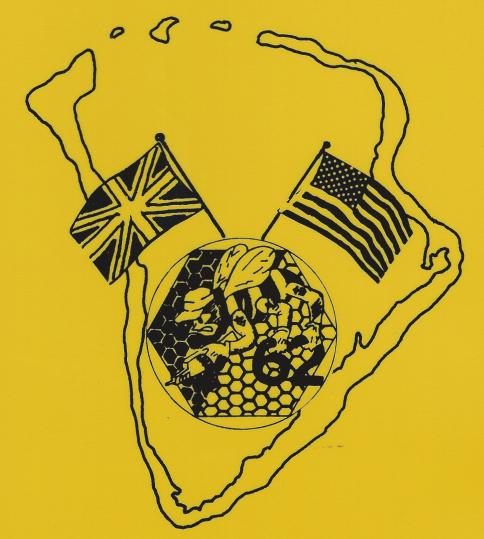
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This 298 page SEABEACON and the additional 30 images are from Captain Chuck Fegley's personal collection.



DIEGO GARCIA

February-November

1977

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DEPLOYMENT SUMMARY

U. S. NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION SIXTY-TWO

For the first two months of fiscal year 7T, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion SIXTY-TWO was completing an outstanding deployment to Okinawa. The main body and the detachments located at Subic Bay, Republic of the Phillipines; Diego Garcia, BIOT; and Iwakuni, Yokosuka, Atsugi, and Misawa, Japan, culminated an extremely effective deployment amidst a flurry of project completions and a smooth and successful turnover.

NMCB SIXTY-TWO expended mandays on 37 taskings during the waning days of the deployment completing 26 projects prior to the turnover commencing in mid-August.

Since the closing days of the Okinawa deployment represent a minor portion of the total deployed time during the fiscal year the only project documentation presented is a summarization of the mandays expended during the last six weeks of productive effort.

During the period from February 1977 to November 1977, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion SIXTY-TWO deployed to Diego Garcia, British Indian Ocean Territory. This deployment was a production-oriented one, and as such, only one material-expediting detachment of five personnel was separated from the Battalion.

The deployment presented a significant challenge and test of NMCB SIXTY-TWO's planning and construction management capabilities. The battalion undertook fourteen major construction projects, over twenty other construction projects, and a host of support projects. The battalion's hallmarks for this deployment were hard, productive work, and outstanding project management. The planning started early in the previous homeport period, with project superintendents and crew leaders working together to develop logic networks and precedence diagrams.

Battalion goals for the deployment were set, and project superintendents participated with management in the development of intermediate goals, or "milestones", for each project. The superintendents then managed their projects to meet these milestones; because of troop involvement and commitment to their milestones, many projects were active during weekends, without specific direction from upper levels of command. The end result of NMCB SIXTY-TWO's planning and construction management system was that all milestones were met or exceeded, except when project material nonavailability intervened.

Accomplishments deserving of special mention are:

- a. The battalion received a mini-computer in May 1977, and placed it into operation within two weeks. Project superintendents on the major projects utilized this tremendous construction management tool with enthusiasm. To enhance maximum understanding of the capabilities of the computer, the battalion ran a seven week course for project superintendents.
- b. Despite severe logistics problems in the area of construction material, the battalion succeeded in rescheduling its workload to maximize productivity. In the case of the new Enlisted Men's Club, major material items such as floor tile and ceiling lights arrived less than one week prior to completion, yet the battalion succeeded in completing the facility, ahead of schedule.
- c. The battalion was responsible for maintenance of the largest suite of construction equipment in the Naval Construction Force. Despite the below average physical condition of the approximately 540 assigned pieces of equipment, the battalion overcame potentially serious down-time problems by conducting an aggressive equipment maintenance and management program. The net result of this effort was that the deadline rate, which was 9.5 percent at the battalion's arrival, and which rose to a high of 26 percent, shortly thereafter, was consistently below 3.5 percent by the time of the battalion's departure. This deadline rate is the lowest recorded for a Diego Garcia turnover, and the lowest in the Pacific Fleet Naval Construction Force.
- d. In addition to significantly lowering the deadline, the overall condition code of the complement of equipment was raised one full code over the deployment from 0-3.5 to 0-2.5, the maintenance shops were significantly improved, and the haul roads were reconstructed. The battalion also instituted a computer assisted equipment management program by developing a program for the mini-computer to process the enormous amounts of data associated with the 540 pieces of equipment, and produce output useful to managers from the shops level through the type commander.
- e. The battalion vigorously attacked the perennial punchlist problem, and completed 195 punchlist items to the satisfaction of the Resident Officer in Charge of Construction during the deployment. Of the 58 items remaining to be done at turnover, material nonavailability constrained work on all but eight.
- f. The battalion undertook significant ship to shore harbor operations, in support of not only the Naval Construction Force on Diego Garcia, but also of the entire island

The battalion, in conjunction with the station, population. Off loaded and back loaded the SS TRANSCOLORADO three times. Each of these eight to nine day evolutions required over 125 men from the battalion working two shifts, 24 hours per day. These offloads were further complicated because all cargo was shuttled from ship to shore by Landing Craft Medium (LCMs), necessitating extra handling and equipment not normally required in U. S. ports. Besides offload of the resupply ship, the battalion also furnished over 90 men to accomplish an eight day offload of pipe, steel plate and construction equipment, to be utilized by the Naval Construction Force and by Chicago Bridge and Iron, in the construction of a fuel tank and pipeline system. The battalion also offloaded seven cement ships. These offloads involved hookup of floating, pontoon-supported hoses to the ship, often under perilous sea conditions, for a two day cement offload. In support of this operation, the battalion offloaded over 17,000 tons of cement into bulk silos, and then hauled this cement in bulk carriers to the two batch plants, for use.

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion SIXTY-TWO's project accomplishments speak for themselves:

- a. Eight, 120' diameter, foundation base rings for 80,000 barrel petroleum oil lubricant (POL) tanks had to be completed in time for a civilian contractor to erect the tanks. Assuming the job dangerously behind schedule, the battalion hauled and compacted almost 200,000 cubic yards of fill, placed 2,000 cubic yards of concrete, used 52 tons of reinforcing steel, and mixed and placed 2,000 cubic yards of oiled sand. By working 24 hours per day, seven days per week, and by exercising superb critical-path project management, the battalion completed all their work a full two months earlier than the milestones required.
- b. On airfield expansion projects, the battalion placed 57,600 square yards of soil cement in preparation for a slipform paving operation. Two miles of lighting duct bank and light bases were placed, as well as 1,500 cubic yards of manually-finished concrete pavement.
- c. All structural work was completed on a water treatment facility, consisting of an 1800 square foot masonry building, a 150,000 gallon and a 50,000 gallon concrete water tank.
- d. A swimming pool, with its associated 1,000 square foot mechanical room, was constructed through completion of guniting. This eight-lane olympic-size pool is unique in that it is built above ground level, and required 9,000 cubic yards of compacted fill, contains 80 tons of reinforcing steel, and used 420 cubic yards of gunite.

- e. The battalion completed equipment installation and finish work on a morale-enhancing modern dining hall. This 13,000 square foot masonry building was opened in July 1977, and replaced the historic but primitive Reindeer Inn.
- f. To increase station billeting space, the battalion started and completed a two-story, 80 man barracks; which was a reused, prefabricated, modulux building. This building has 7200 square feet of floor space, and was completely built in under five months. Seabee ingenuity and some site fabricated finishing touches turned a pile of metal into an attractive and comfortable living quarters.
- g. To improve living conditions for the Seabees, the battalion erected 75 air conditioned porta-camps and heads, to replace the old Southeast Asia Huts of open-type construction.
- h. Unique to Diego Garcia was the tilt-up concrete panel construction of a bachelor enlisted quarters project. Although the priority of this project was lowered by higher authority, the battalion nonetheless succeeded in casting and tilting-up eighteen, two-story, twenty ton wall panels, and adjacent smaller sun screen panels. In addition to the tilt-up of the walls on this first building, the battalion also completed the concrete footings and floor slabs of two other bachelor enlisted quarters, and one bachelor officer quarters building.
- i. The battalion started and completed the first permanent outdoor recreational facilities on the island: a softball field, three tennis courts, and four volleyball courts. Despite severe setbacks caused by adverse weather, the ballfield and volleyball courts were completed, and will permit day and night recreational activity for the men assigned. Although rain prohibited the final "Laykold" surfacing from being applied to the tennis courts, these too will be ready for use with only a few days work.
- j. A 60 ft x 180 ft pier was designed and built, by the battalion, using excess sheet pile, reinforcing steel, and 5,000 cubic yards of fill. The pier enhances ship offload operations and permits the station to moor their boats, easing maintenance operations, instead of anchoring them in the lagoon.
- k. The volume of horizontal work, not mentioned above, is impressive. A 45,500 square foot sewage lagoon was excavated, shaped, and compacted, and guniting was started. Forty-eight acres of land were cleared; 24,400 cubic yards of excavation and 24,100 cubic yards of fill were moved for

site preparation projects. The first permanent parking lot in the cantonment area was completed. This 35,500 square foot lot, complete with curbing, now serves the dining hall, ship's store, chapel and dispensary. The battalion also contributed to the aesthetics of the station by accomplishing major landscaping. Areas around the new dining facility, the chapel, ship's store, the bachelor officers' quarters, the new club, and other selected areas were dressed up with a variety of improvements, including palm trees, grading, topsoil and grass seeding.

l. The battalion's finale was to complete the new enlisted men's club. This 9,800 square foot masonry building was completed just days before the deployment ended, despite delivery of construction materials as late as a week prior to completion. This modern facility, replacing an old metal building, will greatly enhance morale on the island.

As this successful deployment was completed, the evidence of a truly professional organization was evident everywhere on Diego Garcia. In the areas of safety, quality and productivity, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion SIXTY-TWO has proven itself to be the epitome of the Naval Construction Force. This battalion truly exemplifies the "Can Do" and the "Will Do" spirit of our modern Seabees.

ATTACHMENTS:

- A Construction Project Summaries
- B Construction Schedules
- C Deployment Photographs

HOMEPORT SUMMARY

U. S. NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION SIXTY-TWO

The challenges of Diego Garcia construction projects and a significantly shortened homeport provided the impetus for an all hands priority training effort by the battalion. U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion SIXTY-TWO rose to the challenge by planning and completing one of the most elaborate and detailed homeport training programs yet undertaken by any battalion. To meet the construction training needs of the upcoming deployment, the Battalion embarked on training in September 1976 and continued until its ultimate completion in February 1977. Homeport military training evolved into four productive months of heavy and small arms weapons training. Technical training conducted throughout the homeport training period included class "A", "J" and "C" Formal Schools, Informal Schools (SCBT), and Special Factory schools training, all of which, provided technical training in skills specifically required for the Diego Garcia deployment. Several in-house training programs on construction management were also conducted.

Special Factory schools and additional training classes were convened to train battalion personnel in specialized areas as shown in ATTACHMENT A.

In addition to utilization of specialized schools for technical training, the battalion utilized some 850 seats in 100 Informal Schools (SCBT) for general technical training in Gulfport. Formal Class "A", "J" and "C" schools were utilized extensively as 99 seats in 45 schools were filled.

To maintain the military readiness capability of the battalion while on deployment, the battalion underwent an extensive military training program in homeport. A total of 619 personnel completed military training. Heavy weapons training (crew-served weapons) included training on the 81MM mortar, M-60 machine gun and 106MM recoiless rifle. Sixty-eight personnel received training on the M-60 machine gun including marksmanship training. Of those who fired the weapon, 46% fired expert. Twenty-eight personnel received training on the 81MM mortar. Eighteen personnel received training on the 106MM recoiless rifle. During small arms weapons qualification and training, 583 persons fired the M-16 rifle for qualification. Of these who fired the weapon, 94% qualified and 39% fired expert. Ninety-nine personnel fired the 45 caliber pistol for qualification; of these personnel, 83% qualified and 38% fired expert. The completion of the battalion's block military training proved to be one of the most successful range training

periods yet experienced by the battalion. Additional military training accomplished during the homeport included 12 Amtrack drivers and the training of 132 personnel in riot control tactics.

An on-the-job training program was also conducted with the battalion performing civic action and self help projects to provide a useable final product to the civilian and military communities while enhancing the construction skills of the assigned personnel. The battalion worked on twelve projects, completing eight, ranging in complexity from a bypass road for the Gulfport Municipal Airport to Special Services playing courts on station.

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Specialized Training	Description of Training No. of	Personnel Traine
Carpet Laying	Wall-to-wall carpet installation	4 BUs
MUSE Power Generation Equipment	Operation and Maintenance of power generating equipment for cantonment power	5 CMs
TS-24 Transmission	Training covered basic hydraulics, the transmission as a unit, its proper operation, maintenance and pressure checks	5 CMs
Tilt Up Construction	Supervisors "pitch" and seminar on precast tilt up construction (Sam Hodges Co., Atlanta, GA.)	2 Officers 14 BUs 6 EOs 1 SW
MARS Station Operation	Operation and tuning of MARS Station equipment (1 Port Hueneme, CA., 2 CBC Gulfport)	· 3 CEs
Fire Fighting Structural	Structural fire fighting operations (CBC Gulfport)	10 UTs 6 EOs 6 BUs 5 CEs 2 SWs 1 CM 2 HTs 1 MR
Fire Fighting Aircraft	Aircraft Crash Crew fire fighting operations	3 EOs 1 HT 1 MR 5 UTs 2 CEs

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	Specialized Training	Description of Training No. o	f F	Personne.	l Traine	be
	Fire Chief	Fire crew supervision, fire inspection procedures and fire fighting techniques and operations (Norfolk, VA)		L CM L UT		
	Dry Wall Construction	Metal studs and drywall installation	12	2 BUs		
	Nuclear Density Meter	Operation and maintenance of nuclear density meter		+ EAs L CE		
	Laser Plane	Training consisted of field work on station; setting up the instrument and checking it out	5	5 EAs		
	Texcote Building Surface Treatment		4	H BUs	Ţ.	
	PVC Pipe Installation `	Threading, gluing and joining flanges	L	UTs		
	Soldering	Silver soldering	2	2 UTs		
	Radiator Repair	OJT training in civilian shop for radiator repair	1	2 HTs 1 SW 1 MR		
1	A/C Controls Schools	Operation and maintenance of A/C systems and controls		2 UTs 1 CE		
	Machine Shop	Manufacture and repair of metal parts and special tools by use of various machine tools i.e.; milling machine, shaper and lathe	3	3 MRs		
	Quick Beams	Training on design, forming and shoring of quick beams		D BUs L SW	ę v	

Specialized Training	Description of Training	No of	Personnel	Trained
Concrete Pump	Operation and maintenance of concrete pumps (Challenge-Cook Squeezecrete and Thompson)		1 CM 3 BUs	"
Cable Splicing	Crosslink poly cable splicing		10 CEs	
Construction Management	Management practices for effective construction scheduling		3 Office 11 EOs 6 BUS 3 SWS 3 CES 2 UTS	ers
Rough Terrain Forklift	Operation of equipment		1 SW	8.
,	- F C C C C C C C C C-		1 BU	
Typewriter Repair	Typewriter repair and maintenance		1 PN	
Batch Plant Operation	Concrete and asphalt batch plant operat	ions	3 EOs 1 BU	ą
Sand Blasting	. Sand blasting operations and equipment maintenance		3 CMs	
Airless Spray Painting			5 BUs	
Equipment Management (CESE)			3 Offic 10 EOs 6 CMs	eers
Gunite Machine Operation	Operation and maintenance of gunite machine		8 BUs	
Xerox Machine	Xerox machine operation and maintenance		2 PNs 2 YNs	

Specialized Training	Description of Training	No	of	Per	rsonnel	Trained	i
Soil Cement Equipment	Sub-base compaction and soil cementing including the operation of a soil cement spreader, a base course trimmer and a single pass stabilizer			+c, 6	EOs		
Water Treatment (chemical)	Treatment of water	ô		6	UTs		
Metric System			Ε.	42			
Construction Safety			*	2 1	BUS SWS UT CE	41 10	
Water Well Drilling	2*			9	EOs		
Crushing and Screening Operations				6	EOs		
Concrete Seminar	American Concrete Institute, New Orleans	,	r:	3	BUs		
Construction Tour	Jones Builders		22	2	Officer BUs SWs UT CE	cs.	
Dupont Seminar	Construction Management			32	E-6 & a	above	
Personnel Accounting	1		1	1	PN YN		
Automotive Body Repair	OJT in civilian paint and body shop			2	CMs		

Description of Training

Training and recertification of personnel

tion and other pest control functions

Seminar on coral aggregate, concrete

admixtures and batching

engaged in pesticide and herbicide applica-

No of Personnel Trained

8 Officers

2 Officers

4 UTs

2 CEs

14 BUs 3 SWs

Specialized Training

Master Builder's Seminar

Pest Control

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

ATTACHMENTS:

