

MCB SIXTY-TWO FAMILYGRAM

6 June 1970
Camp Hoover
Danang, RVN

Dear Seabee Family,

One thing can be said about staying busy, at least when you are in Vietnam it makes the time fly by. It hardly seems possible that a month has passed since I wrote you last but indeed it has. And much has taken place in that month so I'll try to bring you up to date.

The work on Route LTL-4 has continued at a fairly good pace. We were held up somewhat during May with "unseasonable" weather, but that has now turned in our favor. Normally the monsoon rains are over by this time of year, and don't start again until late September, but the rain apparently didn't get the word during May. Additionally we were delayed on many days while the U.S. Marine Engineers made extensive and careful mine sweeps of the work area. In spite of the care which they exercise, we did have a few more mining incidents, but with only very slight injuries. I "knock on wood" and pray that our current success will continue, since we have worked mine free on LTL-4 now for over two weeks.

In addition to the Alfa Company men who are operating the equipment for the road work on LTL-4, Charlie Company men are working on the first of two stream crossings. Originally these were concrete and steel bridges installed years ago by the French. They have since been destroyed by the enemy, and must be replaced. Since the stream beds are dry for most of the year, we intend to replace the bridges with "Texas fords", a paved concrete roadway across the bottom of the dry stream bed, with box culverts to take care of stream flow in all but periods of heavy flood. This will be an easy and economical crossing, and will keep the roads open nearly year round. Charlie Company began to place concrete for the first of these just this week.

Other project work by Charlie Company includes miscellaneous wood frame construction on the Danang Air Base and the erection of Butler type buildings for the Army of the Republic of Vietnam in two nearby areas. One job that Charlie Company has had to undertake twice is the replacement or repair of bridges that have been damaged by the VC/NVA. In May they replaced one single span steel and timber bridge that was blown by enemy sappers, and just this week repaired three spans of another. These are critical jobs and must be quickly accomplished to keep the roads open for essential military use. In both cases their response was excellent, and the roads were quickly reopened. There is no doubt that LTJG Michael W. Delk, CEC, USNR and his men keep busy! By the way, the Bau Nit Dam which I wrote about last month has been successfully completed.

Bravo Company, under the direction of Senior Chief Construction Electrician Charles L. Ferguson also has had a variety of work, on projects of their own. In Bravo Company are the electricians and utilities men. They do the wiring and the plumbing on all of our vertical work, and they frequently get spread out pretty thin. Bravo Company now is

working with Charlie Company on a number of jobs. Additionally they are drilling a well and installing an electrical distribution system at a Danang ship off loading facility.

Headquarters Company has so many functions in support of the entire Battalion that I won't even try to cover them in this letter. I refer you to the May issue of the Seabeacon, just now being mailed out. In it there is an excellent article which does justice to the fine effort of this support company.

The work of the Battalion in the Mekong Delta area far south of here, is going very well. I just returned from a trip down there on which I visited the officers and men at two construction sites at Binh Thuy and at Chau Doc. LTJG Wells and his men should finish their project at Binh Thuy later this month and then will move to a new site to commence construction of another ACTOV Base at Tan Chau. LT. Bruce and his men moved on to the site of their ACTOV base at Chau Doc on 20 May. Already they have completed construction of a temporary camp for themselves, and they are hard at work on the permanent facilities. Their living conditions are good. We operate our own mess hall and they get good hot meals even at that isolated location. In the three weeks that they have now been on site the detail has accomplished an amazing amount of work, and we are proud of their "Can Do" spirit.

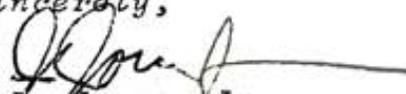
That about covers the major activities of the Battalion during the past month. I could go on for several more pages if I covered all the details, but time and space do not permit.

I have received several letters from "Seabee Families" during the past couple of weeks, and although I don't answer them all (unless they have a question or a problem) I do want you all to know that I appreciate your letters and your comments. If there is any information that any of you would like to find in future Family Grams please let me know. I am open to suggestion.

That's about all for now. I'll write again next month and that, by the way, will be the last Family Gram for me. My relief CDR Frank M. Newcomb, CEC, USN will be reporting aboard in July and my two year tour as Commanding Officer will be over. More about this next month.

May God be with you all.

Sincerely,


J. F. Jones, Jr.
CDR, CEC, USN
Commanding Officer
USN MCB SIXTY-TWO

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
USN MCB SIXTY-TWO
FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96601
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
NAVY DEPARTMENT

THE OLSONS
713 COMMERCIAL
PLAINSFIELD, ILL.