by COMCBPAC. The inspections will cover all aspects of our operation, but all areas will not be inspected simultaneously and these will be working inspections. One inspection team will cover Supply; one will inspect Alfa Company equipment and shop procedures; another will check Operations, Safety, Training and Administration; etc. These are all extremely important and we must be just as ready as we were in Gulfport.

I'd like to close this editorial on an entirely different note.

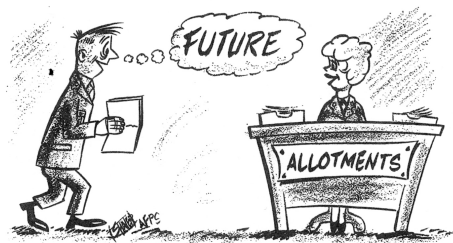
How many of you have sat around in a bull session and griped to each other about things that just "bug" you or stand in the way of your decision to make the Navy your career? Things like, "I went into the Office the other day and stood there for ten minutes

before an SN finally got up from his desk to ask me what I wanted. Then all I got was a wise answer"; or "If only such-and-such facility was open during certain hours, more people could use it" and so on.

Well, believe it or not, the Command is interested in finding out about your complaints. There is a genuine interest in rectifying wrongs, improving your living conditions, and eliminating superfluous regulations which have no apparent rhyme or reason behind them, do not affect military readiness or discipline, or have no bearing on our assigned mission.

One way the Command can find out about these things is through formal request mast procedures (see NMCB 62 Instruction 1336.1A) in which you can request, via the chain of command, to see the Commanding Officer. This right cannot be denied to you. If you do not wish to speak to me or the CO directly, there are many other less formal ways of accomplishing the same task. One is through the Battalion Chief, CUCM Bell, who works in the Operations Department and frequently makes the rounds of the jobs and EM Club. Another is the Battalion Career Counselor, EOC Meyers, located in the rear of the Training Department. Both of these men are very much interested in your complaints or suggestions for improvement, regardless of how small or minor they may seem, and they both have direct access to myself and to the CO. For items related to recreational facilities or the clubs, seek out your Company's representative to the Recreation Committee or EM/ACEY-DUCEY Club Boards of Governors. I encourage every one of you to discuss things with your senior petty officers and Company Commanders either formally or informally. That is one way change can come about. For personal problems or camp changes which have no bearing on the chain of command relationships, my door is always open to you any time of the day or night.

As a now retired LDO once told me, "Anything worth having is worth asking for. The worst that can happen is to be told no!"



## Chaplain's Communique

By LT R.R. Crowe, ChC

One of the spiritual laws of this universe seems to be that the preciousness of anything is in direct proportion to its cost to the individual. In this day when everyone looks for something for nothing, values are changed. Materialism has so bountifully blessed us that we no longer appreciate the things we strive to attain. We take for granted the comforts of life. We complain when we get them, for they never seem to satisfy.

In days like these, when we are called on to leave our country, the simple things become precious to us.

We are called upon to protect our country and its way of life by sacrificing our time to wage its wars. Then our country becomes precious to us. Clean cities, gleaming stores, and even hamburger stands all seem like a beautiful dream.

The sacrifice also entails giving up our loved ones for a time. This cost we must pay is high. To give up the faces, the laughter, the touch of those we love is an enormous sacrifice. These loved ones become more precious to us as we hand over each moment of loneliness as payment. Moments of laughter and even periods of silence in closeness become of infinite value when we no longer have them but only remember them.

Some of this carries over, and when the barren periods of loneliness are past, each moment of life takes on a new thrill. No longer is the presence of loved ones taken for granted. Instead, those we love become more precious and we enjoy their company to the fullest.

If our sacrifice makes us more appreciative of this life, then the sacrifice will not have been in vain. But if we go back to our country, our loved ones, our way of life, simply taking up where we left off, then these will have been wasted months.

Parenthood has its price also. The pain of childbirth, the discomfort of child bearing, only serve to make the child more precious to the mother. Mother's love is increased by the price she must pay. The pain and sacrifice expended for their children only serve to increase parents' love. The cost we pay only makes us fill with pride and choke with emotion as we see our children reach some goal or achieve some merit. Even the days of despair and moments of shame and grief accompanying the raising and guiding of children add to their preciousness.

Every accomplishment means something when we have to expend sweat, blood and tears. Hours of labor and concentrated thought make the goal worthwhile. The hours of practice, the days of training and anguish, of correcting techniques, makes the accomplishment sweet to us. Those things which we do easily and with little cost, even if they win a prize, mean little to us in the end.

All of life is an alternation of good and bad. Without rain, we wouldn't appreciate sunshine. Without darkness, we wouldn't appreciate the light. Without sickness, we can't fully appreciate robust health. Without ugliness, we can't thrill to beauty.

Saint Paul wrote, "O, the depth of the riches both of wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgements, and his ways are past finding out!... For of him, and through him, and to him are all things to whom be glory forever." -- Romans 11:33:36

## SIXTY-TWO SEABEACON

U.S. NAVAL  
MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION SIXTY-TWO  
CAMP BARNES, DONG HA COMBAT BASE  
REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

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## A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE

By CDR John P. Jones Jr.

In early March I spoke to the entire Advance Party just prior to their departure from Gulfport. I charged them that day with preparing the way for the main body of the Battalion to "hit the ground running" in Dong Ha. It was my goal that there be a minimum of lost motion and a maximum exertion of construction effort immediately upon our arrival.

Now, as I write this column for our first Dong Ha edition of the SEABEACON, it is apparent to me that the Advance Party did a really outstanding job.

We have just completed our second full week of construction, and the progress we have made has been remarkable. It could not have been accomplished without the superb effort of all hands in the Advance Party, and to them I extend a sincere "Well Done".

We have, as I just indicated, managed to get off to a fine start on this deployment. But much remains to be done before we are really up to peak construction effort. Reaching this peak, and reaching it safely and quickly, is a job for every man in NMCB 62. Determination and attention to detail are required.

Determination, or a strong desire to get on with the job in spite of what may seem to be insurmountable difficulties, is the essence of the SEABEE "Can Do" spirit. This desire is essential on the part of all of you if we are to produce as an "outstanding" Battalion really should.

Refuse to be stymied, make no excuses, do not accept defeat. Instead, devote your energy to finding ways to accomplish the difficult tasks that lie ahead. This is the SEABEE tradition, and in this tradition we will find success.

Attention to detail is also an essential part of the successful accomplishment of any job. The old story of the war that was lost because of a horse that threw a shoe for lack of a nail is really applicable in Dong Ha.