- A DEPLOYMENT STATISTICS
- B PERSONNEL STATISTICS
- C SAFETY STATISTICS
- D DISCIPLINARY STATISTICS
- E RETENTION DATA

DEPLOYMENT STATISTICS

FY7T & FY77

DEPLOYMENT PERIOD	(OKINAWA)	
MAIN BODY		1 JUL 76 - 31 AUG 76
DETAIL DIEGO GARCIA		1 JUL 76 - 31 AUG 76
DETAIL SUBIC BAY		1 JUL 76 - 31 AUG 76
DETAIL IWAKUNI		1 JUL 76 - 31 AUG 76
DETAIL YOKOSUKA		1 JUL 76 - 31 AUG 76
DETAIL ATSUGI		1 JUL 76 - 31 AUG 76
DETAIL MISAWA		1 JUL 76 - 31 AUG 76

AVERAGE ASSIGNED STRENGTH ON DEPLOYMENT

	1		OFFICER	ENLISTED
	OKINAWA		17	389
	DIEGO GARCIA		1	48
V	SUBIC BAY		2	119
	IWAKUNI	9	1	24
	YOKOSUKA	7	0	23
	ATSUGI		0	20
	MISAWA		_0	_ 8
	TOTAL		21	631

AVERAGE PERCENT MANPOWER DISTRIBUTION

UIRECT LABOR 20% INDIRECT LABOR 31%

MIL OPERATIONS 7%
TRAINING 5%
OVERHEAD 37%

DEPLOYMENT PERIOD (DIEGO GARCIA)

ADVANCE PARTY 27 JAN 77 - 30 SEP 77 MAIN BODY 12 FEB 77 - 30 SEP 77 DETAIL CLARK AFB, RP 27 JAN 77 - 30 SEP 77

AVERAGE ASSIGNED STRENGTH ON DEPLOYMENT

	OFFICER	ENLISTED
 DIEGO GARCIA	21	634
CLARK AFB	1 -	4
TOTAL	22	638

AVERAGE PERCENT MANPOWER DISTRIBUTION

DIRECT LABOR			24%
INDIRECT LABOR		* 5	31%
MIL OPERATIONS	ž.		5%
TRAINING			2%
OVERHEAD			38%

PERSONNEL STATISTICS

AVERAGE ASSIGNED STRENGTH FOR FISCAL YEAR 7T & 77

OFFICER

21

ENLISTED

682

TUTAL TURNOVER FISCAL YEAR 7T & 77

TOTAL

DEPLOYMENT

RECEIVED

549

147

TRANSFERS

551

206

AVERAGE MUNTHLY TURNOVER

YEAR

DEPLOYMENT

RECEIVED

37

15

TRANSFERS

37

21

E-5 AND ABOVE TURNOVER

YEAR

DEPLOYMENT

RECEIVED

191

40

TRANSFERS

140

83

AVERAGE TOTAL ONBOARD E-5 AND ABOVE

YEAR

DEPLOYMENT

235

248

AVERAGE PERCENT E-5 AND ABOVE: 37%

SAFETY STATISTICS

TOTAL MONTHS DEPLOYED: 10

TOTAL CHARGEABLE LOST TIME:

*	DEPLOYED	HOMEPORT
VEHICULAR (FOR 877,000 MI)	5	0
NON VEHICULAR	77	
JOB RELATED	10	2
NON JOB RELATED	4	5

TOTAL MANUAYS LOST FROM ACCIDENTS: 128

STANDUP SAFETY MEETINGS

DEPLOYMENT 23,910 HOMEPORT 523

DISCIPLINARY STATISTICS

NON-JUDICIAL PUN	ISHMENT	
DEPLOYMENT	T (OKINAWA)	12
HOMEPORT		31
. DEPLOYMEN	T (DIEGO GARCIA)	81
COURTS-HARTIAL		
DEPLOYMEN	T (OKINAWA)	- 4
HOMEPORT		4
DEPLOYMEN	T (DIEGO GARCIA)	1

RETENTION DATA

REENLISTMENT - TOTAL		75
REENLISTMENT RATE (% OF ALL ELIGIBLE)		44%
REENLISTMENT - FIRST TERM ACTUAL/ELIGIBLE		36/129
REENLISTMENT PERCENT - FIRST TERM		28%
REENLISTMENT - CAREER ACTUAL/ELIGIBLE		39/40
REENLISTMENT PERCENT - CAREER	67	98%

CONSTRUCTION PROJECT SUMMARIES

JULY 76 - AUG 76 OKINAWA PROJECTS

JK3-847 BEQ REHAB CAMP FOSTER 158 JK4-317 CAMP MAINTENANCE 911 JK5-801 LVT RAMP 277 JK5-804 AIR CONDITIONING REPLACEMENT 154 JK5-806 DOD GYM RELOCATION 71	
JK5-801 LVT RAMP 277 JK5-804 AIR CONDITIONING REPLACEMENT 154 JK5-806 DOD GYM RELOCATION 71	
JK5-804 AIR CONDITIONING REPLACEMENT 154 JK5-806 DOD GYM RELOCATION 71	
JK5-806 DOD GYM RELOCATION 71	
JK6-342 PAVING CAMP SCHWAB 73	
JK6-596 QUONSET HUT REMOVAL 7	
JK6-597 WHITE BEACH STAGING AREA 178	
OKINAWA TOTAL 1829	
SUBIC BAY PHILLIPINES PROJECTS	
PI3-831 RED LABEL AREA 17	
PI4-802 NCF CAMP BEQs 197	
PI4-803 NCF INDUSTRIAL FACILITY 31	
PI4-813 HELO RAMP ROAD IMPROVEMENT 78	
PI5-801 MAU CAMP ROOF VENTS 95	
PI5-811 TACAN FACILITY 103	
PI6-309 RED LABEL AREA MATTING 117	
NAS CHAPEL 186	
SUBIC BAY TOTAL 824	

IWAKUNI PROJECTS

PROJ NO	TITLE	MANDAYS EXPENDED
JP3-822	PP&P FACILITY	9 .
JP5-327	GENERATOR SLABS	44
JP5-334	LOADING RAMP	77
JP5-804	SAR HELO PAD	44
JP6-803	CALIBRATION LAB	64
•	IWAKUNI TOTAL	238
0. 45		
	YOKOSUKA PROJECTS	
£.		
JP6-804	INDUSTRIAL ARTS BLDG	288
	YOKOSUKA TOTAL	288
1		
	ATSUGI PROJECTS	
: 00C	200 50 100222122	* ,
JP3-826	BOQ 58 MODERNIZATION	249
JP7-501	SHEETWALLS, HEADS	54
JP7-502	FENCE PWD	34
	ATSUGI TOTAL	337
Č.	MISAWA PROJECTS	
JP5-321	WAREHOUSE UPGRADE	82
	· NAF ADMIN DOORS	27
sŧ.	EMERGENCY FUEL SUPPLY	16
	MISAWA TOTAL	125
	_	

DIEGO GARCIA PROJECTS

PROJ NO.	TITLE . MA	NDAYS EXPENDED
RDS-71	DRILL WATER WELLS	356 .
DG5-440	CONCRETE BLOCK PLANT	315
RDS-58	RECREATION FACILITY	150
NCS-11	NCS SAND PIER	138
DG6-215	"C" SITE CLEANING	98
DG6-227	T-SITE/PLANTATION ROAD IMPROVEMENT	66
RDS-08	SHIP OFFLOAD	64
DG6-430	CRUSHER/QUARRY OPERATIONS SUPPORT	138
DG6-840	BEQ #6 SITE PREP	60
	DIEGO GARCIA TOTAL	1385
4 ,		
	BATTALION TOTAL	5026

FEB 77 - SEPT 77 DIEGO GARCIA PROJECTS

VERTICAL CONSTRUCTION

PROJ NO.	TITLE	MANDAYS EXPENDED
RDS-01	CAMP MAINTENANCE	4637
RDS-08	WATERFRONT OPS	4693
RDS-09	TEMP POL MAINT	422
RDS-16	TRANSMITTER FACILITY	5
RDS-27	AIR OPS BLDG	24
RDS-28	SUBSISTENCE BLDG	2180
RDS-29	ROADS PAVING	116
RDS-30	POL FACILITY	93
RDS-31	COLD STORAGE/GENL WHSE	9
RDS-37	BEQ #2	68
RDS-44	BEQ #3	1
RDS-45	MEDICAL BLDG	15
RDS-47	TRANSPORTATION BLDG	3
RDS-49	LAUNDRY FACILITY	285
RDS-50	EM CLUB	2277
RDS-51	NAVAL EXCHANGE	24
RDS-52	GYMNASIUM	248
RDS-53	SWIMMING POOL	1926
RDS-57	BOWLING ALLEY	3

PROJ NO.	TITLE	MANDAYS	EXPENDED
RDS-58	REC FACILITY	291	
RDS-70	ELEC DISTRIBUTION	107	
RDS-71FA	FINAL WATER CANTONMENT	2298	
RDS-71FB	FINAL WATER LAUNDRY	36	
RDS-71FC	CHARLIE SITE FINAL WATER	21	
RDS-71FG	FINAL WATER R SITE	92	
RDS-71FI	WELL DRILLING	1355	
RDS-78	CANTONMENT LANDSCAPING	175	
RDS-81	FILL BORROW PIT	27	
DG5-811	NO RNWY EXT	1873	
DG5-812	SO RNWY EXT	207	
DG6-253	MODULUX	897	
DG6-265	REX SENIOR BATCH PLANT	131	
DG6-269	NCS KWAJALEIN TRAILERS	6	
DG6-276	PORTA-KAMP PLANNING AND EREC	TION 1405	•0
DG6-291	ANTENNA REPLACEMENT T-SITE	86	
DG6-292	LANDSCAPE "C" SITE	4	
DG6-293	AUDIOMETER EXAM ROOM INST.	3	
DG6-294	HARBOR OPS SAND PIER	446	ş
DG6-295	WATER FOR SHIP INN	12	
DG6-297	"C" SITE BUILDING TEXCOAT	6	
DG6-298	"C" SITE CHILLER UNIT	44	
DG6-815	PARKING APRON EXPANSION	319	
DG6-830	POL SITE PREP	1765	
DG6-835	POL PIPING	77	
DG6-840	BEQ #6	1562	

PROJ NO.	TITLE	MANDAYS EXPENDED
DG6-841	BEQ #7	598
DG6-842	BEQ #8	. 496
DG6-846	BOQ #4	265
DG6-847	BOQ #5	2
DG6-850	TEMPORARY PIER	23
DG6-851	PERMANENT PIER	125
DG6-862	GENL STORAGE WHSE	172
DG6-876	UTILITIES DIST. WATER	7
DG7-878	UTILITIES SEWER/STORM DRAINS	5
9	* "	
	VERTICAL TOTAL	31,967

HORIZONTAL CONSTRUCTION

PROJ NO	TITLE	MANDAYS EXPENDED
RDS-05	CONCRETE BATCH PLANT OPS	. 788
RDS-16	TRANSMITTER FACILITY	8
RDS-28	SUBSISTENCE BLDG	66
RDS-29	ROADS PAVING	175
RDS-29M	ROADS MAINTENANCE	485
RDS-30	POL FACILITY	15
RDS-47	TRANS. BLDG	3
RDS-49	LAUNDRY FACILITY	134
RDS-50	EM CLUB	3
RDS-53	SWIMMING POOL	298
RDS-58	REC FACILITY	30
RDS-67	CEMENT SILO OPS	1032
RDS-70	ELECTRICAL DIST	10
RDS-71FA	FINAL WATER CANTONMENT	83
RDS-71FI	WELL DRILLING	_ 116 .
RDS-78	CANTONMENT LANDSCAPING	90
RDS-81	FILL BORROW PIT	43
DG5-811	NO RNWY EXT	520
DG5-812	SO RNWY EXT	104
DG6-253	MODULUX	54
DG6-265	REX SENIOR BATCH PLANT	5
DG6-276	PORTA KAMPS	110

PROJ NO.	TITLE	MANDAYS EXPENDED
DG6-282	DREDGE STOCKPILE RECOVERY	69
DG6-287	REMOVE SLABS AIR OPS	. 13
DG6-289	LANDSCAPE BOQ	13
DG6-292	LANDSCAPE "C" SITE	21
DG6-294	HARBOR OPS SAND PIER	295
DG6-430	TIDE HAUL SUPPORT	8
DG6-490	BEQ PRECAST OPS	7
DG6-815	PARKING APRON	802
DG6-830	POL SITE PREP	2474
DG6-840	BEQ #6	21
DG6-841	BEQ #7	25
DG6-842	BEQ #8	16
DG6-846	BOQ #4	20
DG6-847	BOQ #5	26
DG6-851	PERMANENT PIER	53
DG6-860	COLD STORAGE WHSE	94 .
DG6-862	GENL WHSE	234
DG6-878	UTILITIES SEWER/STORM DRAINS	24
	HORIZONTAL TOTAL =	8387
	DIEGO GARCIA DEPLOYMENT TOTAL	= 40,354
	FISCAL YEAR TOTAL	= 45,380

CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULES

PROJECT	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT
RDS-01 CAMP MAINTENANCE	- ARTON		67 7 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18	TO NOT THE TOTAL PROPERTY.		et et en		10 TO 10	
RDS-05 CONCRETE BATCH PLT OPS	\$ (an 1 an	ar salar ya kata	MALTA ECON	有数型不分数 	ev er e				
RDS-08 WATERFRONT OPERATIONS	21	क्षेत्रका इ		*	**************************************	200 . N		SAME AND	•
RDS-09 TEMP POL FACILITY MAINT									M
RDS-28/DG5-828 SUBSISTENCE BLDG	90%	HOUSE THE		the state of the		100%			
RDS-29 & 29M ROADS & PAVEMENT	Value of the last			ter terra					Mark Control
RDS-49 LAUNDRY AND LAGOON		řá.				57%		and the state of the	81%
RDS-50 CLUB BUILDING	62%			SAN TON SAN					999
RDS-53 SWIMMING POOL	2%						RESTRUCTION OF THE		85%
RDS-58 RECREATIONAL FACILITY				-		5%			85%
RDS-67 BULK CEMENT SILD O&M	46年64年					The second second	PROPERTY IN A PROPE	\$\$\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\	phistory of
RDS-70 ELECTRICAL DISTRIBUTION	-						-	10%	75%

PROJECT	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	ост
RDS-71FA FINAL WATER, CANTONMENT	6%			A IC OF TE			Edding Town	新华万里的	80%
RDS-71FB FINAL WATER LAUNDRY			,	70%	78%				
RDS-71FC FINAL WATER, CHARLIE SITE		1%			1.4 To 1.0 To 1.0	2%			
RDS-71FD FINAL WATER, AIR OPERATION)NS	9%		THE COMPANY OF SERVICE	99				
RDS-FG FINAL WATER, RECEIVER SI	E	0%				THE THE STATE OF T	4567	14-17-17-18-A-18-A	100%
RDS-71I DRILL WELLS		99%	100%						
RDS-78 LANDSCAPE CANTONMENT	*				-	FATE WYA			
DG5-811 NORTH RUNWAY EXTENSION	70%	North Aught in							92%
DG6-265 ERECT BATCH PLANT		85%			100%				
DG6-276 PORTA-KAMP ERECTION			9%	this source			MARKEN	WARRING STATE	79%
DG6-282 PT. MARIANNE DREDGE REC			T Piles Tell				E	Rain and Spar	亚基础内相同
DG6-253 CONSTRUCT BEQs (MODULAR)	* •			0 %					49%

PROJECT	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT
DG6-289 LANDSCAPE BOQ AREA	100		0%	ૄૺૹૢૺૢૼ૽ૣ૽૽ૺ૱ઌૡૢ <u>૱ૺ</u> ૺૺ		100%			
DG6-294 . CONSTRUCT PIER						0%		100%	
DG6-298 CHARLIE SITE CHILLER	¥ N	8 1				:		0% 100%	•
DG6-815 PARKING APRON	53 %	Press, of Press, Spinster,	or described		Carrier and a			estas en Solt.	72%
DG6-830 POL TANK PREPARATION	6%	unamental				Permit a susceptibility	and the second state of the	Section of the section of	54%
DG6-840 BEQ #6	9%		of a select subject of	Valenti Suite	MALL FOR				24%
DG6-841 BEQ #7	4%	Revision (Association)				E THE STREET		的 10 mm 10	10%
DG6-842 BEQ #8	0%	Parate Halanca	Maria Maria (Mes)		SAME CONTRACT		The Land of the La	gmeter (Marie Marie	7%
DG6-846 BOQ #4	8%	TO THE WALL	11%		25				
DG6-847 BOQ #5	0%	THE PLANT OF	1%						
DG6-860 COLD STORAGE WHSE SITE PR	EP						0%	6	100%
DG6-862 GEN. STORAGE WHSE SITE PR	FD					0%		100%	