Here, we are at the end of the logistics pipeline. Accurate and thorough planning and material takeoff and procurement are essential. Extra effort must be made to care for our tools and equipment, since replacements and spare parts are frequently hard to come by.

Each of you must be constantly alert for the many details that, if left unattended, can result in unsafe and inefficient jobs, lost time, and generally mediocre construction in quality and quantity. And, when you discover these details or know of something that needs correcting, don't keep it to yourself. If you can't correct it, pass the info up the chain of command -- otherwise the needed action may not be taken.

There is a great deal to be done, and our backlog of good and challenging construction projects is high. If each of you is determined to succeed, and if you pay attention to detail, nothing stands in the way of making this deployment the most successful one ever achieved by any Mobile Construction Battalion. I am confident that we can do the best job ever and prove again that 62 is number one.



## Top Navy EM Sees Change Coming Soon

Enlisted men in the Navy can look forward to some changes in uniforms and regulations, according to Master Chief of the Navy Delbert Black.

Black, in a recent speech, outlined numerous changes recently recommended by the "Retention Workshop."

Among their recommendations as outlined by Black were:

- Recently passed out-of-bounds ruling.
- New regulations on shoes and raincoats.
- A new evaluation sheet for all enlisted people.
- A new dress uniform for E-6s.
- A rule regarding signature authority for top enlisted men.
- A screening board for E-8-9 advancements.
- A decompression of certain E-8-9 rates.
- A validation of all E-8-9 billets.
- A new detailing section in the Bureau of Naval Personnel for E-7s and above.
- A new set of qualifications for E-8-9.
- An indoctrination phase for all junior officers concerning evaluations on enlisted men and emphasis on leadership.
- Establishment of more Senior Enlisted Advisor billets.
- Certain changes to the CPO uniforms.
- Centralized distribution by BUPERS to stabilize enlisted tours.

The recently passed out-of-bounds regulation allows commands to require written permission to travel only for E-4 and below.

Another recommendation of the workshop which was recently passed allows all Naval personnel to wear shoes of synthetic leather. Also coming under this regulation will be a new type raincoat for E-6 and below. It will be similar in design and material to that issued to officers.

The recommendation for a new evaluation sheet has been adopted for E-7s and above.

Black emphasized the need for a stricter evaluation of all enlisted personnel and the workshop hopes the new evaluation sheet will help to alleviate the present "overevaluation" problem.

Black stated that a new dress uniform was presently in the testing phase in Washington for E-6s. He said it will be similar to the present CPO uniform.

(Cont. on Page 6)



UNTIL THE BRIDGE IS BUILT-- A Vietnamese woman guides the family sampan across the Cam Lo River. MCB 62's Alfa and Charlie Companies are spanning the Cam Lo with an experimental steel and timber bridge.

## Vietnam Background

# Family, Village Make up Basis Of Vietnamese Social Structure

Editor's Note: This information, taken from the U.S. Navy pamphlet, "A Pocket Guide to Vietnam", is part of a series designed to help MCB 62 men get the most out of their deployment to Vietnam while contributing to international understanding.

The population of the Republic of Vietnam is about 15.5 million, four-fifths of them farmers. (North Vietnam has an estimated 17 million people.)

The majority of the people of South Vietnam are ethnic Vietnamese. There are almost 800,000 tribal people; close to one million Chinese, most of them now holding Vietnamese citizenship; just under half a million Cambodians, and a few thousand each of French, Indians and Pakistanis.

Compared with most Asian nations, South Vietnam is uncrowded. The population density varies from 19 per square mile throughout the six high plateau provinces to 43,000 people per square mile in Saigon, the capital.

Saigon-Cholon is the largest city, with about two million people. Da Nang runs a distant second with about 130,000.

The Vietnamese are small and well-proportioned people, with dark, almond-shaped eyes and black hair. The slender, small-boned women move gracefully in their national dress of long trousers under a long-sleeved tunic slit to the waist.

Most non-laboring Vietnamese men wear Western clothing on the street, but they are occasionally seen in traditional Chinese Mandarin robes.

Workmen and peasants dress in loose black trousers and short black or white jackets. Their black jackets and trousers are similar to the black "pajama" uniforms worn by some of the Viet Cong and some Government paramilitary personnel.

Somewhat reserved and very polite, the Vietnamese are warm and friendly with people they like, and they are very cooperative and helpful.

They have great respect for virtue and knowledge and they honor older people.

In the schools, most Vietnamese children study at least one language other than their own. Usually both French and English are available, but increasingly, English is chosen.

But outside the cities, even the telephone operators may speak only Vietnamese.

For these people, society centers around the family and the village. These claim first allegiance.

Members of a family, for instance, have an absolute obligation -- to be violated only at the risk of serious dishonor -- to care for their relatives and to prevent any of them from being in want. Even after a girl marries, her love and respect for her parents traditionally continue to overshadow her love and respect for her husband.

The traditional family unit includes living and dead members and members not yet born.

On festival days and in family ceremonies the ancestors are revered, and at all times there is thought of the grandsons and great-grandsons yet to be born who will carry on the family name.

A family without male heirs is assumed to have disappeared.

Next: The food of Vietnam.

## Cartoon, Photo Contests Open

The Navy is offering awards to the top five Navy cartoonists to be selected in the 14th All-Navy Comic Cartoon Contest in July.

The contest is open to all Navy personnel on active duty and their dependents. The entries must have a Navy theme or background, be in good taste, and must be suitable for general use.

Awards will be furnished by the Chief of Naval Personnel to the winners' Commanding Officers for presentation.

Submit your entry to Chief of Naval Personnel (Pers-G11), Navy Department, Washington, D. C. 20370, as directed in BUPERS Notice 1700 of 20 March 1969.

### PHOTO CONTEST

Details on this year's Interservice Photography competition have been announced. The contest is open to all hands.

You can enter black-and-white or color prints or transparencies in any of eight subject categories. The groups are people, Babies and Children, Animals and Pets, Action, Scenic, Military Life, Still Life, and Experimental.

Awards will be given for best of show, first, second and third places within each category. Winning entries will be displayed in the Pentagon in 1970.

Complete information on the contest is contained in BUPERS Notice 1700 of 14 January 1969. Deadline for entries is November 1.

## Military Slated For Pay Hike! Hubbell Plan Action Shelved

Military personnel are scheduled to receive an automatic pay raise on July 1. The increase will come to about 12.5 percent.

The raise is mandatory under existing laws even though action on the so-called Hubbell Plan, designed to modernize military compensation, has been postponed until further analysis and recommendations can be made.

Money for the upcoming increase, which is part of a Congressional program to bring military pay into line with other Government salaries, is already included in the Federal budget.

Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird called for postponement on adoption of the Hubbell Plan, which had previously been expected to go into effect in July. He explained his action in a March 24 memorandum to high-level Defense officials.

"I wish to underscore my own personnel interest in the importance of military pay," he said, "and I wish to insure that revisions recommended are equitable."

"After consulting with concerned committee leaders in the Congress and the Bureau of the Budget, I find it unlikely that action could be expected on the (Hubbell Plan) by July 1. I have, therefore, requested that action on the Pay Modernization Bill be postponed and that its provisions be thoroughly reexamined."

"The subject of military pay as it pertains to relationships between those in the Services, as well as those in the civilian sector, is highly important and complex."

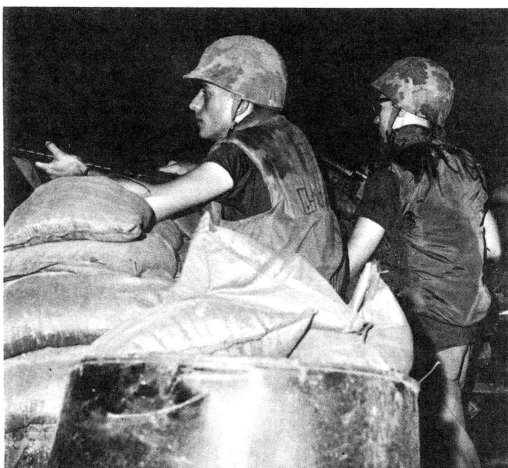
"The military pay system must reflect the most careful consideration of the needs of those in the Services and should serve the objective of attracting and retaining people of the required competency in our military defense system. To this end, an analysis of military pay has already been accomplished under the able direction of Rear Admiral Lester Hubbell."

"Now we wish to have the findings of that analysis critically examined, possibly with the help of an independent outside organization with qualifications in the compensation field."

"As to timing, this means that recommendations for major revisions in the military pay system resulting from the initiatives of this study cannot be completed until after July 1, 1969. Accordingly, preliminary data processing and related work underway in anticipation of installing a revised pay system effective on (July 1) will be suspended."

In addition to military pay reform, Congress has been presented with what the new administration believes to be a realistic approach to the problems of the Defense Department.

In testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee on March 19, Secretary Laird emphasized that the budget for fiscal year 1971 will be the first Nixon administration budget. He said it will be based on a complete reassessment of the Department of Defense situation.



RED ALERT-- Personnel from MCB 62's Headquarters Company man their assigned positions during a Red Alert (incoming enemy) drill.

## HELP

PAO NEEDS YOU..... If you are a cartoonist, that is.

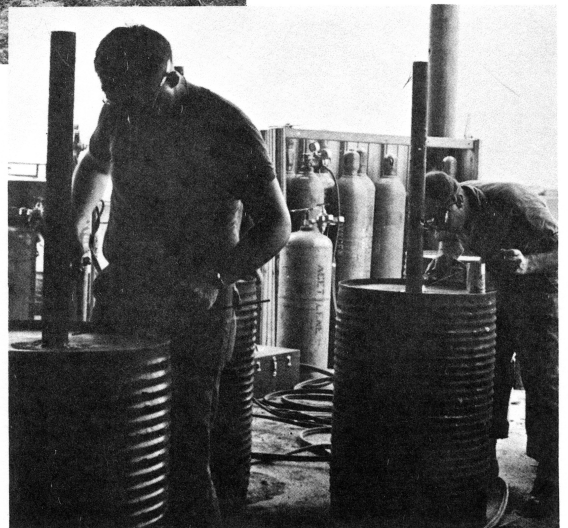
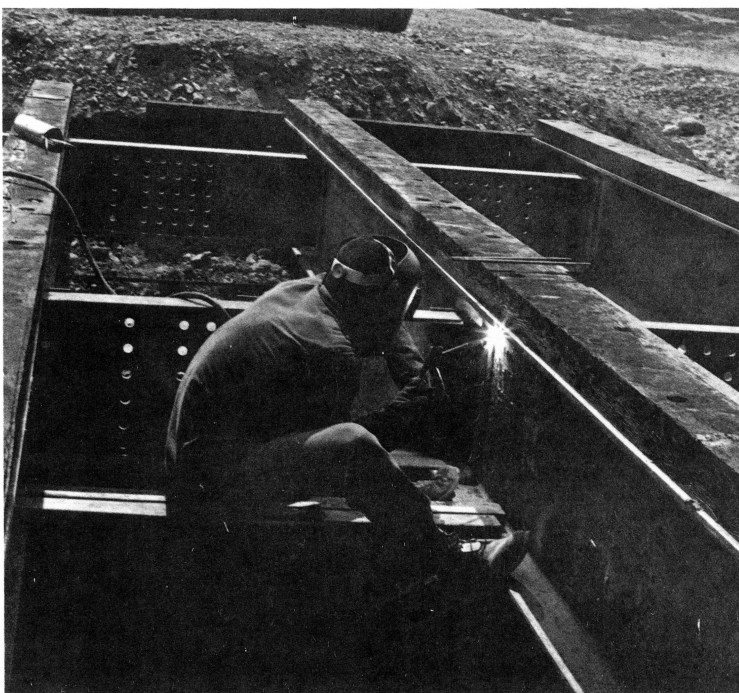
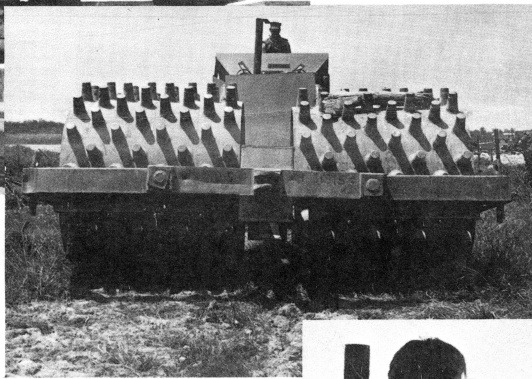
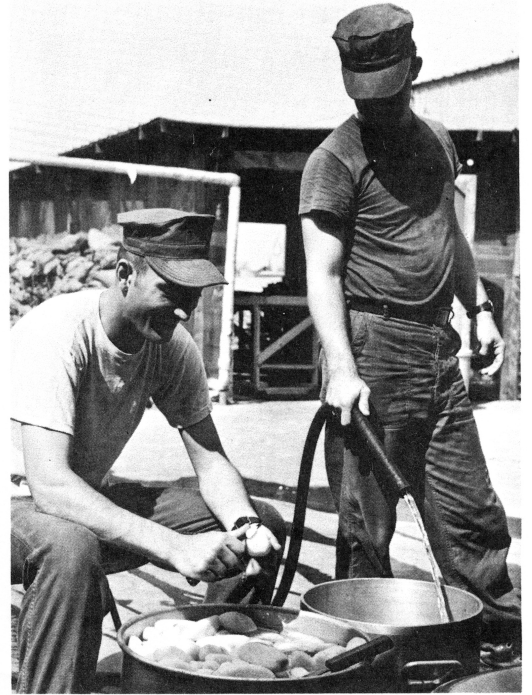
MCB 62's Public Affairs Office is looking for a cartoonist to supply material for Battalion publications.