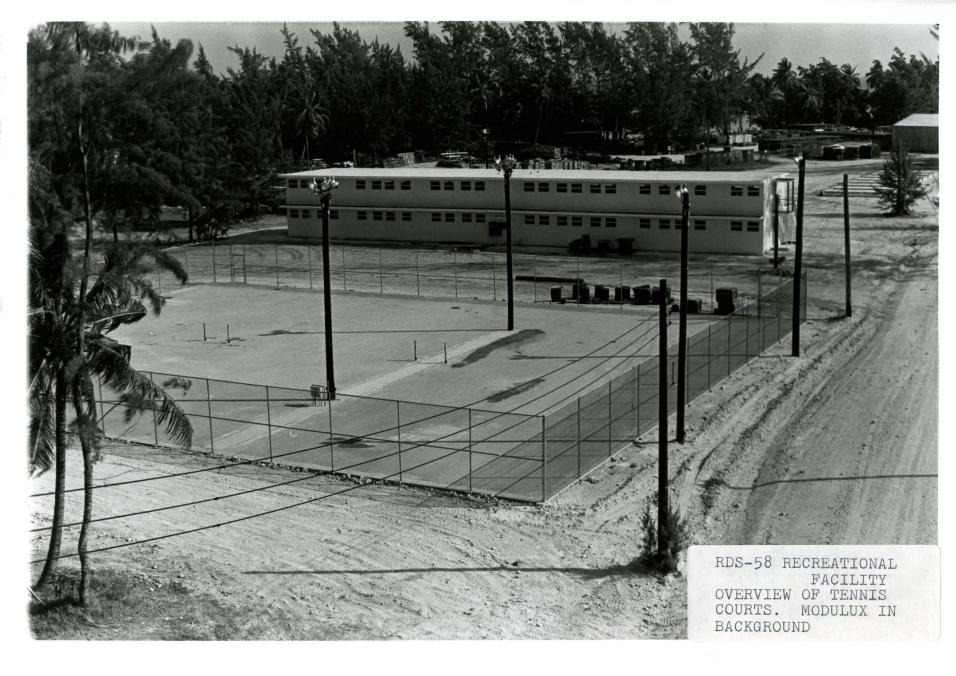
		i i						4-1	
PROJECT	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT
DG6-878 UTILITIES/SEWERS							. 10		Sections
DG6-293 AUDIOMETRIC EXAM ROOM	-		2000 Alle						1
DG6-292 LANDSCAPE C SITE		*1	3500 直转标准约约			:			
DG6-287 ALTER AIR OPS		E	E. C. S.			3			
DG6-291 ANTENNA RPMT, T SITE	0%	100%							
DG6-295 WATER SERVICE BRIT CLUB						0% 100%			
DG5-812 SOUTH RUNWAY EXTENSION	4%		5%						
PUNCHLIST				PARTIES SHEET		RESERVE HAVE SAME			
	β±					-			
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	5.~							8	