The requirements are very simple: be able to draw a little and have a good sense of humor.

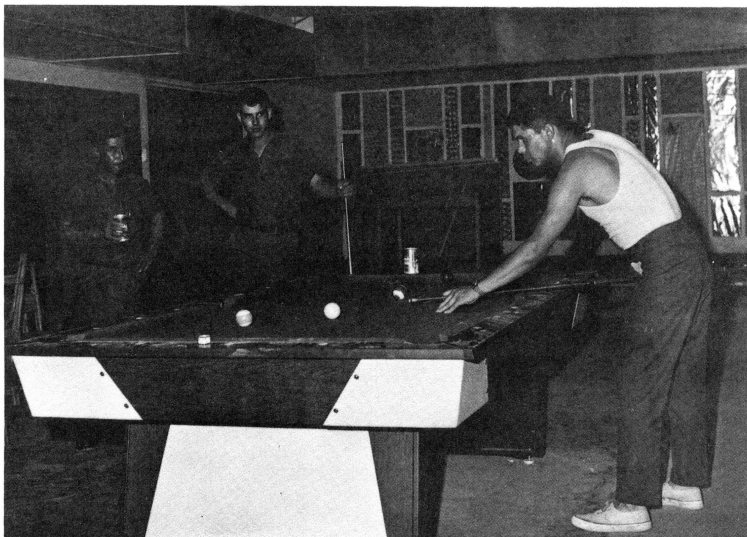
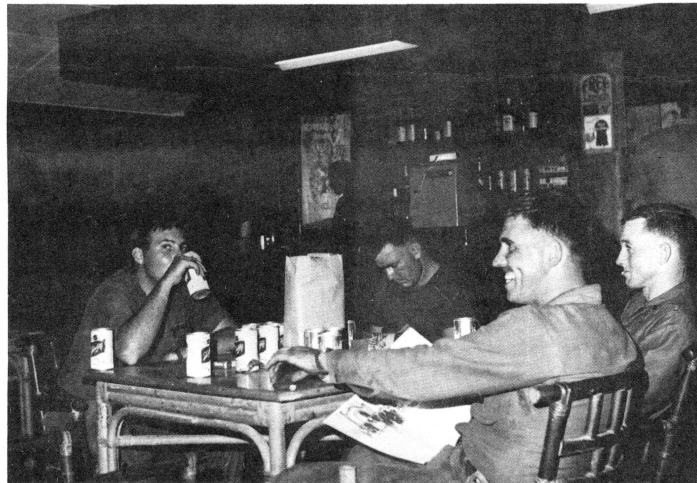
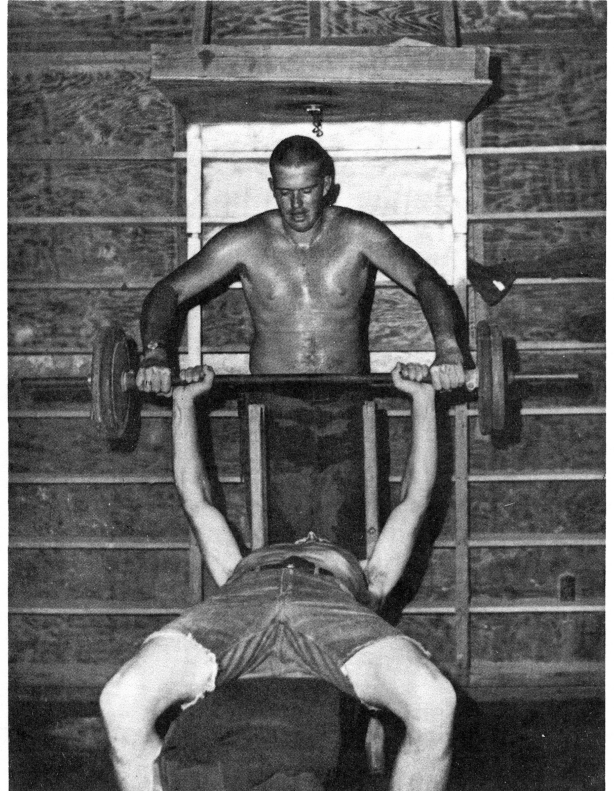
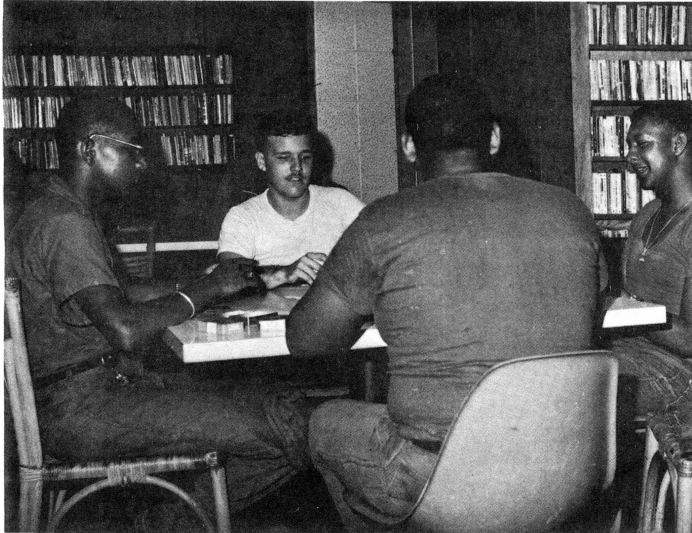
The cartoons will be used in the SEABEACON or the MINUTEMAN, 62's cruisebook.

Anyone interested may make inquiries at the Public Affairs Office.

# Camp Barnes, Bustling Progress



# Work Time, Pleasure Hours Full





## Keeping Track of Vehicles Just Part of Day's Work For Battalion Dispatchers

A Construction Battalion carries on projects of various sorts in many far-flung areas. To reach these projects and to do the work at the sites, literally hundreds of vehicles and pieces of mobile equipment are necessary.