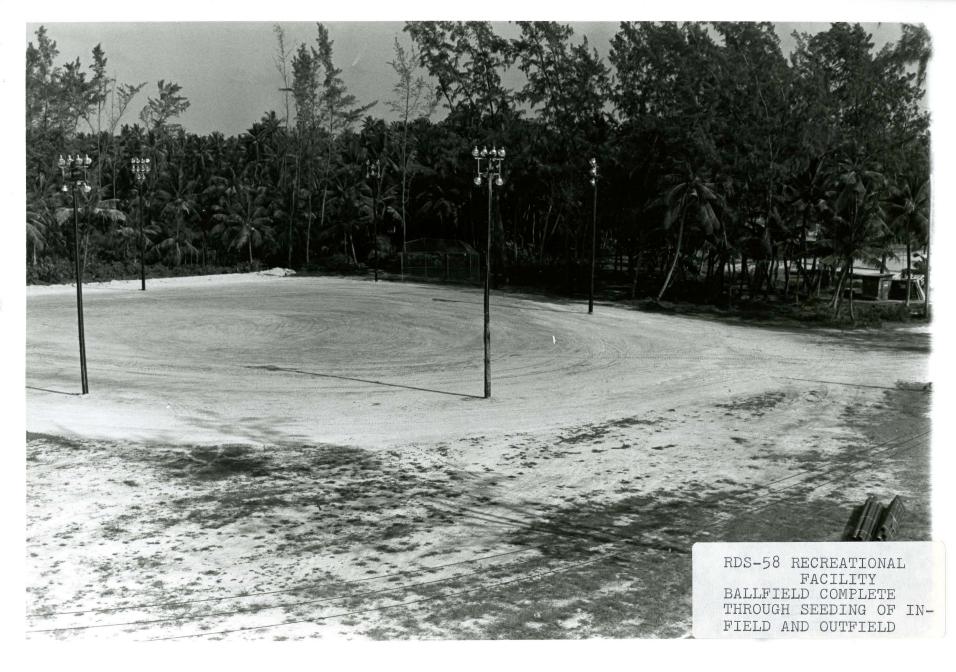
DEPLOYMENT PHOTOGRAPHS



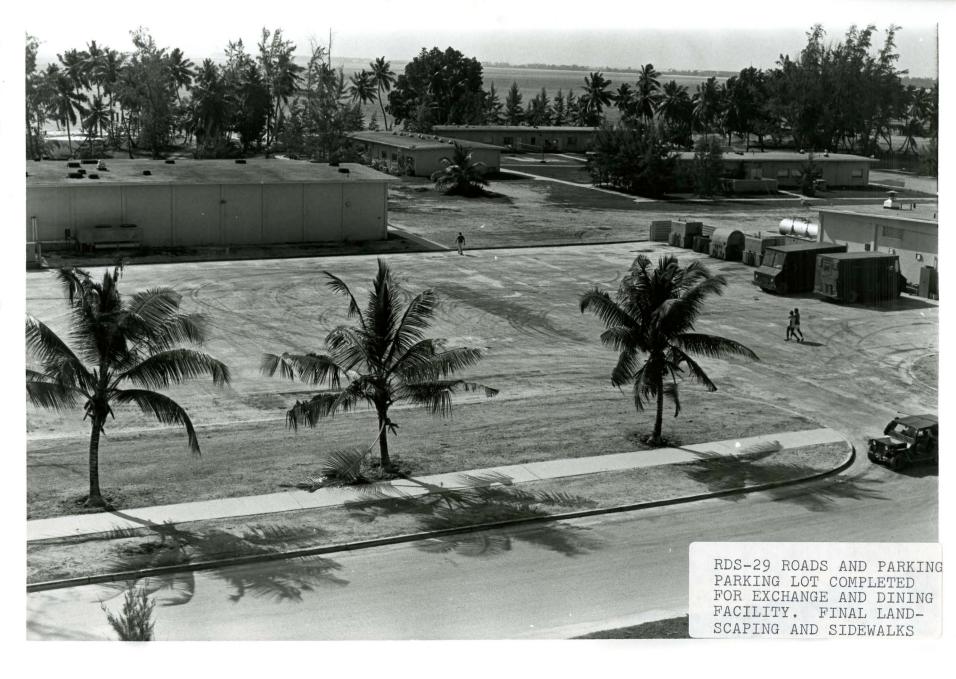




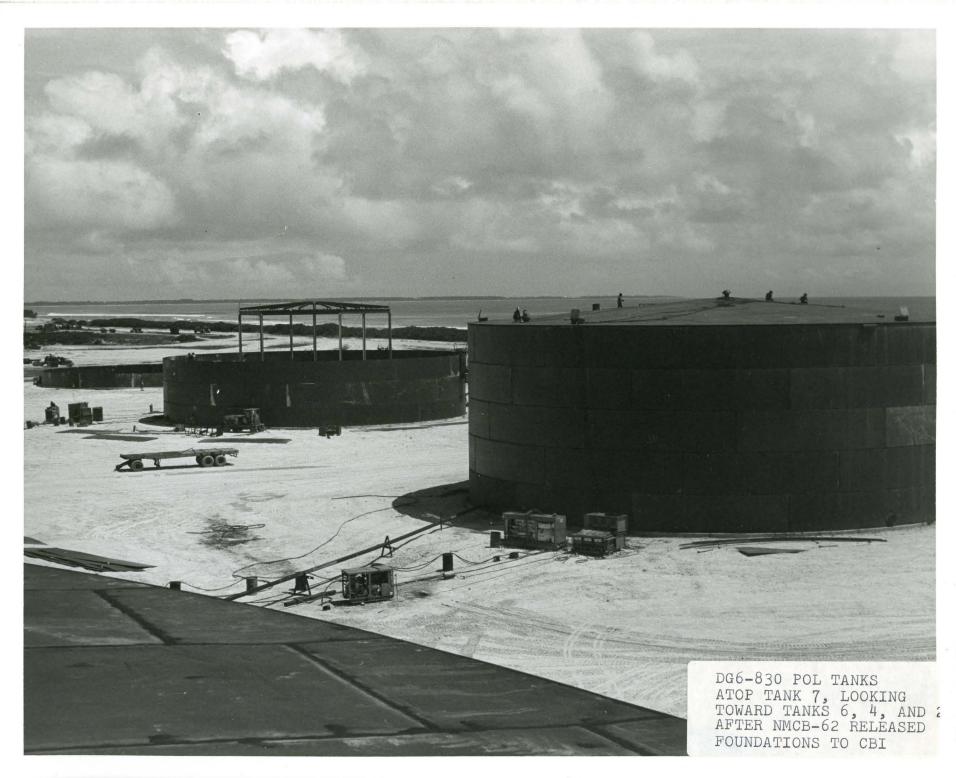


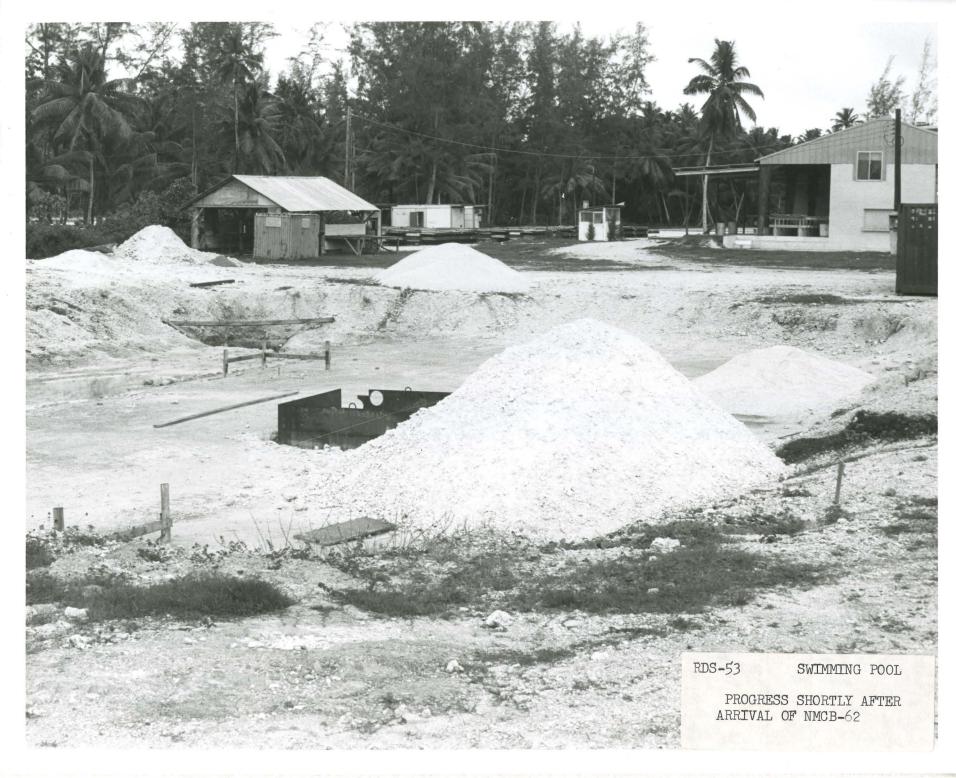


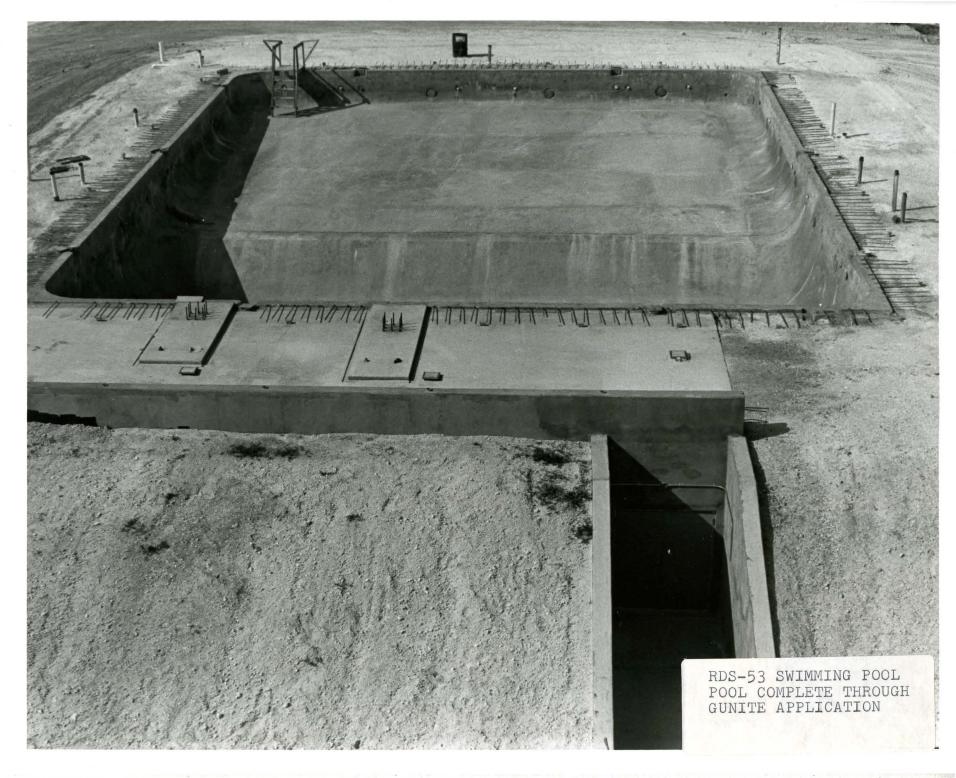


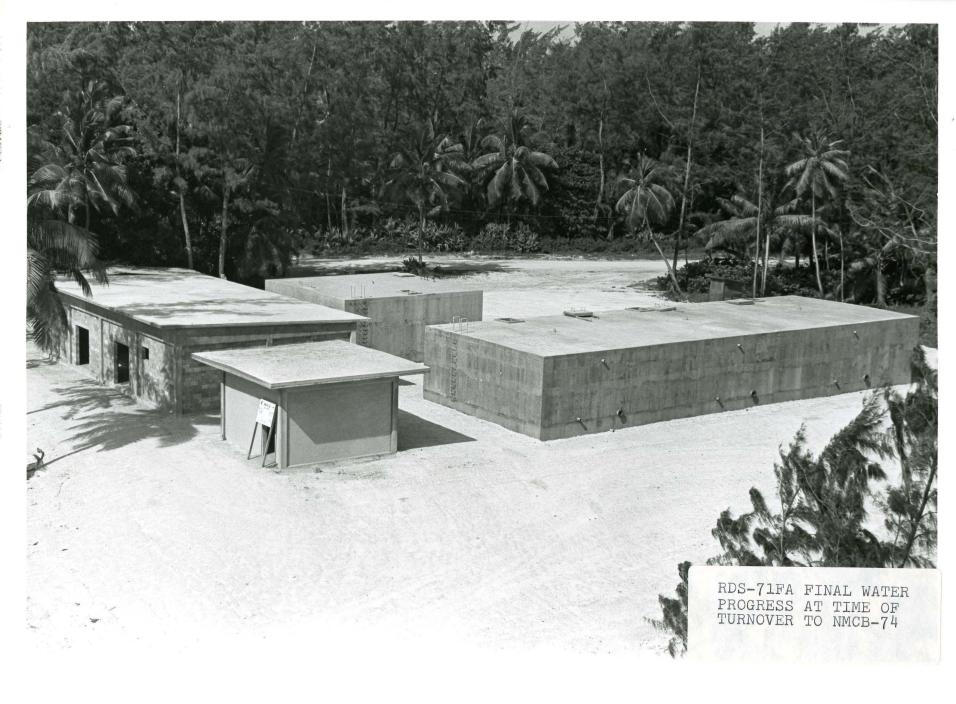










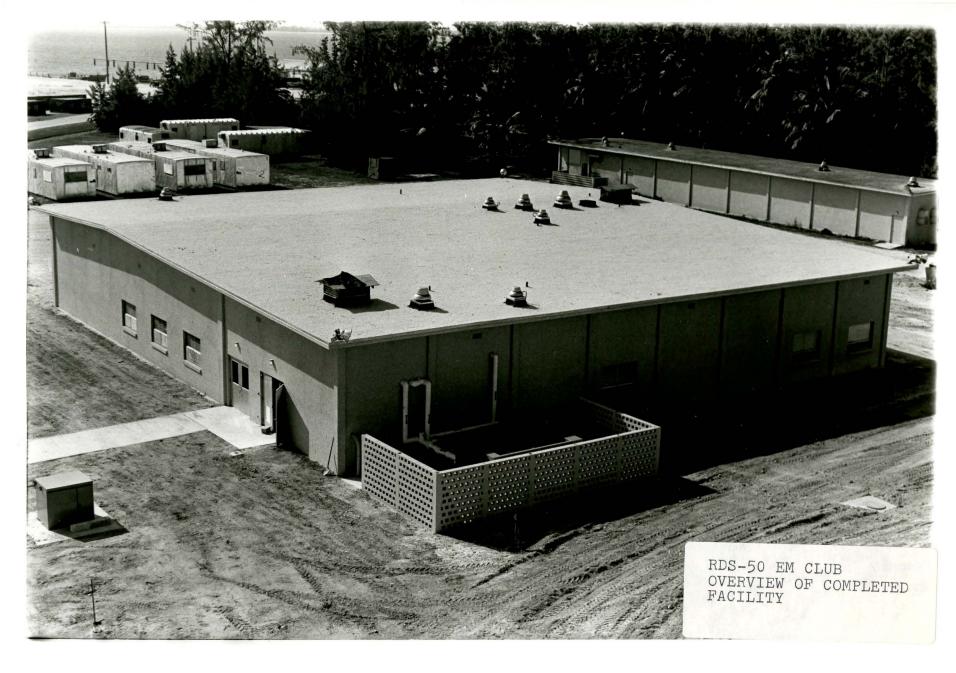












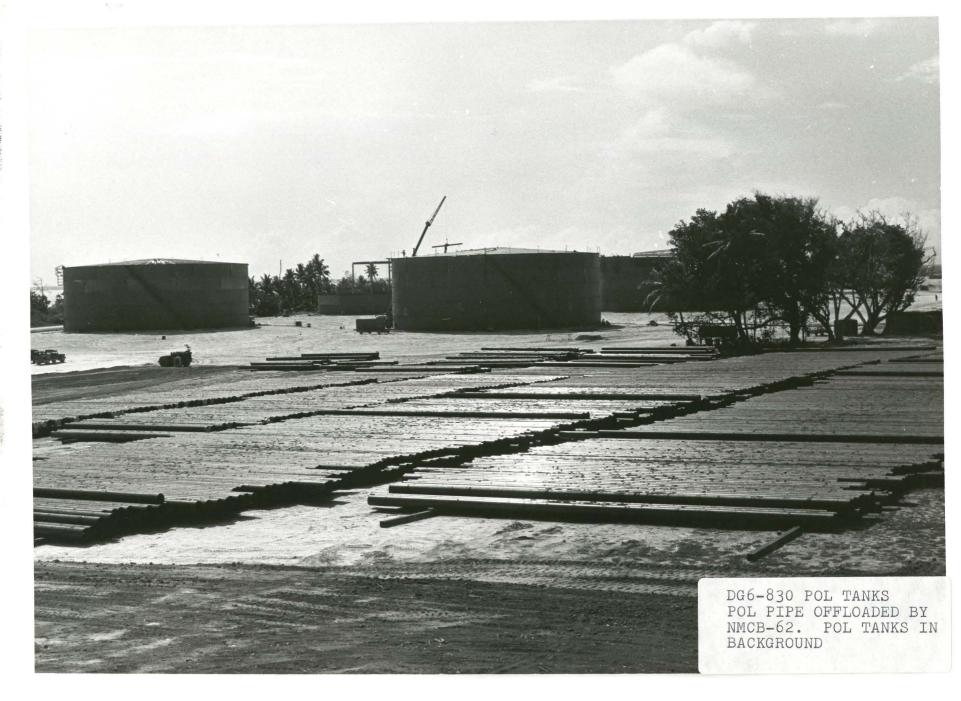










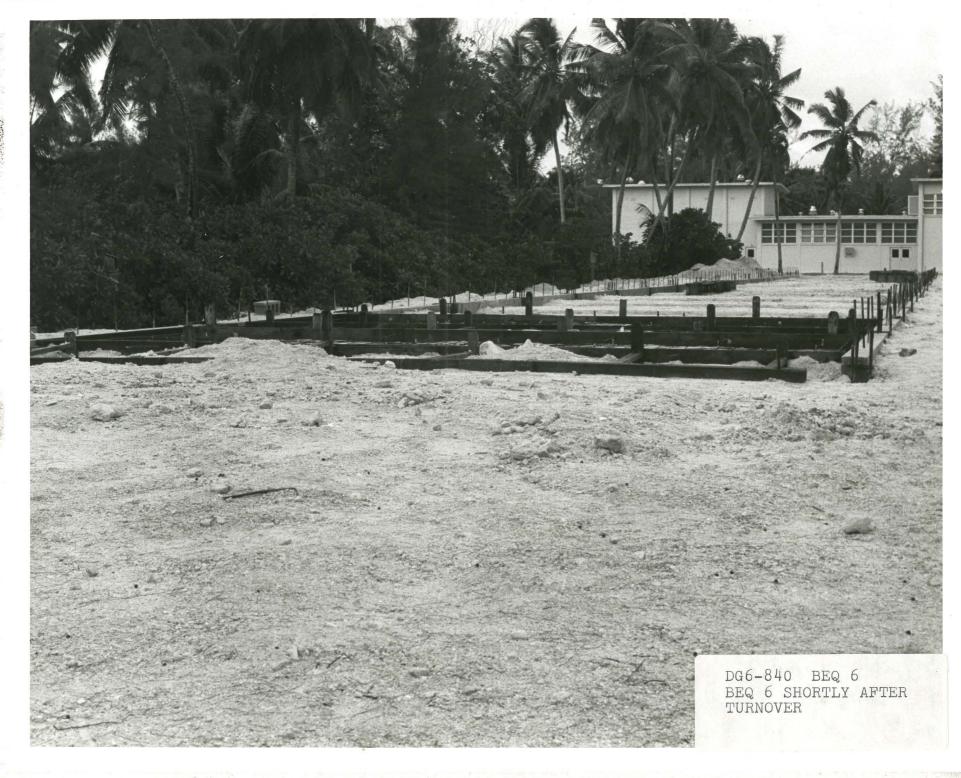
















From: Commander, Naval Construction Battalions, U. S. Atlantic

Fleet, Naval Amphibious Base, Little Creek, Norfolk, VA

To: Commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command

Subj: 1977 Peltier Award; nomination for

Encl: (1) Deployment Summary

(2) Homeport Summary

(3) Statistical Information

- 1. Commander Naval Construction Battalions, U. S. Atlantic Fleet nominates U. S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion SIXTY-TWO for the 1977 Peltier Award. The basis for this nomination is the accomplishment of an eminently successful deployment to Diego Garcia, British Indian Ocean Territory. The superlative performance of NMCB SIXTY-TWO serves as striking evidence of a thorough homeport planning and training period, followed by what can only be described as outstanding leadership and construction management at all levels, throughout a truly productive deployment.
- 2. Identifying characteristics of this superb construction battalion are the exceptionally high morale and esprit of its personnel, dedication to perfection in all phases of its operations, quality and quantity of its construction, and its reputation for significantly improving facilities, equipment and supply functions at each deployment site it has occupied.
- The Diego Garcia deployment is unique to the Naval Construction Force in several respects. With the exception of one small detachment, the entire battalion was on-site, and performed not only construction, but also contributed to selfsupport and support of the Island Command by providing diverse services. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion SIXTY-TWO is recognized for specific accomplishments during this deployment: completion of eight, 80,000 barrel fuel oil tank foundations two months ahead of schedule, avoiding adverse impact on the tank erection contractor; construction of a swimming pool from ground breaking through guniting; initiation and completion of all structural work on a water treatment plant building and 150,000 gallon concrete water tank; a massive airfield construction project including earthwork, soil cement, concrete pavement, culverts, lighting duct and bases, and finish work; a tilt-up concrete wall BEQ project; start and completion of an 80 man barracks project, consisting of the re-erection of a two-story pre-engineered modulux building; design and completion of a 180 foot long pier; and completion of a permanent modern dining facility and a new

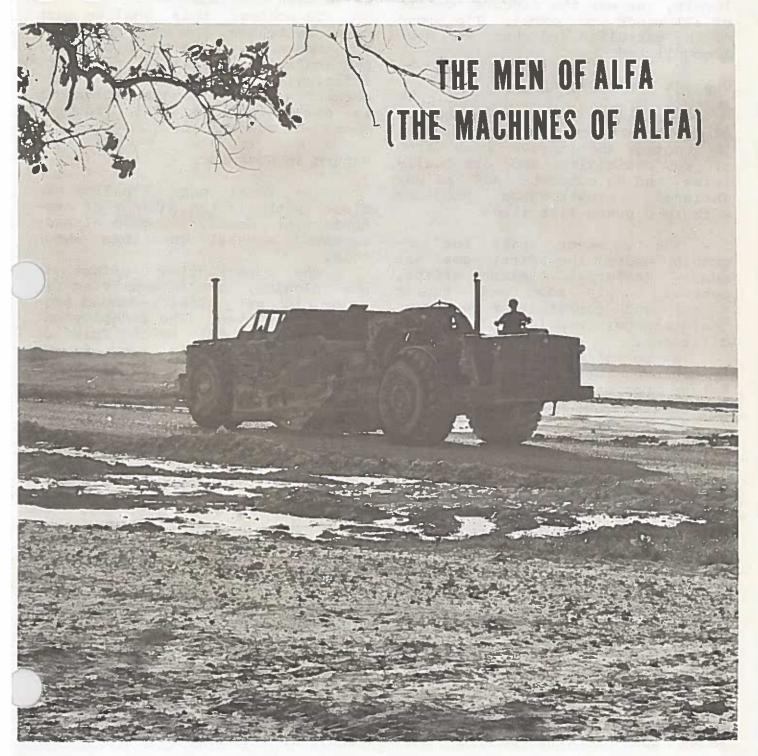
enlisted men's club. Enclosure (1) contains a detailed description of the battalion's accomplishments on these, and other construction projects. In a support role, the battalion operated two concrete batch plants, off-loaded four ships, operated and maintained the island water plant, manned and operated the fire station, and provided all personnel support and maintenance services for an 850-man Seabee Camp. The battalion also operated and maintained the largest complement of active Civil Engineer Support Equipment (540 items) in the Naval Construction Force, reducing the deadline rate to the lowest level (3.5%) in both the Atlantic and Pacific Fleets.

- 4. This successful deployment did not happen without superb preparation, planning and internal support. The battalion's accomplishments in these areas are depicted in enclosures (2) and (3).
- 5. It is with great pride that Commander Naval Construction Battalions, U. S. Atlantic Fleet selected Naval Mobile Construction Battalion SIXTY-TWO as "Best of Type", and nominates this truly superlative organization for the fiscal year 7T/77 Peltier Award.

J. P. JONES, Jr.

seabeacon

NMCB Sixty-Two The "Minutemen"



CO: LET'S CONTINUE "OUTSTANDING"

The "outstanding" success of NMCB 62 on the Operational Readiness Inspection is now history. We did it because we wanted to and had the ability. Good, solid leadership was evident at all levels, as was the sincere desire of all hands to excel. I'm proud of the battalion and what we have accomplished.

Upgrade and improve

Our stated goals for the deployment are really quite simple: to upgrade and improve each area of responsibility and our facilities, and to complete all of our assigned construction projects with zero punch list items.

The two major areas for upgrading under the first goal are supply (material liaison office, central supply room and repair parts) and construction equipment (maintenance, repair and shop facilities).

We're making a special effort to achieve these goals so vital to future performance of the Naval Construction Force here.

Wrapping up

Under the second goal, the principal emphasis is to wrap up the old projects that have been dragging on for years (dining facility, enlisted men's club, swimming pool, recreation facility, laundry and punch list work); to finish projects which affect and relate to other organizations (parking apron, north runway extension and POL facility); complete work on utilities (final water cantonment and Camp Cummins electrical power distribution).

In addition to these projects, we are expected to complete some high-priority support projects such as the Modulux bar-

racks, Kwajelein trailers & portahuts, which will expand and improve the island's living quarters; some Camp Cummins improvement projects; and a few Naval Communication Station projects we've been assigned.

To achieve this goal we must continue to use the best construction management practices we know; particularly detailed planning, efficient use of all available persons, and tremendous foresight in evaluating material requirements and availablity.

Return in November

One final note I'd like to close with is the subject of redeployment dates. I have already received several questions about this.

The construction effort in not slowing, but intensifying is order to get already-funded projects completed. The redeployment date has been set by the Chief of Naval Operations as Nov. 1. I envision nothing in the foreseeable future that will change that; therefore, you can expect to be home between Nov. 1 and 3, depending on the type of flight contract that's arranged.

The advance party, size and composition to be determined much later in the deployment, should normally leave about Oct. 15. So don't be a rumor-spreader, and worse yet, don't get your loved ones' hopes or anxieties up back home by passing on rumors.

Get the most out of your tour on Diego Garcia and from the battalion -- participate, get involved; also, learn and set your goals on self-improvement. It will pay off smartly. All of us want to gohome with a sense of pride in ou individual and collective accomplishments this deployment. Let's always work toward that end.

CAREFUL PLANS HELP ALFA COMPANY MEET ITS UPHILL CHALLENGE

From the early days of homeport, it was obvious that Alfa
Company faced a monumental workload in its forthcoming deployment
to Diego Garcia. The horizontal
construction tasking was the largest encountered at any deployment
site in recent years, and the inventory of equipment to be operated and maintained was double the
normal battalion allowance.

Careful planning

From the information received in homeport about the pending deployment, careful planning went into project scheduling, manpower distribution, and specialized training.

Despite the short homeport,
Alfa Company successfully met its
lanning and training objectives,
nd departed for Diego Garcia

fully confident of its ability to meet the challenges ahead.

Equipment status

Arriving here with the advance party on Jan. 27 this year, 110 of our men went to work "BEEPing" over 500 items of construction and automotive equipment in less than two weeks.

Repair work

Improvement in the equipment picture has been tedious but steady. Nonetheless, the maintenance department has gained control of the situation under the leadership of CWO3 Del Herron, equipment manager, and Senior Chief Construction Mechanic Clyde Medlock, maintenance supervisor.

Still facing an uphill climb, they are confident of success.



Alfa Company's Big Three: EQCM Jess Hilborn (Additional duty from 30th NCR), Ensign Joe Cuccu and Lieutenant Ray Pylant.

Administrative staff

Alfa Company is a large and diverse organization. Its 200 men make up one-third of the battalion. With \$30 million worth of equipment assets to manage, maintain, and make constructive use of, the workload is great.

The company commander, Lieutenant Ray Pylant, is assisted in his duties by two officers and a master chief petty officer.

Ensign Joe Cuccu, assistant company commander, is heavily occupied with company administration, coordinating equipment and project reporting, handling personnel matters, and a wide variety of special assignments.

Chief Warrant Officer Del Herron, as equipment manager, is deeply involved in coordinating the activities of the maintenance and transportation divisions. His department must provide support to the total Naval Construction Force on Diego Garcia, and set priorities for the maintenance efforts.

EQCM Hilborn, on an additional duty assignment from the 30th Naval Construction Regiment detachment here, is serving as a key advisor to the company commander on equipment management and personnel matters.

Up to challenge

With the tremendous construction workload here, and an uphill climb to maintain construction equipment in serviceable status, our challenge is great

The men of Alfa Company are up to the challenge, and confident of their ability to make this a highly successful deployment.



E01 Gary Henzen, Wang computer operator for Alfa company.



CWO Del Herron, Alfa Company Equipment Manager.



Left: E02 Steven McCaleb, company career counselor, training and em-

bark petty officer. Below: E03 Glen Oaks, company

clerk.

Bottom: Chief Construction Mech-

anic Clifford Vantine.



CHIEF VANTINE HAS A "HEAVY" CREW

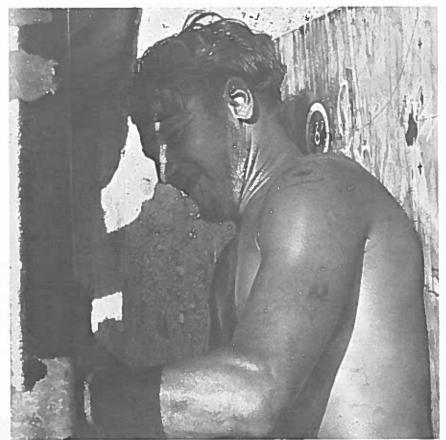
Heavy shop

The heavy equipment shop of Alfa company, led by Chief Construction Mechanic Clifford Vantine, takes care of equipment essential to horizontal construction, a vital task indeed. Over 60% of Sixtv-Two's assets in equipment qualify for treatment by the "heavy" shop.





CMCN Sid Gatlin and CMCA Philip Wilhite work together on a TD-20 bulldozer.



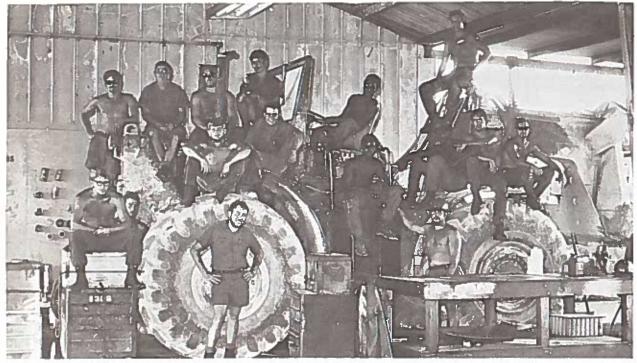
EOCN Dean Sheppard checks out a cranky TS-24 transmission.



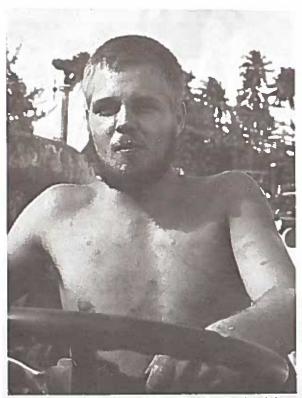
CM3 Bill Christiansen puts his muscles to the task at hand.



EOCN Dan Lester and EO3 Jeff Peterson repair a rough terrain forklift.



Heavy Shop Crew Top row: CM3 Tom Wiggins, CM2 Jeffrey Granberry, CMCA Duck" Schloemer, CM3 Tom Pikul, CM3 Ardar Hicks, CMCN Ken Kean. Middle: CM3 Lee Kean, CM2 Al Netter, CMCN Walter Reynolds, CM3 Andy Mouton, CMCA Sid Gatlin, CM3 Gary Sock. Bottom: CM3 Bill Christiansen, EOCN Dean Sheppard, CM1 Dane Nelson, CM3 Charlie Glass.



CMCN Mark Rahall



CM3 Charlie Glass, heavy shop bloor supervisor.

CHAPLAIN PEPPER ON KEEPING IN TOUCH

partments make ready directives necessary to make the deployment Your friendly MARS outfit. complete. The advance party arrives before the main body to receive equipment and supplies which remain at the deployment site. Messages go back and forth between Diego Garcia, Okinawa, Rota, Gulfport and Port Hueneme. Good communication is essential.

Being halfway around the world from the Gulf Coast, communication is an important subject with individual Seabees as well as the command in general. Diego Garcia is, by any method of computation, a long way from home. When the C-141 comes in on Wednesdays and Saturdays, mail call carefully listened for over radio and television. The man who doesn't get a letter feels (pick one): angry, disappointed, frustrated, hurt, rejected, appprehensive, forgotten, mistreated, unloved, or ignored. The negative feelings take a little longer to describe.

Fortunately, there are usually other ways besides letters to communicate with family and friends back the U.S.A., or elsewhere in the world. A Class Easy message is much like a Western Union telegram or night letter; four dollars for 100 words or less, three cents a word over It's good for getting information across, an answer to your question, or yours to her question.

Yet, there is nothing like hearing the voice of the party on the other end of the line. Cassette tapes through the mail are good, and a great bargain, but they are so one way! You can't ask to hear more about the cat that inged its fur when the house caught on fire!

For the best, most satisfying

When Seabees deploy, all de- method of communication, we are left with "How are you...over?"

> These people volunteer to spend their evenings, which often run into the wee hours of the morning, trying to get your calls through to Spokane, Omaha, Gulfport, Cape Cod or anywhere between.

> Another crew works on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings, calling through Hawaii. These men don't get special pay or other incentives. They do it because it needs doing. They get complaints about not starting earlier or working later. They get a lot of abuse from us when the call can't get through -- something which is entirely out of their hands.

> Do you use MARS? About calls a month say MARS is well used, but many of these are by the same persons. Even at this rate, occcasional announcements are made over AFDG radio saying there is a signal up through one or two areas, there is no waiting list and so on.

> A chief complaint is: don't like saying things everyone can hear. My conversation is private." But the alternatives are few and they fail to satisfy as well. If saying "over" after each question or comment bugs you, consider it a small price to pay for hearing the voice of a loved one come back with an "I LOVE YOU, OVER!"

> Morale is high whenever the word is passed and we are kept informed about what is happening. This is true with information about our families, too. One of the best ways to keep the word straight between home and here is a call via MARS. The next time you have a chance, see what "I love you...over" does for your spirits.

CHIEF WILLIAMS' MEN KEEP IT "LIGHT"

Light shop

Chief Construction Mechanic James Williams and Construction Mechanic First Class Bernard Crha spearhead work in the light equipment shop. Their crew maintains and repairs automotive-type equipment, such as jeeps, buses, cargo trucks and dump trucks. Without the dedicated efforts of this group, personnel movement would eventually come to a standstill.



CM3 Henry Decker of the light shop crew.



CMC James Williams, light shop supervisor; CMCN Joe Olivo and CM1 Bernard Crha, assistant supervisor.



Light Shop Crew: Top row: CM3 Warren Sprague, CMCN Jim Perri, CM3 Mike Tejeda, CMCA Bob Ignasiak. Middle: CM3 Garth Lee, CM3 Henry Decker, CMCN Steve Maday, CMCN Joe Olivo, CM3 Gary Almon, CM3 Bill Rachubinski, CMCN Greg Gibbs, CMC James Williams. Bottom: CM2 James Bradley (NMCB 5), CM1 Bernard Crha, CM3 Dennis Turner.



CM3 Turner, a new arrival, hones cylinder walls while re-building an engine.

Concentrating on his work, CMCN Warren Sprague packs wheel bearings with grease.



XO: "WE'RE WORKING TOGETHER; DON'T LET COMPLACENCY ERODE OUR EFFORTS

In the previous Seabeacon, I discussed the idea of communicating and getting along with shipmates. That is, caring about the other guy and appreciating his problems. In the two months that NMCB 62 has called Diego Garcia its temporary home, it has become plainly evident that Minutemen are working together and helping each other.

Maintain excellence

It is totally unreasonable to think that we could have achieved the success that we did on the ORI without every man in the chain doing his level-best (100%). All hands pulled their share of the load; many others put out that extra effort which resulted in numerous individual functional areas being commendably noted by the inspectors.

But these accomplishments are meaningless if we let up and be content to rest on our laurels. How many times have you heard of a top-ranking team, meeting every

challenge offered by its toughest competitors, suddenly falling prey in a crushing defeat to a non contender? The reason: complacency.

It happens often, but can be avoided. We must take stock right now to avoid the cancer of comshould set our placency. We sights on improving our strengths and correcting the deficiencies Most impornoted in the ORI. tantly, we must make sure that due care is given to the daily basics-fundamentals, as the coaches say-of uncompromising safety, quality production, professional opment, sound planning, high sanitation standards, a sparkling camp, a second-to-none galley spirited battalion competition.

These are the foundations upon which we can continue to build on a traditional high standard of excellence. We know what we have to do--- press ahead and improve on a tremendous start to this deployment.



Captain J. A. Wright, CEC, USN, COMCBPAC Chief of Staff, inspects the Minutemen accompanied by Cdr. C. E. Fegley III, CO NMCB-62, during the Operational Readiness Inspection (ORI). The battalion was graded outstanding not only in the personnel inspection, but also for the entire ORI.

KICKER, MAIN CHIEF MUSCARELLO HISSUPPORT SHOPS ARE MANY



Chief Hull Technician Vincent Muscarello directs the support shops of Alfa company.

Supporting shops

Several support shops assist the heavy and light shops in their work. Chief Hull Technician Vincent Muscarello directs many necessary support functions and shops: machinerv repair (MRI Darrell Hopps), 5000 repair (CMI Johnny Dixon), steel (SW3 John Harriman), electric (CFI George Penny), paint and body, and tire.

Of special note are the efforts of Chief Construction Mechanic William Sutton, assistant maintenance supervisor, in managing the cost control office.

The work of our field maintenance crews, those men who cover a multitude of field-level repairs, is also to be noted.



Machine Repair: MR2 John Hanson and MR1 Darrell Hopps stand by their favorite piece of machinery.



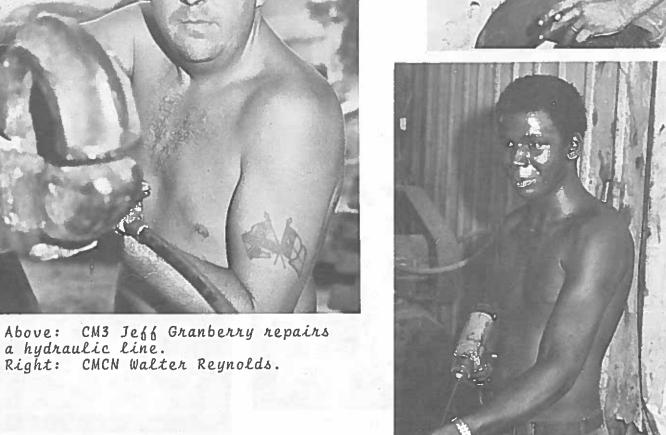
MR2 C. M. Haines.



5,000 Repair: CE3 Bill Barillaro, CMCN Joe Martin and CM2 Eligio Abueme are specialists in non-automotive equipment.

CM3 Charlie Zeimet of 5,000 repair.









Left: Steel Shop: SW2 Jon Harriman, SW3 Kenneth Harmon and SWCN Glen Rogers.

Below: Tire Shop: EOCA Rick Carter, EOI Ken Jackson, EOCN David

Rushton.



Below: CMCN "Butch" Newell runs the paint and body shop.



The men at Cost Control: CMCA Tony Scheiman, EOCA Brian Laursen, CM1 Bob Lang, CMC William Sutton, assistant maintenance supervisor; CM1 Jim Whitlow, cost control supervisor for Alfa company.

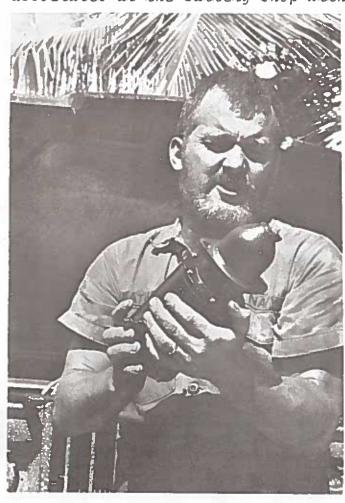


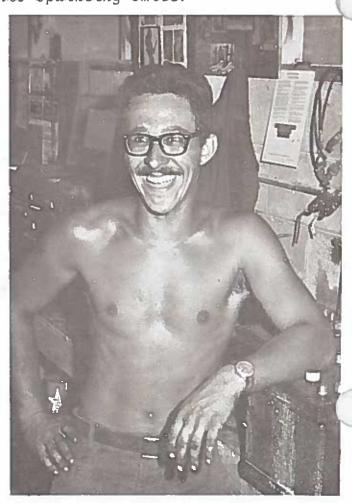


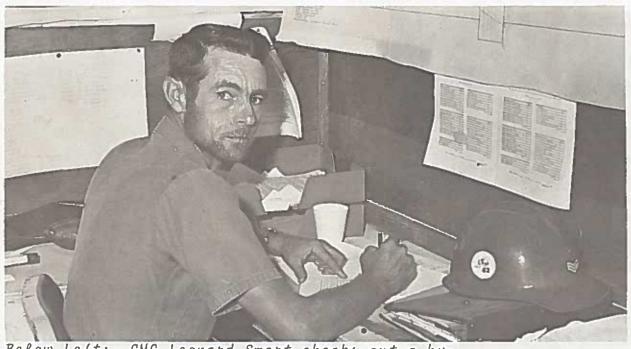
Above: Haul Crew at Point Marianne: EOCN Brent Willey, EOCN David Link, EOCN Keith Barrett, EO3 Ron Krejocic and (above) EOCN

Dennis Straight. Below Left: Fie Field truck driver CM2 Bruce Mathes inspects a new

starter before installation.
Below Right: CECN Doug Caporale keeps the morale up among his associates at the battery shop with his sparkling smile.







Below Left: draulic line. CMC Leonard Smart checks out a hy-

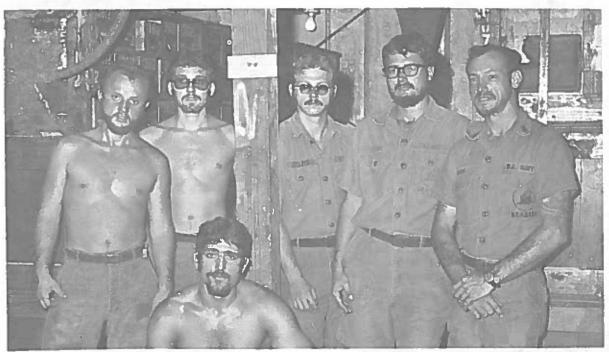
Above: E01 Lyle Wilterdink heads up Alfa company's cantonment area crew.
Below Right: Leading the crane crew through another task is E01 Tom Wingate.







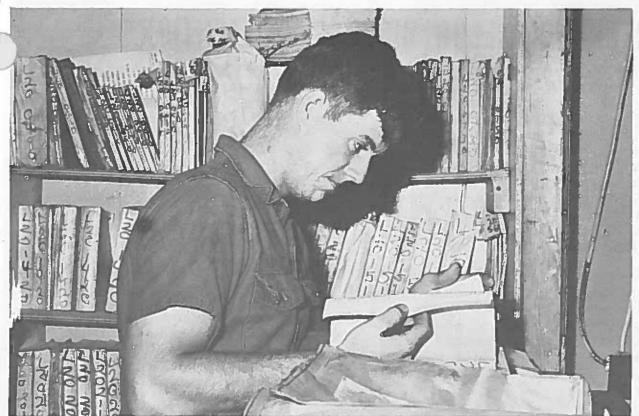
Keeping track of which parts are in and which ones out is BU3 Don Scheet.



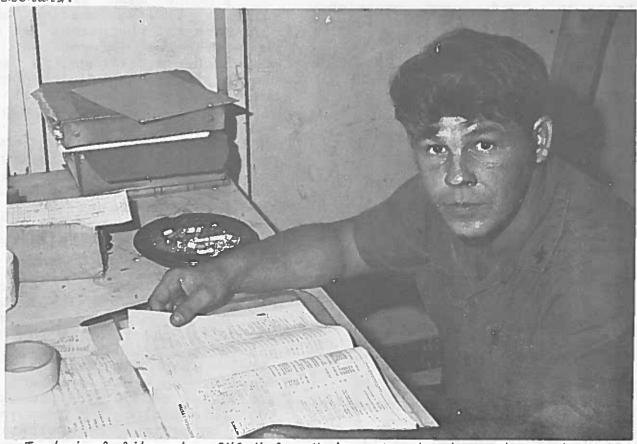
Working with BU3 Scheet at the Automotive repair parts warehouse are EOCH Larry Day, BUCN Jeff Ackerman, CM3 Jim Volpone, BU3 Jim Sheldon, SK3 Bill Selzer and SK1 Theodore Payne, the POIC.

SK1 Theodore Payne heads automotive repair parts. For his outstanding service in this area, he recently received the "Seabee of the Month" award. SK1 Fayne has worked with 6101 the last three deployments, and is well-acquainted with the procedures of his job. His expertise contributed to the outstanding grade given to the supply department.





A stack of parts catalogs back up CMCA Greg McKenzie in the technical library.



Technical librarian CM2 Myles Hudson tracks down the numbers of parts Seabees need.

CAREER COUNSELOR DISCUSSES RETENTION

The major role in today's critical importance. Also, we want to keep those who have demonstrated proficiency and leadership in other occupational fields to keep them up to speed.

Informing personnel

My job is to help provide a means by which the Navy can fulfill its obligation to keep all personnel properly and adequately informed; to provide better career guidance · so an individual may make full use of his talents while serving.

He should be able to get the maximum amount of benefits, training, and good experience. These advantages help to increase good will and respect for the Navy on the part of each member leaving the service.

"Ambassadors" to civilians

Hopefully, a satisfied individual will become a Navy "ambassador" in the civilian community, telling his friends about the advantages of a service career.

When a man separates, he is encouraged to actively participate in the Naval Reserve. Additionally, local recruiters these individuals, and encourage them to re-enlist. Many times, a man has second thoughts about ending his Navy career and decides to join up again.

Experience has demonstrated that successful retention efforts depend on a dynamic organization actively supported at each level of command.

Imaginative career informacareer counseling program is to tion programs are a key to reprocure on a long-term basis the tention. It is my business to largest amount of qualified per- suggest these programs, and offer sonnel trained in occupations of them to every successful man in the hattalion.

MCPOC: LET'S KEEP THE WORD MOVING

As I move around the command sometimes with the Captain and other times alone, I find petty officers occasionally asking questions about command policy, special services and just general questions on everyday routine.

I don't mind the questions. In fact, I like hearing them so I'll know in what areas we should put out more information. does bother me, though, is many of the questions have often been answered before. That suggests that we've got to do better communicating and listening. chain-of-command is an important part of any organization; we need it to function efficiently. It's everybody's job to communicate; all hands must put forth their best effort to ensure effective communication so the battalion may perform its mission.