Equipment is needed for tasks as diversified as delivering mail and supplies, paving a road, digging a ditch or chaulfering a visiting dignitary.

How is this equipment sent to the proper places, kept moving and working, and taken proper care of?

In MCB 62 these jobs and many others are the responsibility of the Battalion dispatcher.

The dispatcher must assure that equipment is sent to the project site each morning, switched from job to job as it is needed and brought in to the mechanic shops at regular intervals. In addition he must know the location and job of each piece of equipment at all times and keep track of each piece's fuel and oil consumption, mileage, and hours worked.

Issuing trip tickets, that is, authorization to operate vehicles, co-ordinating with other military organizations and processing preventative maintenance cards are also jobs of the dispatcher.

Dispatching duties in MCB 62 are carried out by Equipment Operator First Class Larry R. Lawrence, Equipment Operator Second Class Robert M. Yager and Equipment Operator Second Class Thomas J. Liesfield.

Beginning before six o'clock each morning and working at least 12 hours a day, seven days a week, these men keep 62's equipment rolling.

All equipment is put into one of two categories, heavy or light. EO2 Yager is responsible for the dispatching of light vehicles such as trucks. Petty Officer Liesfield keeps track of bulldozers, graders and other heavy earth moving equipment.

The initial task each morning is the sending out of all necessary equipment to the project sites. This usually takes about two hours, and is the most hectic and hurried time of the day.

Relevant information about each vehicle sent out must be placed on a large board covering two walls of the dispatchers' office. On the board is each vehicle's code number (which designates the classification of equipment), U.S. Navy number and description (telling the type of equipment such as 1/4 ton trailer, 5 ton truck, etc.). Preventative maintenance schedule, deadline (telling if a vehicle is in the repair shop and, if it is, why), assignment (whether it is assigned to the motor pool, a company, etc.) and location are also shown.

Throughout the day the dispatcher must "juggle" equipment back and forth between the different jobs. The objective is to keep the machines working as much as possible. To accomplish this they must be taken from a job where they are idle and placed in a position where they can be utilized.

The dispatchers maintain radio contact with Company Chiefs at the project site for up to the minute reports of vehicle utilization.

Keeping track of each vehicle's preventative maintenance (PM) record and assuring that the vehicles

report to the mechanics shop are major jobs of the dispatcher.

There are three types of PM's, A, B and C, which each vehicle must undergo at regular intervals.

The "A" PM is given to each piece of equipment every ten days. It consists of a relatively simple inspection of such things as tires, instrument panel, battery, fan belt and cooling system.

The vehicle is lubricated, its oil is changed, the oil filter is inspected and all bolts are tightened.

The "B" PM, given every thirty days, includes all the inspections given in the "A" plus a change of the oil filter and adjustment of the carburetor. The timing is set and all minor mechanical defects are repaired.

Every 90 days all vehicles undergo the "C" PM. All the processes of the "A" and "B" PMs are repeated along with a detailed mechanical inspection.

All accident damage is repaired, the valves and compression checked, the governor is reset and the exhaust system and transmission are subjected to a strict scrutiny.

Each month the dispatchers must submit cost control reports on all vehicles.

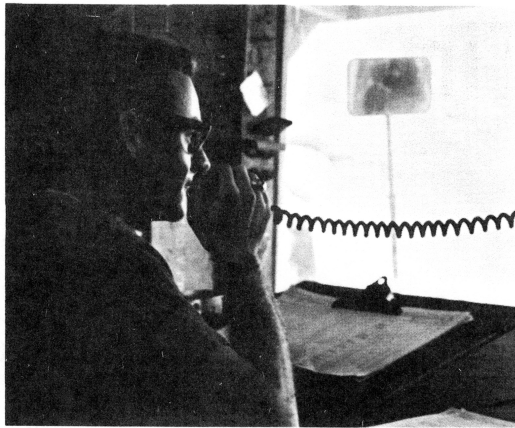
In addition to the consumption of fuel and oil, all light vehicles have their mileage recorded in the reports. The use of heavy equipment is computed in hours of operation. Through this system better utilization of equipment and man hours is achieved.

Co-ordinating with and providing support for other military organizations is not the least of the dispatchers' tasks.

For example, job materials are brought to the Dong Ha loading ramp by boats traveling the Qua Viet River. MCB 62 works with the 7th Marines to haul these materials from the ramp.

62 also co-ordinates helicopter airlifts of special Battalion airlift equipment to Marines in the field. This equipment is provided as it is needed to build roads, fortifications, gun emplacements, etc. on newly captured territory.

The main objective of the dispatchers is to keep the machines working at their maximum capabilities. All their efforts are directed toward, as they put it, "keeping the stuff moving."



BRING IT IN- Equipment Operator Second Class Robert M. Yager carries out his dispatching duties at the Alfa Company equipment yard. Battalion dispatchers are responsible for keeping track of all mobile equipment.

## Career Counselor's Corner

### U. S. Navy Offers Top Benefits To Men Who Stay in For 20

By W.C. Meyers, EOC  
THINK CAREER NAVY- There are many far-reaching advantages.

For this edition of the SEABEACON I will briefly cover retired pay and benefits.

The military service is the only profession I know of that offers a 20 year retirement program with all the benefits that go along with it. Also, most men become eligible for the Navy retirement program at about 38 to 40 years of age.

Listed below are some of the benefits a retired serviceman and his dependants are eligible to receive:

1. Retired or retainer pay (E-8 with 20 years active service would get \$317.20 per month after the July 1, 1969 pay raise.
2. Medical benefits in a Uniformed Services Facility.
3. Medical benefits through civilian facilities under the Uniformed Services Health Benefits Program.
4. Movement of household effects upon retirement or transfer to Fleet Reserves.
5. Travel allowance for member and his family upon retirement or transfer.
6. Use of commissaries, exchanges, clubs and recreation facilities.
7. Retired Serviceman's Family protection Plan, if member elects this plan before retirement. This program is often misunderstood. All members should discuss this plan with his career counselor prior to reaching 19 years of service for pay purposes.

8. One round trip per year (on a space available basis) on military transport.

This is merely a brief list of possible benefits. I invite each interested man to come by and see me for additional information.

For you MCB 62 wives who would like more information on retired pay and benefits, encourage your husband to see his Career Counselor.

The SEABEES have built enough fuel-storage area to send the average American motorist on 47 round-trips to the moon.

## Lift Objects With Care To Avoid Back Strain

By L.W. Copeland, BUC

Lifting and handling materials manually can be most painful if not done properly.