We all have to look at our place in the chain-of-command: who do we report to and who reports to us? The word must be passed to all hands, all of the time. That one per cent which important could doesn't appear seriously affect the few who need that information but may not get Battalion communication is the key to success; let's keep the word moving up AND down.



BUI Wayne Berry gets a handshake from Cdr. C. E. Fegley III, after completing a 38-mile walkathon for Navy Relief in the record time of eight hours and 55 minutes.



The Minutemen of Diego Garcia are entertained from time to time by USO shows touring the area. Shown above are three members of the group "Chain Reaction."



A muzzle-loading cannon which sits in the quadrangle area got a new carriage when the old one collapsed. BU2 Don Wilson constructed the carriage taken from illustrations contained in a textbook of naval history.

Long before morning treads
the eastern edge
of India's ocean
Turk is flat on his back
at the light equipment shop
hands full of grease
he curses the sweat filling his eyes

Above his head
a sleeping truck looms
dozing in disrepair
quiet for days now
Turk struggles to give it life
and thinks
(now is the time for this machine
to get moving
and later is the time for me
to get some sleep

The sun and the sea including the tide they never take a break on an endless run through time and space (24 hours has no meaning for them)

And so Alfa company follows hook line and anchor spinning night and day night and day realizing the difference between noon and midnight is only the difference in spelling

When the men of day dream at night of farmhouses
Spanish music
Oriental dinners
and sun-drenched beaches
along with wives foved ones
and other friends
whom await their return--

The men of night work beneath vehicle hoods strain against the seight of faulty transmissions tighten bolts and clean dirty pistons

As the stars witness
the passing of midnight
Jim is in the repair parts warehouse
(balcony section)
staring down a line of starters

that have yet to start
"Here, bubba! Catch this!"
his partner downstairs winces
but Jim just laughs and loads
the heavy starter on his cart
and goes for another
and another

The great cement siles hold their own against the awesome array of stars in the background they fill the haul trucks down below with magic powder that one day will support entire buildings or gigantic oil tanks

The haul driver dusts himself off buns a smoke from a friend and pulls away with his load of cement down Highway Number One, Diego Garcia no red lights no busy intersections only bobbing headlights isolated by the night they search out the path laid down through ancient green jurgle while the driver concentrates on the turn up ahead while his hand shifts into third and his wristwatch hand journeys past the hour of one and then two and then loses track (or is it count?)

Buckets of rain drench this coral horseshoe with its howling wind bodyguard but Hector and his crew pretend to be at work during a mild spring evening rain is good or rain is bad but to Hector's crew it makes no difference a job is a job is a chore to be finished as long as the machines run.... so will they...wet or dry Hector lights his pipe again and dawn paints his face a tired gray "Come on in, men! Call it a day!" with or without the sun the night is just another day for the night crew of Alfa

--PMC/24 May 1977





NIGHT CREW



Top Left: CM2 Jim Barry helps to upgrade the automotive repair parts warehouse on the night crew.

Top Right: EOCN Terry Tompkins and E03 Clyde yle lubricate a TS-24 scraper at the POL te. These giant machines haul coral and sand fill for use in the earthwork operations Above: E01 Hector Roberts, leader of the night shift at POL.



CMCA Robert Leese is the night shift technical librarian.



CM3 Richard Stefanacci is hard at work under the hood of a 11/4-ton truck.

"Deadline" crew

Another important input to the battalion's mission capability is the steady gain made by the "deadline" crew, led by Construction Mechanic First Class Rex Titus.

His men work hard at repairing equipment without which the Minutemen's current tasking would be impossible to accomplish. These men who toil throughout the night are real "working men", and their spare moments come few and far between.

CMCN Mike Tejeda looks over one of the many engines the night crew keeps in repair.



After midnight, CMCN "Turk" Agaoglu takes care of some loose wheel bolts.





ECI Hector Roberts, Crew Reader, peeks over to. Above, from the Reft, are: EOCN Kevin Rowe, EOS David Carpenter, EOCN Terry Tompthe edge of this photo. I Johnson, EOCN David Rowe, kins and EO3 Clyde Doyle. The POL night crew:

TRANSPORTATION'S CHORE

KEEP THE BIG WHEELS ROLLING

Transportation operations

A second major function of Alfa company is providing transportation support for construction and administrative purposes. Chief Equipment Operator Jimmie Lewis heads this division, which is charged with a wide variety of service and support functions.

These include the transportation pool (EOl Elston in charge), crane crew (EOl Wingate), cement silo operation (EOl Dunlap), concrete batch plant (BU2 Ron Fuscello), battalion roadmaster (EOl Smith), license examiner (EOl Rozier, yard boss (EOl Stewart), and collateral equipment (EOl Sharp).

Also included in this division are the dispatchers, fuel truck drivers, cement haul truck operators and others.

The list is long, as are the working hours these men put into



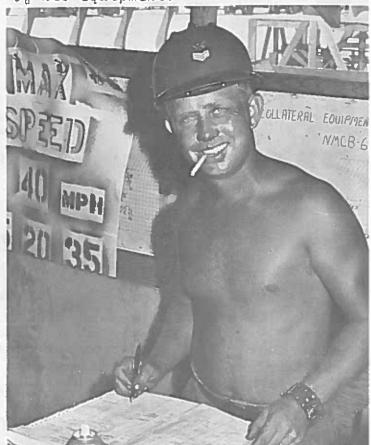
EOC Jimmie Lewis, transportation chief, atop a TS-24.

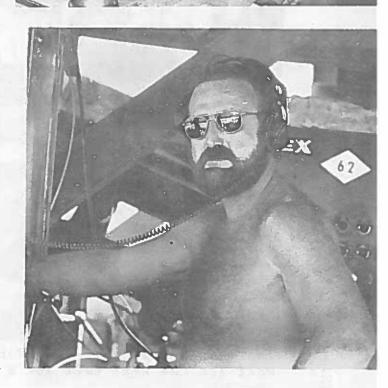


EC1 Homer Rozier, license examiner.



Left: Yard boss EC1 Guerry Stewart carefully examines a wheel. Below: Collateral equipment supervisor EC1 James Sharpe maintains accurate records on the locations of his equipment.

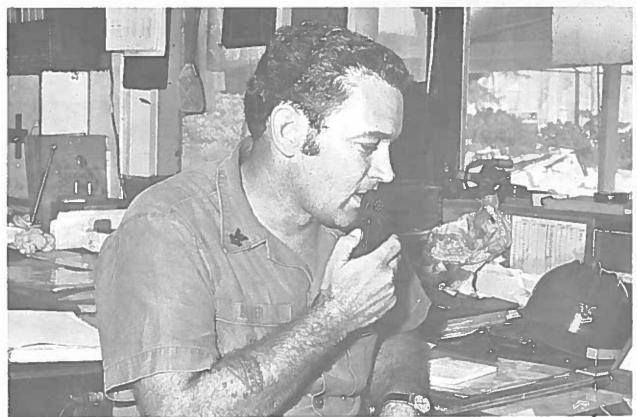




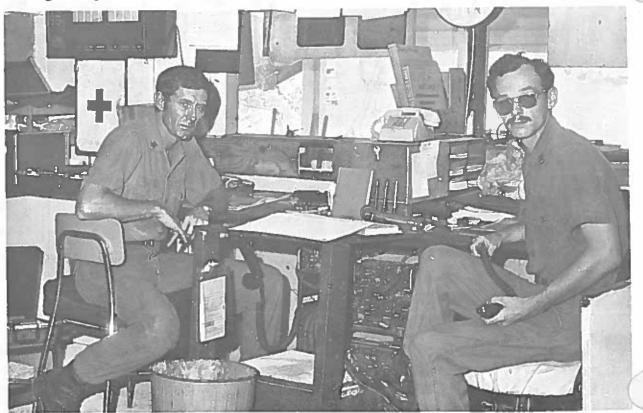


Above: E03 Terry Tackett is the crane operator at the Rex, Jr., concrete batch plant.

Right: BU2 Ron Fuscello, in charge of Rex, Ir., batches the concrete, and sends the transit mix drivers on their way after loading.



King of the dispatchers, EO2 Ron Beaver, puts out a call for the crane crew. His job includes recording the mileage of vehicles and how long they are used each day.



Two more dispatchers, EO2 Robert Selvy and EO3 Ernie Teachman, wait for the next call for a vehicle to come in.

POL, SOIL CEMENT, THE TAXIWAY...

PROJECTS ARE A SEABEES BEST FRIEND

Projects

The third major division of Alfa company is "Projects", under the supervision of Senior Chief Billie Best.

Despite equipment problems, the equipment operators have pressed on and accomplished the tasks at hand.

Under the spirited leadership of Chief Equipment Operator Eddie Ajoc, the POL crew has been working 24 hours, seven days a week in support of Delta company's POL storage tank basering foundation

work. Crew leaders on this job are EO1 Hector Roberts (night) and EO1 Kenneth Jackson (day).

The requirement for fill at this project is considerable: over 200,000 cubic yards. The TS-24 and MRS scrapers can be seen daily as they roll along the haul road between the Point Marianne dredge pile and the POL construction site.

"Dozers" are busy "surging" sand fill into old borrow pits, and rollers are compacting the dredge fill for the basering pads. Then graders shape the pads to required dimensions and trim them to their final elevations.

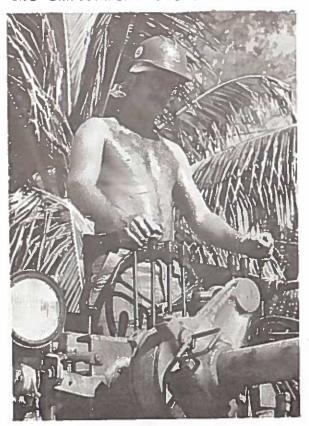


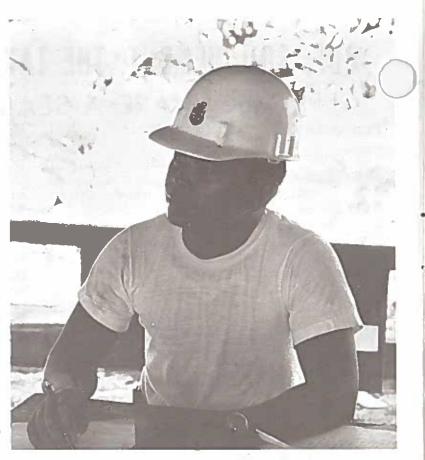
One of Alfa company's segmented rollers toils across the POL project area. Coral fill is compacted to bring the site up to grade. Civilian contractors will begin the steel tank construction of eight, 80,000 barrel-capacity fuel tanks about Sept. 1.



Top Left: EOCS Billie Best, the Alfa company Projects Chief.
Top Right: EOC Eddie Ajoc directs the earthwork operations at POL.
Left: EO3 Dave Burdett of the cantonment crew runs a grader on a barracks project.
Above: Operating a roller is FOCN

Above: Operating a roller is EOCN Rick Grossheim, also a member of the cantonment crew.







EO1 Lyle Wilterdink's crew has been working to support the construction effort of the vertical construction companies in the cantonment area.

Constructing foundation pads for the Modulux building, the BEQ's and BOQ's, as well as support for the swimming pool, final water and portahut projects have kept this crew continually on the go.



the amazing crew of Chief Equipment Operator Patrick Pullar take directions from their leader as they flash across the runway extension site in their chip-spreader.

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Chief Pullar and crew

Chief Equipment Operator Patrick Pullar and his hard-working crew have been responsive to a variety of job-tasking.

Among them, they have upgraded cantonment roads, re-organized and graded the Alfa company yard, and commenced clearing for the general storage warehouse and POL storage area.

AT THE RUNWAY

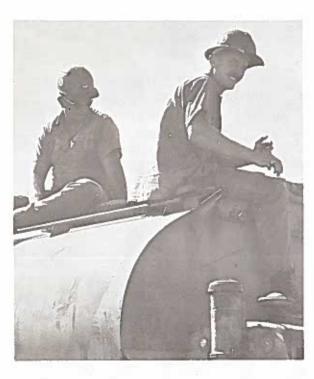
SOIL CEMENT SCENARIO



The north runway aircraft parking apron project involves several activities under the overall direction of EOC Curtis Bruce.

EOl Jerry Ferguson and his soil cement crew have been working on the parking apron in preparation for the concrete paving to be placed by NMCB Five's detachment here.

Other crews have been working to support Bravo company, which is putting in the electrical portion (i.e., runway lighting), and Delta company is placing the culverts beneath the runway.



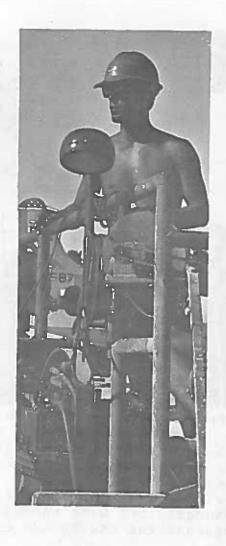


Top Left: EOC Curtis Bruce pushes a "dozer" on the apron extension site. Left: E02 Gary Welch and EOCN Fillion atop the water tank truck. Above: On the subgrader, E03 Ron Baker

and EO3 Rick Hoffman view their work's

progress.







Other men involved in the soil cement project include: E03 Glenn Turner on roller,

E03 Pete Gibelyou on subgrader, And E03 Ray Watkins on grader.





Above: Shielded from the burning sun and comforted by a jug of ice water, E03 Dave McWatters and E02 George Crout guide their soil stabilizer on a steady course. Right: EOCN Joe Clark is also part of the soil cement

crew.
Below: Taking matters into their own hands, EO2 Jerry Granger, EO2 Mike Thomassie and EO2 John Kitzmiller measure the tricky air currents of Piego Garcia.



BRAVO CO.

BACKBONE OF EVERY PROJECT

Bravo Company's advance party of 15 men led by CEC Kippenham hit the island Jan. 27 and immediately went to work laying the groundwork for our deployment to Diego Other members of the advance party were: camp maintenance. Petty Officers Tracy, Parker, White, Ingram, Andreason and and Treece: company projects, Petty Officers Woods, Moran, Blademan Marshall. and Constructionmen Campbell, Gingras, Clark, and Douglas were also on the advance party and assigned to the galley. When the main body arrived, things were well under control.

Bravo Company's two major areas of responsibility are projects and camp maintenance. We perform the function of essentially a subcontractor on most projects, accomplishing the electrical and mechanical portions of the work. One job that the company

was immediately involved in was the new subsistence building. With a large amount of CE and UT work remaining, crews led by CE2 Winstead, CE2 Dixon and UT2 Tibbs have been working diligently since the battalion's arrival.

Another project in which we have placed a lot of effort is the final water system. Coordination and supervision is capably handled by UT2 Blackmon and UT2 Rafada. This island-wide project requires the crews to run pipelines and hookup wells from the transmitter site to the cantonment area.

CE1 Moran, CE2 Dennison and CE3 Sanchez are heading up crews at the apron and runway projects. We are installing new airfield lighting systems, the apron grounding system and relocating power lines to make way for the expansion.



The new enlisted dining facility is nearly completed and scheduled to open soon. Bravo company is presently finishing some electrical work and tying-in collateral equipment.



Men of Bravo company put many hours into this project - - the water line for the new laundry stretching about three miles from the canton-ment area. It was completed May 1.



Installing a drainage pipe at the swimming pool project.

A new aircraft fueling system is also planned. Petty Officer Sanchez's dedicated efforts on this project earned him the title of Seabee of the Month for March.

Then there is the new enlisted men's club and swimming pool. Crew leaders assigned to the pool and club are CE1 Peterson, CE2 Wassmer and UT2 Pemberton.

The punchlist-items of work not complete when a facility is turned over, is our responsibility. CEl Mangrum, BU2 Turner and CE2 Fesperman are assigned to the punchlist crew and have been finishing up a few items in the gymnasium and handball courts.

All these projects are helped along by our experienced technical experts: CEl Shaddix, UTl Woods,



Installing collateral equipment at the dining facility.

CEC Kippenham and CECS Garland.

Maintenance of Camp Cummins accomplished by Bravo Company and CBMU 302. We handle the water distribution and water plant system and camp boilers under direction of UT2 Parker. head maintenance sewer system, and UT shop are directed by UT2 Matthias. Overall supervision of the UT's in camp maintenance is accomplished by UT1 Tracy.

The CE and motor rewind shop is currently under control of CE2 White, and after his transfer will be taken over by CE1 Winstead. The builder and steelworker shops are manned by BU1 Ingram and SW2 Walsh. The maintenance chief is UTCS Myers, assisted in the office by UT2 Treece.

Heading up the entire framework of the Bravo system are the "boss", Lieutenant D.R. Keith, and his assistant company commander,

Ensign Brian Silas.

CHARLIE CO. BUSY ON BEQ'S

Charlie company was assigned construction on the officers' and enlisted men's quarters, dining facility, Modulux barracks, audio testing booth and the cement silo at the Rex, Sr., batching plant.

Work begins

With high spirits from the men, and expert leadership from Lieutenant (jg) John Crosby & Senior Chief Builder McGatha, schedules were organized, crews assigned, projects reviewed and work began. The projects, under the able leadership of Chief Builder "Red" Fadden on the BOQ's, Builder First Class Bob Meece on the BEQ's, Builder First Class Marshall on the dining facility and Builder First Class Singleton on the cement silo, got off to a fine start.

The exotic calm of this once cranquil tropical island suddenly became disrupted by the jackhammer sound of the "wacker-packers", the scream of skilsaws, staccato rings of hammers building forms and the shouts of men working under the hot sun.

Early progress

Steelworkers commenced to bend and tie many tons of rebar required for the BEQ and BOQ projects. They also supported the dining facility, cement silo and other support billets. This is an exceptionally demanding effort, considering that we only have 16 steelworkers on board.

BUl Marshall stepped into the delicate undertaking of putting preparation and the finishing touch to the new dining facility. This included and hut inspects leveling and tiling decks, inexcelled, and stalling suspended ceiling and vorable comments alley equipment, and painting. praise. "Well fie is also overall supervisor of Charlie company. supporting crews.

The BEQ and BOQ projects have been put in place and finished with 140 cubic yards of concrete. The sweat, toil, blisters, aching muscles, and long hard hours are justly rewarded by the pride and feeling of accomplishment in a quality finished product.

In the background

Behind the construction effort and little heard from is our top-notch office staff starting with our company commander, LT. D.R. Keith; project supervisor and assistant company commander, BUCS Bob McGatha; company chief, SWC Karl Smith; expediter/safety/supply specialist, BUI Frank James; operations/timekeeper/P & E expert and Wang computer-operator BUI Dale Whitney, and last but not least, our company yeoman/clerk typist, BU3 Glen Radicella.

Also in the background are our support billets who keep us in high spirits by feeding us, cleaning our clothes, supporting the gym for recreation and helping the MAA Force keep Diego Garcia neat

and clean.

Operational readiness

Next came the annual Operational Readiness Inspection, which we passed with an overall outstanding grade. Congratulations are in order for each and every man in the company for "turning to" when called upon to do their best.

The shining result of careful preparation and attention to detail were evident in the personnel and hut inspections in which we excelled, and received many favorable comments and words of praise. "Well done", men of Charlie company.



Charlie company's BEO crew finishes the surface of a barracks deck slab.



BU3 John Somma uses a "Whacker-Packer" during early phases of BEQ construction.



Concrete flows from a transit mixer and is placed by men of Charlie company during BEQ construction.

MEN OF DELTA COMPANY PUSH AHEAD

The men of Delta company have Cantonment final water been plugging away at their workload at an admirable pace. From the company office, we have the following progress report:

Enlisted men's club

The enlisted men's club was taken over from NMCB 133 with 68% of the work completed. This includes the major structural work of the building. Now Chief Builder Ron Flockton and his crew leaders (BUl McElroy, UT2 Pemberton and CEl Peterson) are busy with the utility and finishing chores.

Exterior walls were readied for texcoat, interior walls covered with a slurry coat and readied for painting. The ductwork and venting for airconditioning is hearly complete. Conduit and wiring work continues, along with some windows and doors being set in preparation for installation of roof material (rigid insulation, four-ply, built up with gravel).

Swimming pool

Chief Builder Duane Vance crew leader BUl Brosdahl have concentrated their men's toil in the mechanical room area. The precast concrete sump was placed after excavation, then the concrete floor was formed.

Work continues for preparation of mechanical room walls and roof deck, which is the pool deck in the diving board area.

Project supervisor BUC Sterling, along with crew leaders BUl Berry and SWl Wood, continue steering their men on to a fine output of construction work.

Exterior wall forms of 50,000 gallon tank have been stripped. The roof deck has been formed, reinforced, placed cured. Remaining forms and interior wall forms were then stripped. Preparation for the foundation and floor slab for the 150,000 gallon tank progresses.

POL tank preparation

At this time, the job is basically a horizontal construction workload, headed by SWC Panger and SWl Blume. The areas for tanks 5 and 6 are being "mucked out". Sand is being hauled for surge fill.

Tank foundation sites 7 and 8 being filled and compacted with dredged fill material. Tank 8 was brought fully to grade about April 1. We have set the prefabricated formwork and the reinforcing steel is being tied in place.

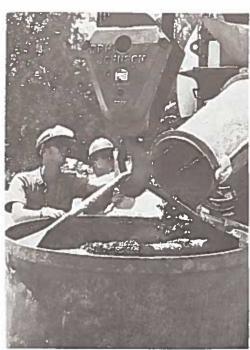
These ring foundations have to be readied for Chicago Bridge and Iron. These contractors will be constructing the tanks, starting about September 1.

Antenna tower replacement

This project, led by invincible Steelworker Third Class Ron Dobry, involved the fabrication of three steel truss towers similar to those present at "T" site. Our part of the job is finished. towers will be erected by others.



Three Delta men secure rebar that will add strength to the foundation ring at POL. Three rings are completed five more remain to be placed.



Filling the concrete bucket for the roof of the 50,000 gal. final water storage tank.



Placing concrete by concrete pump for the foundation of the 150,000 gal. final water storage tank.

RE-ENLISTMENTS...







Yeoman First Class Dormas Dunbar.

Engineering Aid Third Class Dan Newood.

Quipment Operator Third Class Rick Hoffman.







Chief Utilitiesman Charles Dale.

Chief Hull Technician Vincent Muscarello.

Utilitiesman First Class Harold Strife.

...AND AWARDS



For his outstanding service during 62's Okinawa deployment last year, SW1 John Blume is awarded his second Navy Achievement Medal.





SK1 Theodore Payne receives his certificate for being chosen as "Seabee of the Month". The award recognized his outstanding work in the auto repair parts warehouse.

Lieutenant D. R. Keith receives his third Navy Commendation Award. This time in recognition of his performance as Officer-in-Charge of NMCB 62's Detail SubicBay, Jan-Sept. 76.

FIRST SHIP OFFLOAD

S.S. TRANSCOLORADO PAYS VISIT

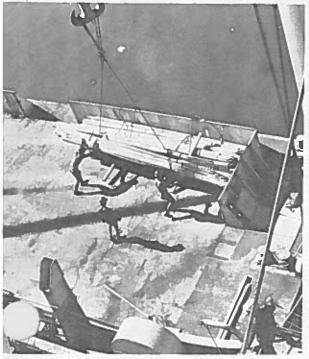




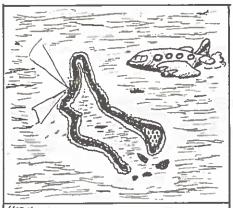
Top Left: This truck is only one of the many heavy equipment pieces offloaded from the supply ship onto waiting barges. Above: A crane labors on the dock at night, lifting a new porta-hut to shore. Crews worked 12 hour shifts round-the-clock for an entire week bringing supplies from the ship.

plies from the ship.
Below Left: From the ship's crow's nest,
Seabees look minute in size, as does the
reinforcing steel being loaded onto a
barge.

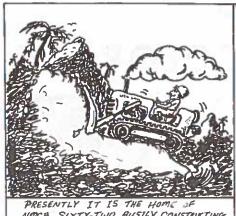
Bottom: S. S. Transcolorado, the supply ship, reposes in the silent lagoon waters of Diego Garcia at dusk.







408 YEARS LATER -- THE ISLAND, DIEGO GARCIA--(AMMED AFTER A SPANISH WIZARD) .- BUZZES WITH ACTIVITY.



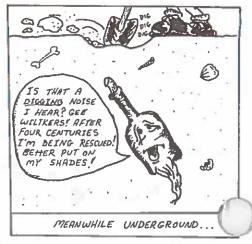
PRESENTLY IT IS THE HOME OF NMCB SIXTY-TWO, BUSILY CONSTRUCTING A NAVAL FACILITY.



AND AT ONE CONSTRUCTION SITE WE FIND.













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THIRD CLASS

NMCB Sixty-Two
"The Minutemen"

the seacon



CO's message Pride and confidence make 62 great

Pride and confidence. These traits make our battalion great.

As I escort visitors around the island to introduce the Minuteand observe your work sites spaces, the battalion's pride and confidence is immediately and evident and always a source of I observe this regularly comment. in our daily routine.

Pride is evident in your military appearance, quality workmanship, minimal administrative errors, attitude, enthusiasm in discussing accomplishments plans, improvements made in work areas and operational procedures,

and the desire to excel.

Pride also shows in those long and late hours you work to meet schedules, finish an important activity, or take advantage of equipment and material availability.

Confidence is derived from experience, knowledge and leader-ship which encourages, listens, and is willing to accept a mistakes without threat of serious

repercussions.

This deployment permits our Minutemen to develop confidence in their skill individual The workload in every ratings. department and company is heavy and challenging. We have finest leadership, management and crews that have ever been assembled into a battalion.

There is nothing we cannot accomplish. Teamwork, tion, and a supportive attitude is organizational evident between

entities and island units.

Captain Weis, commander 30th NCR, commented that he "has never seen attitudes so good and so deep in any organization." This is a great compliment.

But we still have improvement; we must continue to strive for excellence. assure you that I am always PROUD of the Minutemen, and enjoy being able to "show off" your accomplishments to visitors.

I am CONFIDENT that we'll continue to grow and improve to-

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RETRACTION: CM2 Jeff Granberry was mistakenly referred as a CM3 in the last issue. My apologies .-- Editor.

Cover photo:

CE3 Will Ahnen installs a transformer in the new portabut area of Camp Cummins.

Bravo company - hard to be humble

"It's hard to be humble when you are number one" has been a has Lieutenant D.R. Keith as and for good reason, too! In Brian Silas as his assistant. April, the company won the bat- the guy who does just as much work talion safety award, and that is CECS Edwin Kippenhan, the comwasn't easy. To do so meant that pany chief. UT2 Philip Barlow is everyone had to carry out his part now taking over the training petty

common sense and exercising cau- homeport training cycle. tion on his job.

The company also came in first place in the sponsored for Navy Relief. UT3 Herrick presented the sum total of pledges to the CO on June 1 at company quarters. The money was donated in the name of Bravo company.

James Douglass, UT3 Steve Gosselin ords straight - and what a job he and CE3 Douglas Erb) beat all has. But, oh, those numbers! challengers by running the 3.2 He's volunteered to go to the mile course in less than 17 min- plans and training department to utes. Congratulations to all of become the formal schools coordin-

In June, the Bravo company softball team won the island championship.

around machinery not only tinue.

In projects, the work seems sions.

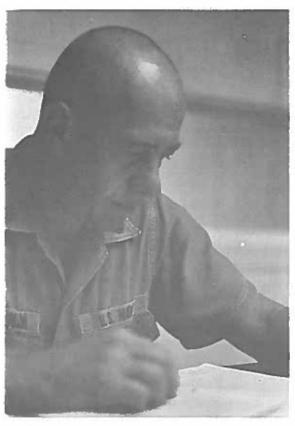
The office staff, of course, Bravo company motto for some time, company commander, and Ensign in using good safety practices, officer job and is starting to look at requirements for the next

In the projects area, CECS battalion Robert Garland and UTC Charles slowpitch softball tournament Dale team up to supervise and coordinate all the UT and CE work we do as the prime or subcontractors.

Working as their operations chief is UT1 Robert Woods, who is aching to get out of the office and back into the field. Petty
In May, our relay team (con- Officer James Fesperman is the
sisting of UT3 Tim Tague, CECN timekeeper who keeps all our recator.

CEl George Mangrum has been tenacious in completing punchlist on the maintenance side of he worked himself out of a job. company house, improvements So off to the north end of the been evident in each of the have been evident in each of the runway he went to try and get the shops; much more care for equip- conduit, hand holes and threshold ment is evident. New safety strip- lights in so that paving may con-That's a lot when you're improved the appearance of the trying to complete the re-route of shops, but also the safety zones. 13,000 volt primary feeders around the taxiway, too.

So far, Bravo company has to to never end. There, too, we can its record the largest concrete see evidence of newfound pride pour made in one day. CEl Oliver with clean job sites and quality Moran and crew placed - yes, sir - workmanship. Let's take a look at - 168 cubic yards of concrete in the whole company and its divi- one day. Eat your hearts out, Charlie and Delta companies.



CECS Edwin Kippenhan; as company chief, his work includes training, supervision and coordinates company events. CECS Kippenhan is also on the Seabee of the Month selection board.

Lieutenant N.R. Keith, Bravo company commander.



UT2 Philip Barlow is company training petty officer, and acting company clerk.



Ensign Brian Silas, assistant company commander.



Bravo maintenance

The maintenance control division of Bravo company is directed by UTCS Richard Myers. He and his staff coordinate activities of the various Bravo company shops, assign and process scheduling, receive trouble calls and ascribe them to the proper shops.

These are: motor rewind, steel, utilities, and carpenter

shops.

The island's water collection and distribution center (water point) also comes under the maintenance control division's author-

Assisting UTCS Myers are UT2 Ricky Vanthof (materials coordinator), BUl John Nelson (shop scheduler) and SW2 Jerry Walsh (trouble desk).



UTCS Richard Myers is in charge of the Bravo company shops, and heads up the maintenance control division.

SW2 Jerry Walsh is assistant POIC at the steelworker shop, and works part-time at the trouble desk.



BUI John Nelson is Bravo company's maintenance scheduler; he determines the specific work required on a job, and schedules the number of man-hours needed to complete it.



UT2 R.J. Vanthof has the challenging job of maintenance materials coordinator. He orders and coordinates supplies with the company shops to assure they are stocked with necessary materials.



Carpenter shop

BUl "Pappy" Ingram has the handle on the shop that takes care of carpentry work and any other job requests related to wood.

His men are involved with the structural maintenance and repair of camp buildings. Preventive maintenance requests are fulfilled, and other authorized service work is done.



BU1 "Pappy" Ingram, carpenter shop supervisor.



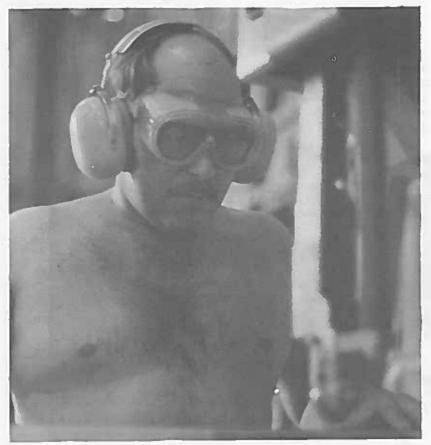
BU2 Don Wilson is the carpenter shop's assistant supervisor.



BU3 Jon Drelick

BU3 Mathew Rooney measures a span of wood.





BU2 William Hammond cuts a length of plywood with the bandsaw.



BU2 Ken Mioduski sands a picture frame.



BU3 Charles Hagston and BUCN Charles Cooper construct shipping crates.

The carpenter shop hard at work: BU2 Don Wilson, BU2 Ken Mioduski and BU3 Charles Hagston.



BU2 Robert Spracklin sanding plywood.



Steel shop

Under the guidance of SWl Grover Bowers, the steel shop crew handles the structural maintenance and repair of buildings in Camp Cummins. In addition, they take care of other minor work requests.



SW1 Grover Bowers heads the steel shop.



SWCN Michael George cuts a metal plate.

Utilities shop

Bravo company's utilitiesmen are responsible for the continued operation of Diego Garcia's fresh water lines, and salt water fire mains.

Under the direction of UTL Robert Seaman, the utilities shop maintains all sewage lines, lift stations, camp boilers and portaheads.

They also perform repair work on laundry equipment, preventive maintenance, respond to various work requests and standing job orders.



UT1 Robert Seaman, supervisor of the UT shop.



UTCN Ron Pennington and UT3 James Mahan put together a sewage lift pump.



UT2 Kevin Capell puts the capping on a pipe. UT2 Capell is assistant UT shop supervisor.

Motor rewind shop

CEl Raymond Winstead and his men rewind and clean motors with fractional horsepower, all the way up to 100 hp.

They also install new electrical units of a minor nature, and help maintain the cantonment area's electrical systems.

CE3 Ricky Kuehl of the motor rewind shop.



CE3 John Sloane





CE3 John Miller and CE1 Ray Winstead (shop supervisor) work on a distilling unit that provides pure water for TIG welding machines.



CECN Von Broughal fits fabric onto floodlights to be installed at the Alfa company dispatch office.



CE3 Kevin Andreasen rewinds a motor with copper wire. He is assistant supervisor of the motor rewind shop.

Water point

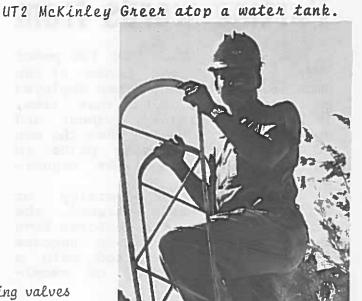
This is the site where all the island's potable water is collected, processed and distributed (UT1 Everett Cleversy in charge).