Before making a manual lift take a few seconds of your time for safety and save a lot of pain from back strain or other injuries later on.

The few seconds you take for safety should be used to inspect the object to be lifted. Determine the best way to grasp the object to avoid possible injuries from sharp edges or slivers.

Check and see if the weight is within your lifting and carrying capability. If it's too heavy, get help.

Inspect the area and the route to be traveled with the object to be certain there are no obstructions or slipping or tripping hazards.

After you have checked these things don't put safety on the sidelines.

Remember and use the correct posture for lifting. Set your feet solidly near the object, spread well apart with one foot slightly in front of the other.

Crouch as close to the load as possible with the legs bent at the knees at about a ninety degree angle. Keeping your back straight, get a firm grip on the object with both hands.

Lift the object, straightening your knees and keeping your back straight. Let your legs do the lifting.

## Top Navy EM Tells Changes in Uniforms Coming Soon

(Cont. from page 3)

with double breasted jacket, front-creased pants and shirt and tie.

To go along with the CPO program, starting July 1, all CPO's will be detailed directly by the Bureau of Naval Personnel. A complete phase-in to this program is expected by October.

Another consideration brought up by Black was that junior officers were not indoctrinated in evaluation sheets while in OCS. At present, this kind of training is being written into the curriculum with emphasis on added leadership.

He said one important aspect that must be brought out to these men is that the chain of command also goes down as well as up. With this emphasis in OCS, he feels there will be a better "level of understanding" between the junior officer and the senior petty officer.

At present, more than 50 Senior Enlisted Advisors have been appointed by commands, with more being named every day. Black stated all commands are cooperating in this program and that a new drive is on to make a new rating of Master Chief of Command.

Among changes to the CPO uniform is a new white dress coat. Black said one is presently being tested.

It will be single breasted, but still unlike the officer's coat.

## Projects Widespread For 62 at Dong Ha

(Cont. from page 1)

400-foot bridge across the Cam Lo River, a 60-foot bridge at Elliot Combat Base near Thon Son Lam, a well at Con Thien and an electrical distribution system at a Marine camp at Cua Viet.

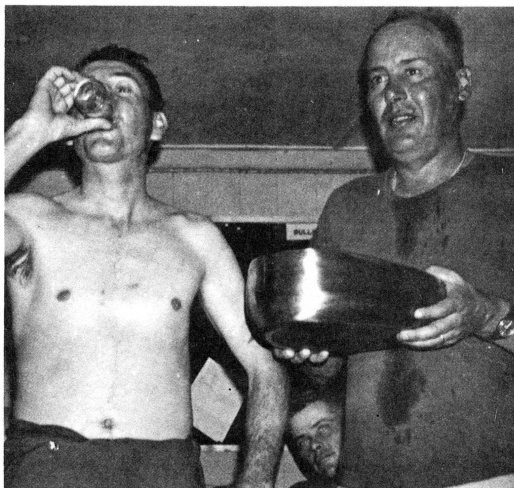
In addition to this heavy workload, 62 is conducting an extensive Civic Action Program in northern I Corps.

A nine-man Civic Action Team, headed by Lieutenant Junior Grade Eugene Graves

and the Battalion's Chaplain, Lieutenant Richard R. Crowe, has begun work on a new wing for the Dong Ha Children's Hospital, a pumping station for an irrigation system and several other projects.

This is MCB 62's third tour in Vietnam. In previous years the Battalion has been deployed to Hue-Phu Bai and to Danang.

There have been 52 SEABEES killed in Vietnam, while another 700 have been wounded in action, some more than once.



DOWN THE HATCH- Newly advanced Builder Chief A.F. Hotopp and Steelworker Chief L.H. Ball Jr. undergo their initiation at the Chiefs' Club on April 16.

## Team 6202 At Go Cong

SEABEE Team 6202, MCB 62's construction specialists who will conduct a program of instruction and self-help for the Vietnamese, have arrived at their new camp at Go Cong, located about 45 miles south of Saigon.

The Team's members have embarked upon the improvement and modification of their camp site in preparation for the many projects they will tackle during the upcoming months.

Team Leader, Lieutenant Junior Grade John T. Bouey, has stated that his men are looking forward with great enthusiasm to the many projects with which they will aid the people in the Go Cong Province.

Work is expected to start soon on the Team's project backlog.

The concept of the SEABEE Teams came about as an indirect result of the late President John F. Kennedy's call for a "balanced military force" in his budget message before the 87th Congress.

The President related that our nuclear capabilities far outweighed our abilities to handle the so called "brushfires" or "Wars of National Liberation."

A CEC officer, Lieutenant Commander (now Captain) R.E. Anderson, developed a plan which could help to avert such brushfire wars.

His plan for a Team of men who could deploy in small groups as a technical force to help unify the people with their own legal government resulted in the establishment of the SEABEE Team program.

## Charlie Co. Digs For \$\$

The men of Charlie Company are always doing a lot of digging, but this time it's into their pockets.

In response to an appeal for contributions in the Gulfport SEABEE Center Courier, the men of Charlie Company are raising money to help pay for a kidney transplant operation for 19 year old Gloria Garza from Handsboro, Mississippi.

Miss Garza recently had both kidneys removed because of Bright's Disease. A kidney transplant from her father will soon be attempted. The cost of the entire operation is expected to be about \$25,000.

Started by Chief Builder Francis Vollono, the Help "Our" Gloria Campaign is accepting all donations. They can be made to any Charlie Company Chief or member of the office staff.



HOSPITAL BUILDER- Builder Second Class George M. Nesbit of MCB 62's Charlie Company. During the Battalion's deployment to Danang Nesbit supervised the building of a children's hospital.

## SEABEECON Spotlight

# Hospital Builder Views Finished Product; Tours Pet Project of Danang Deployment

When the huge C141 aircraft landed at Danang for a lay-over on the flight to Dong Ha, there was one man who was glad about the delay.

It gave Builder Second Class George Michael (Mike) Nesbit a chance to visit the children's hospital at the Marine Force Logistics Camp north of Danang.

Mike supervised the beginning of the building of the hospital during the Battalion's tour in Danang last year. The construction was taken over by 62's relieving Battalion, MCB3.

At the hospital he was shown around the now nearly completed structure by the hospital's head nurse, with whom he became acquainted while working on the project.

With Builder Third Class Stanley Sanford, Mike supervised a crew of about 30 Vietnamese to build the hospital.

The Vietnamese were paid \$18.00 a week plus scrap lumber from the project, a sizeable salary by Vietnamese standards.

Mike liked the job, and stated that he would have volunteered for it had he not been chosen.

"I enjoyed working with the people, and it was good experience as far as building", he said.

He was especially interested in the ways of doing things which the Viet-

namese had. Placing a brick and then putting mortar around it, for instance, is the opposite of the way Americans lay bricks.

One of Mike's best-remembered experiences occurred toward the end of the deployment. The Vietnamese workers invited him and a Marine lieutenant and corporal to a party.

There was Vietnamese food, of which he didn't eat much, and beer, which he drank.

The son of a World War II SEABEE, Mike comes by his building skills quite naturally.

Mike was born 24 years ago in St. Louis, Missouri. When he was very young his family moved to California where his father was stationed after returning from Guadalcanal.

After his father's discharge, the family moved to Granite City, Illinois where Mike attended school.

Graduating from Granite City High in 1962, Mike began working for the A.O. Smith Corporation manufacturing automobile frames. In 1964 he began working in construction and joined the Union of Operating Plasterers and Cement Masons

## Two 62 Chiefs Ship in Dong Ha

Two 62 chiefs have shipped over since the Battalion's arrival in Camp Barnes.

They are Senior Chief Utilitiesman Edwin J. Garside and Chief Builder Charles M. Austin.

Commander John Paul Jones Jr., MCB 62's Commanding Officer, administered the oath of enlistment for six more years to UTCs Garside on April 18.

On April 21 CDR Jones officiated at BUC Austin's four-year re-enlistment. First joining the Navy in August of 1954, UTCs Garside has more than 14 years of service behind him. This enlistment will put him over the 20-year mark.

BUC Austin has been in the Navy for over 13 years, having joined in June of 1955.

## Pot Pourri

# MCB 62 Dependent Arrives: EN5 Delk Reports For Duty

A new MCB 62 dependant has arrived on the scene.

Chief Construction Mechanic Kenneth D. Jackson's wife, Denise, gave birth to a seven pound, ten ounce boy at the Keesler Air Force Base Hospital on March 26.

The new boy, James Michael, is the Jacksons' third child. They have another son, Shance Thomas, 7, and a daughter, Lisa Ann, 5.

## REPORTED

Ensign Michael W. Delk has reported aboard MCB 62 just in time for the start of the Battalion's third deployment to Vietnam.

ENS Delk joined 62 on the first day of April as the Battalion began its final mount-out procedures for the trip to Camp Barnes, Dong Ha.

The 23 year-old Ensign joined the Navy in July, 1968 and attended the

Naval Justice School in San Diego, California until his assignment to 62.

ENS Delk is presently working to organize the soils division of the survey branch of the Engineering Department. He is scheduled to relieve Lieutenant Junior Grade W. A. Drummond as Battalion Engineering Officer in May.

Commenting on his first impressions of MCB 62, ENS Delk states that he is "amazed at the efficiency and knowledge of responsibility which seems prevalent in the Battalion. Each person seems to be interested in his job."

"I am also pleased with the chance for responsibility," ENS Delk continues. "You are put right to work rather than pampered."

Sports of all kinds are ENS Delk's main outside interests. His favorites are golf, basketball and tennis, which he played while attending college.

A native of Turner, Oregon, ENS Delk graduated from Oregon State University where he was a member of the Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity.

## PROMOTED

Cigars were being passed out and new chevrons were in evidence all around Camp Barnes April 16 when advancements went into effect for 51 men of MCB 62.

The promotions were the result of the Navy-wide advancement in rate examinations held in February.

Among those celebrating their advancements were four Battalion men who pinned on the anchors of

Chief Petty Officer for the first time. J.D. Beard was promoted to Chief Equipment Operator, A. F. Hopp moved up to Chief Builder, and D.T. Laflamme was advanced to Chief Steelworker and L.H. Ball Jr. made Chief Steelworker.

Others who were advanced and their new rates are:

D.E. Bingham	BU3
L.H. Boeding	SW3
J.N. Cross	EO3
W.J. Dahl	SK3
P.R. Demaster	EO3
R.J. Garvey	UT3
R.E. Gill	SK3
R.E. Glass	SK3
H.B. Goforth	EA3
H.J. Gurley	CM3
F. Gutierrez	EA3
W.E. Hall	BU1
T.W. Hannah	EO3
K.L. Heumann	EO3

B.L. Howell	BU2
C.J. Kiser	CM2
J. Lisuzzo	BU2
H.A. Lounders	DK3
R.H. Macwaters	CE3
O.E. Marken	SK3
D.L. Monter	EO3
J.L. Moore	SK2

M.E. Morisoli	EO3
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S.W. Morse	UT3
R.W. Nunn	CM3
S.R. Park	BU3
D.C. Parker	CE2
S.J. Picker	EO3
R.W. Porter	SW3
J.L. Prawitz	SW3
L.L. Ricci	EO3
D.L. Roberson	EO2
B.L. Sandifer	BU2
L.L. Shipley	CM3
R.D. Sims	EO2
M.W. Smith	EO3
S.J. Swank	EO2
C.E. Thibodeaux	EA3
R.C. Truesdale	GMG2
T. Vanzwol	EA3
Q.J. Wasden	EO1
L.R. Webber	EO3
G.R. Wilson	EO3
W.E. Wilson	EA3
R.M. Wingard	UT3
D.J. Wisenbaker	BU2
P.E. Wollenhaupt	EA3

The SEABEES are constantly at work building bridges, wells, electrical and sanitation systems and farm-to-market roads.



MOVE OUT- Men from MCB 62's Security Company conduct a patrol outside the lines of Camp Barnes. Squad size patrols venture out about three times a week to look for signs of enemy activity and check the effects of 62's mortar fire.



## Nation Building

## 62's Civic Action Team Takes on Aid Projects

MCB 62 is building more than roads, bridges and other military facilities in Vietnam. The Battalion is also building the means for a better way of life for the Vietnamese people.

Under the direction of Lieutenant Junior Grade Eugene A. Graves and Battalion Chaplain, Lieutenant Richard R. Crowe, a nine-man Civic Action Team is constructing a hospital, schools, irrigation and providing jobs and training for Vietnamese in the Northern I Corps area.

In Dong Ha City, located near 62's Camp Barnes, the team is completing a new wing to the Dong Ha Hospital. The wing will house a modern kitchen and laundry.

The SEABEES are aided by 13 Vietnamese civilians as they finish walls, a roof, shutters and screens for the structure.

Southwest of Dong Ha is the Cua Valley, where the Civic Action Team will erect a three-room school house in the village of Mai Loc.

Other schools for Catholic and Buddhist refugee children are to be built

at Cam Lo, near the site of a Battalion bridge construction project.

North of the Cam Lo River and east of the 17th parallel of longitude is an area which once contained about 6,000 people in 13 hamlets. In February of 1968, these people were forced to evacuate this area because of enemy activity. They have since been living in refugee villages.

The area, having been retaken and partially secured by friendly forces, is now the scene of other Team projects.

The nine men on the team are presently working to help the refugees return to their homes and are making repairs on buildings in the villages.

The people of six hamlets have already moved back into the areas where they lived before the North Vietnamese took over.

Near this same area is a water pumping station built by the Australians in the early 1960's to provide irrigation for the farmland northeast of Dong Ha.

The station was taken over by the enemy before a system of irrigation canals was completed. The enemy held possession until recently when it was recaptured by friendly forces.

At the station the Civic Action Team found six pumps in operable condition. The Team is presently teaching the Vietnamese to maintain and repair the pumps.

Vietnamese workers are also being taught to repair and operate two bulldozers donated by the Quang Tri District Public Works System. The bulldozers will be used to dig the canals which will complete the irrigation system.

The nine men on the Civic Action Team are Chief Construction Electrician Robert R. Ward, Steelworker Second Class William H. Steffen, Builder Second

Class Lonnie G. Blackwell, and Builder Third Class Edward L. Boullion.

Engineering Aid Third

Class Donato A. Desantis, Engineering Aid James E. Evans, Construction Electrician Ricky D. Platt, Utilitiesman John M. Behe,

and Equipment Operator Phillip D. Pool complete the Team.

If all the housing facilities constructed by the SEABEES in Vietnam were converted into a hotel covering one city block, that hotel would rise twice as high as the Empire State Building.



BRIDGE PROJECT -- A temporary pontoon bridge spans the Cam Lo River. MCB 62 is building a permanent bridge to replace it. The first pile for the new bridge is at the left of the picture, and wreckage of an old one is at the right.

## SEABEES on Job Face Varied Difficulties; Work Goes on in Spite of Enemy in Area

(Cont. from page 1)

is in charge of the Charlie Company builders and steelworkers on the project.

Middleton began showing me around camp as he talked about the job.

I learned that the bridge, 491 feet long, steel construction with a wooden deck, will be the only one of its kind. It is an experimental design which, if it meets all expectations, may be used all over Vietnam.

The bridge will consist of eight spans mounted on steel pilings driven 60 feet into the ground.

Lieutenant Commander William A. Heine, Operations Officer for MCB 62, has called this project "one of the most significant bridge jobs undertaken in Vietnam."

I was conducted back to a fortified hut where I met Ensign John Blackwell, Assistant Charlie Company Commander and Officer in Charge of the Cam Lo project.

ENS Blackwell walked with me to the actual construction site and showed me the work being done.

Equipment Operators, under the direction of Equipment Operator First Class C.M. Vail, were busy with graders and bulldozers preparing the site.

Rising from the water a few feet from shore stood a solitary piling driven for an initial test.

Below, busy with their transits and other surveying equipment, were Engin-

eerers Aides. They were, it was explained to me, plotting the course of the new road which will lead to the bridge.

Later, in the chow hall with Steelworker Second Class R. G. Bunt, I was told the story of the enemy action which had occurred the day before.

A Marine patrol on a sweep 3,000 meters from the site spotted an ambush prepared by about 12 North Vietnamese Army regulars. An air strike was called in on the target.

Half of a Marine squad was carried from the construction site to the enemy's area by an earth-mover driven by a 62 SEABEE. They found no sign of the enemy. As usual, the North Vietnamese had melted into the surrounding jungle taking their dead and wounded with them.

When asked about other enemy activity, one of the SEABEES replied, "There are snipers around every now and then, but they don't bother us too much."

The day before some of the SEABEES had to be ordered to quit working during the air strikes.

Later in the afternoon, after wandering around the job site and talking (if sign language and pidgin can be called that) with some local children, I came back to the hut which doubled as a headquarters building.

There Lieutenant Junior Grade James M. Ramsey, Charlie Company Commander, and ENS Blackwell were discussing the plans for the bridge in preparation for the actual construction.

Suddenly, the sound of an explosion came crashing into the room.

## Families Feature; 62 Wives Plan, Film Color Flick

Battalion men will soon get a chance to see their wives and families in living color, thanks to the MCB 62 Wives' Club.

On May 10 and 11 the Club will be shooting a color movie featuring 62's dependents.

The newly formed Wives Club is busily organizing various projects around the Gulfport area.

One of their first activities was the planning of an Easter egg hunt at the Construction Battalion Center in early April.

Rushing outside we saw that American jets were making another air strike on the same position that was hit the day before. The tumult raged for about twenty minutes, and then all was quiet except for the drone of an observation plane high overhead.

Shortly thereafter LTJG Ramsey, ENS Blackwell and I left for Camp Barnes.

The road was secure and we passed many teams of 62 SEABEES working on the highway.

Through the main gate, a snappy salute from the gate guard, and we were "home", safe and secure just a few miles from the Cam Lo Bridge.

## Blaze Destroys Bravo Co. Shop

A fire, believed to have been started by lightning, destroyed Bravo Company's outside electricians' storeroom and office on the evening of April 17.

No injuries resulted from the fire.

About 40 per cent of the linemen's tool kits and a full seabag belonging to Construction Electrician Second Class Donald W. Wilbanks were consumed by the blaze.

The fire was first seen and reported about 8:30 in the evening by Storekeeper C.E. Marken who was working in the Material Liaison Office, located near the Bravo Company store-room.

Marken stated that he "heard a loud noise, like an explosion". He rushed outside and saw the fire. Going back into his office, he called the 62 Master at Arms Office and reported what he had seen.

Within minutes after the blaze broke out, a team from Force Logistics Support Group "B", the Marine unit responsible for fire-fighting in the Dong Ha Combat Base, was on the scene.

Until the Marine fire fighters arrived, the blaze was kept from spreading to surrounding buildings by Boatswain's Mate First Class A.L. Mitchell, Utilitiesman First Class H. F. Fuller, and Equipment Operator Second Class O. J. Warden.

Also destroyed were blueprints of electrical subsystems, semi-annual performance evaluations on several Bravo Company men, and extra uniforms and civilian clothing belonging to Company personnel on detachment.



BLOWN -- A survey party inspects the remains of bridge 910, blown apart by satchel charges early in the morning of April 20. MCB 62 rebuilt the structure in only three days. (See story -- Page 1)