Water from eight underground wells is collected at the water point. It consists of a pump room, a 10,000-barrel tank, two 1,000-barrel tanks, two 500-barrel tanks and a demineralizer unit.

Water point also has a salt water pump station to support the Camp Cummins fire main system.



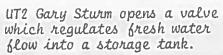
UT1 Everett Cleversy (in charge of water point) checks his pressure gauges.



UT3 Jack Biggs testing valves in the pump room.



UT3 Mark Slay adjusts the flow of water into a storage tank.





Parting words from the XO

A little more than two years ago, I joined the ranks of the NMCB 62 Minutemen, then deployed to Rota, Spain. Since that time, it has been plainly evident and gratifying to observe that the men of 62 take particular pride in belonging to a top-flight organization.

Despite the adversity or difficulty of tasks assigned, the jobs get done. Our efforts have been met with continued success and each is trademarked with a professional standard of excellence.

The battalion's history clearly indicates that we have constantly produced top-quality work, and maintained an enviable record within the Naval Construction Force. Being associated with this fine tradition has been a source of pride and motivation for me in preserving the high stand-

ards set by our predecessors.

This is my last opportunity as executive officer to contribute to the Seabeacon. I extend my sincere appreciation for the loyalty, support and cooperation given me. I have been fortunate in gaining a broad knowledge of construction battalions, and the hard-working men who make things tick.

I leave with no mixed emotions or reservations. Reassignment in the service is a way of life, and I look to greater challenge and responsibility in the years ahead. Nevertheless, I am proud to have served with the best; my tour with this battalion will remain a great source of pride to me in the years ahead. Good luck, Minutemen of 62, and I wish you continued success in future assignments.



Lieutenant Commander Anthony E. Corcoran, CEC, USN, assumed duties as NMCB-62's executive officer July 17, previously Officer-in-Charge of Naval Petroleum Reserve No. 4 in Alaska. LCdr. Corcoran is scheduled to serve with the Minutemen for two years.



Outgoing Executive Officer Paul A. Chapla is "frocked" to the rank of commander by 62's CO, Commander C. E. Fegley III. After serving more than two years with the Minutemen, Commander Chapla will become the commanding officer of NCTC in Port Hueneme, California.

Bravo projects

CECS Robert "Eclipse" Garland is in charge of the projects side of the Bravo house. He is assisted by UTC Charles Dale. Additional help in the projects office is supplied by CE2 Dennis Wasson (timekeeper) and CEl James Hamill

(manpower coordinator).

Although basically a subcontractor to other company projects, men of Bravo company find themselves in the role of prime contractors for the new recreational facility and the laundry building, which is structurally complete.

Other projects which Bravo company is subcontracting to are: portahuts and Modulux (Charlie company), enlisted men's swimming pool and final water plus the (Delta), runway/apron extension (Alfa).

The punchlist and electrical distribution crew are also accomp-

lishing a great deal of work.



UTC Charles Dale, assistant Bravo projects supervisor.





CEI Jim Hamill is the manpower coordinator for Bravo company projects.



CECS Robert "Eclipse" Garland, Bravo projects supervisor, stands at the "whipping tree" with a plaque given to him by his men. It commemorates his "words of wisdom" imparted to various persons



CECN Mark Antaya installing steps.



CE3 Rick Biagioni hammers pole steps in place before they are screwed in place.

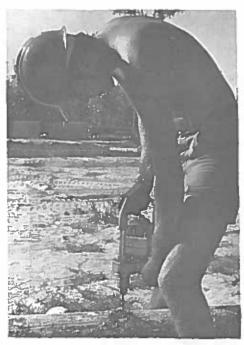


CECR Rick Miller uses a canthook to hold a lightpole in position while it is prepared for erection.

Recreational facility

Located across the road from the new gymnasium, the recreational facility will consist of two softball fields, four volleyball courts and three tennis courts.

CEl John Moran and his crew are presently erecting poles, putting in lights and installing underground electrical services.



CE3 Dave Holly drills holes in a light pole for the installation of steps.

CEI John Moran (supervisor for the recreation facility project) and CE3 Don Talley direct the placement of an auger truck drill.





Supervising the laundry project is UT1 Dennis Tracy.



CE3 Richard Schmidt and UT3 Dan Herrick thread pipe to be used in connecting the laundry's collateral equipment.

CE3 Vavid Hawley unreels 13,800-volt cable that will hook up the laundry's collateral equipment to a power source.

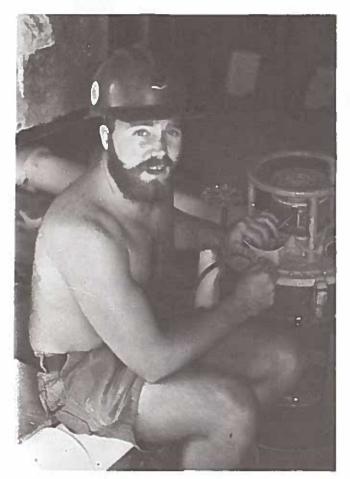
Laundry

With structural work completed on the laundry building, the crew of UTl Dennis Tracy is now installing interior equipment to make it operational. This includes washers, dryers and presses. Interior electrical work is also being done, along with hanging of lights and tying-in of circuits.



CE2 James Lassiter, on the job.





CE3 Keith Stafford uses a vacuum apparatus to pull wire through a conduit.



UT3 Richard Harris works on the E. club's chilled water system.

Enlisted men's club

CE2 Marvin Marshall is in charge of the electrical work, and UT2 Pemberton's crew installs the plumbing. This includes all rough and finishing work. The men working on this project are checking out the collateral equipment to be used in the club, and determining what kind of hookup's they will require.



UT2 Cleo Pemberton examines thermostat insulation for the EM club airconditioning system.

UTCN George Diaz installs pipe saddles for the EM club's chilled water system.







CE2 Marvin Marshall, an EM club project crew leader.

CE3 "Jay" Boyles is bright-eyed as he adjusts a motor contactor which will start and stop motors used to operate collateral equipment.



UT2 Tom Treece prepares some copper piping for solder work at the Modulux.

Modulux

Brought in from Thailand, the much-used temporary barracks is being overhauled. UT1 Robert Woods and his crew are also testing the water system and making repairs on it. Although the Modulux is of an open-air design, airconditioning units are planned for installation. This structure will berth NCS personnel until the permanent BEQ's are finished.

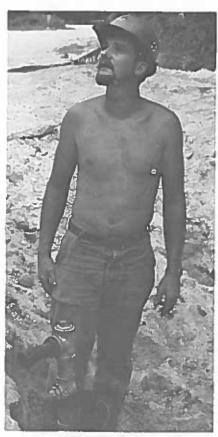


CECN Henshaw and CE2 Edgar Leonard

Final water

UT1 R.C. Blackmon and his men have installed 13 underground wells and about 5,000 feet of pipe that will eventually tie into the final water tanks.

These wells are closely monitored to ensure the island's freshwater lens is not disrupted by overpumping.



UT2 Florin Parker makes a pipe connection in preparation for a well system test.



Final water project crew: UT3 Doug Claytor, UT3 Richard Clark, UT2 Harold Hayes, UT3 Connelio Valle, UT3 Tim Tague, UT2 Florin Parker and UT1 R.C. Blackmon (project supervisor).

Swimming pool

The swimming pool, which will also serve as the NCS fire department's backup water supply, is a complex project. It involves a large amount of pipework and installation of sophisticated equipment.

UT2 Jim Wrye and CE2 William Burke are meeting this challenge, as are all the men on their crews.



CE2 William Burke and CE3 Tom Goodwin install PVC conduit into the pool's mechanical room.

Portahuts

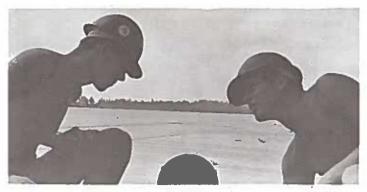
CE2 Larry Riner's crew install all interior portahut wiring, service drops (lines that bring power into buildings), erect aluminum poles and hang transformers.

UT2 Jim Wrye is UT-in-charge at the swimming pool project.



CE2 Larry Riner (crew leader) and CE3 Don Talley hook a transformer to a block and tackle. It will then be raised to installing position.





CE3 Brad Parker and CE3 R.D. Miller check their work on light installation at the runway.

North runway/apron extension

CEl George Mangrum heads this crew as it installs runway and threshold lights. The placement of these concrete and metal light fixtures carries with it a lot of ductwork.

Bad weather has been a problem for this project, but all rough electrical work should be done when NMCB 74 arrives to finish the connections.



Three members of the runway crew: CE2 Alan Manheimer, CE1 George Mangrum and CECA Eric Smith.

At right, CE2 James Lassiter and CE3 Oscar Sanchez of the electrical distribution crew install cable for Camp Cummins' telephone system.

The installation and splicing of high-voltage underground cable is the crew's specialty, led by CE2 Lassiter.

This type of work requires special schooling; one must know how to splice and terminate 13,800-volt cable correctly, or else not do it at all.

The crew has already tied in cables to the dining facility and EM club; they are now working on the laundry project.





More of the punchlist crew: UT3 Dennis Bannister, BU3 Charles Badenschier, UT3 Cornelio Valle, UT3 Dan Herrick, CE3 Joseph Cordell, UT1 Woods (project supervisor), UT3 Terry Vanstrander and UT3 Richard Clark.

Punchlist crew

CECS Garland is "very proud

of the punchlist crew."

They have done work at the gym, NCS barracks, T-site, ship's store, air operations, POL, I-site, main power plant, general warehouse site - just about every facility here.

BU2 Joe Turner is the key crew leader, and has guided his men through the completion of some

67 punchlist items.



CECA Joseph Birt



UT3 Dennis

installing

insulation

for A/C

Bannister

Punchlist crew at the gym sidewalk project: UTCN Dominic Gingras, BU3 Charles Badenschier, CE3 Charles Boswell, UT2 John Matthias, BU2 Joe Turner (crew leader) and UT3 Richard Clark.

Bravo company's fire crew

The cantonment area's fire department falls under the juris-diction of Bravo company. Lieutenant D.R. Keith, company commander, is also the battalion fire marshall. UTI Donald Strife acts as fire chief, and directs the volunteer fire department's operations.

HTC Rodney Litton, the island fire marshall, helps the fire crew conduct weekend practice sessions in which they drill against various types of fires, using different techniques.

Twenty-four emergencies have been responded to by the camp's firemen thus far. Six of those emergencies were actual fires.

The department's fire truck has a 400-gallon capacity water tank, and a 40-gallon "light" water ter tank (smothering agent). A 1400-gallon water truck is used as a backup unit.



CE3 J.F. Miller and UT3 James Mahan stand ready with their firefighting equipment during a weekend drill.



ALWAYS READY: BU2 Don Wilson and CE3 J.W. Miller suit up for a fire drill in their boots, asbestos jackets and fire helmets.



The Battalion Fire Chief: UT1 Donald Strife.

MCPOC discusses advancement examination

Congratulations to all the men who have been recently promoted. NMCB 62 had a fine showing, with 105 men making third class petty officer, 35 making second class and two men who attained the rank of first class petty officer. You all deserve a well done.

To those of you who didn't make it, or must wait until September to take the exam, now is the time to start preparing. One of the most important things you will need is a recommendation from your company commander or department head. Only you can get the recommedation by performing your assigned duty to the best of your ability, and showing that you are ready for advancement to the next pay grade.

Your recommendation for rate will come in time to take the exam; but, as I said above, now is the time to start studying.

Go to your training petty officer and ask to see the bibli-ography for advancement study (NAVEDTRA 10052X). This book

breaks down each rate and lists the required courses and training manuals used in the exam. The exam writers update this every year.

Your test questions will be taken only from these courses and manuals. There are no other books or manuals from which the writer takes any question to fool or trick you.

Once you have your list, take about an hour each day and study your material. There is no way you can "cram" for a test and absorb the amount of information the test will cover.

While you study and work each day, have your chief or petty officer check your Personnel Advancement Requirements (PAR's).

You will be surprised how easily PAR's can be checked off after studying your courses. If you start preparing for the exam now, the test will be a snap in September, and the CO will be pinning on your new rating device for you.



Three new chiefs: YNC Roy Sommers, EAC Benito Bernal and BUC Ed Pannell sport their white hats after being advanced to the rank of E-7.



Commander Fegley pins new anchors onto Master Chief Builder John Johnson.

		0				
advan	ollowing personner ced in July to the s appearing after	e pa	y		Paul F. Cornwall	PN3
	ective names:				Michael Cozart	SW2
	Roderic Alimusa	CE3			Edward Dantonio	E03
	Gary Don Almon	CM3			Piazza S. Della	виз
	Bruce Arsenault	виз			Santos E. Delos	DK2
	Jerry G. Barger	E02			Guy R. Dixon	SK3
	Keith L. Barret	E03			Ronald L. Dobry	SW2
	Robert B. Barrow	E02			Paul A. Ducharme	EA3
	Jack W. Biggs	шТ3			Tony Eisenbraun	виз
	Richard J. Bopp	СМЗ			Harry S. Elliot	BU2
	Steven Bouley	виз			Douglas R. Erb	CE2
	Willi Bourgeois	BU2			Louis A. Etienne	виз
	William E. Boyd	SW3			Frank Lee Fick	BU3
	Jay M. Boyles	CE3			Allan R. Frank	виз
	William Brothers	УN3			William Friend	EA3
	Hugh M. Burgess	SK2			Dennis J. Gnandt	SK3
	Kevin Capell	UT2			James Greene	BU2
	David Carpenter	E02			William R. Halm	виз
	Timothy Carter	UT3			Dennis M. Hamlet	виз
	Joseph Cassidy	виз			John M. Harriman	SW2
	Kenneth Cavanaugh	ı Su	V3	12.5	Richard Harris	ит з
	William Christens	son	CM3		Stephen Harrison	CM2
	Douglas Claytor		ШТ 3		Daniel Herrick	ит 3
	Mark A. Coffman		CE3		Thomas D. Hertz	виз
	Rickey Compala		CM3		Ardar Hicks	GM3
	Brian T. Conlon		CE2		James John Hone	виз
	William S. Cope		EA3		John F. Houghton	CM3

Charles Cornelisse CE3

Paul E. Howell E03

David J. Isquith	E03	Kenneth Mioduski	BU2
James D. Johnson	BU2	Victor R. Moore	CM3
Kevin E. Johnson	E03	Audry Mouton	CM3
Larry D. Johnson	виз	Hermogene Munoz	EA3
Anthony H. Jules	DK3	Robert M. Norman	CE3
Dennis M. Kahler	E02	Glenn E. Oaks	E03
Gilbert L. Kean	CM3	Bradley Parker	CE3
Mark W. Kerlin	виз	Michael Pedder	CM3
David J. Kondrop	CM3	Jeffrey Peterson	E03
Gerald G. Kraska	YN3	Thomas E. Pikul	CM3
Raymond Kuczwara	<i>y</i> N3	James D. Post	E03
Ricky A. Kuehl	CE3	William Rachubinski	СМЗ
Dwaine Lancaster	E03	Kyle L. Reinhard	CM3
Brian K. Laursen	E03	Steven Robinson	ит з
Edgar W. Leonard	CE2	Martin Rodriguez	DK3
Curtis L. Liscum	EA2	Billy B. Rogers	CM3
Edward L. Little	BU3	Matthew Rodney	BÜ3
Kevin J. Lynch	виз	Robert Lee Rose	CE3
James J. Mahan	ит3	Glenn Salzwedel	вм з
Jeffrey Mathews	виз	William Schermer	BU2
Joseph Matsagu	виз	Richard Schmidt	CE3
Martin McClung	E03	S. Schwirblat	BU2
Floyd McInture	CM3	Steven Sebring	виз
Terry McNorton	BU2	Garry Dwayne See	MS3
Raymond Mokolinski	ит з	William Selzer	SK3
Gregory Miller	Ви3	David Gordon Shaw	виз
Raymond Miller	RII3	James A. Sheldon	виз
Thomas H. Miller	(list continued Sw2 next page)	John M. Sloane	CE3

Warren Sprague	CM3	Steven Tutokey	EA3
Keith Stafford	CE3	Cornelious Valle	UT 3
John Herbert Stage	BU2		
Bruce M. Stewart	CE3	Anthony Villanella	CE2
Dennis Straight	E03	David W. Walker	S#13
Gary Max Storm	UT2	Philip C. Warman	BU2
Mike Tejeda	CM3	Ray D. Watkins	E02
Timothy Terlecky	виз	Gregroy J. Weege	BU2
Ralph Thompson	SK3	Charles Weinzirl	BU2
Charles E. Tibbs	uT1	Brent C. Willey	E03
William A. Toney	виз	Paul D. Williams	UT2
Dennis L. Turner	CM2	Larry A. Wright	BU2
Glen David Turner	E03	Carl Zimmerman	виз

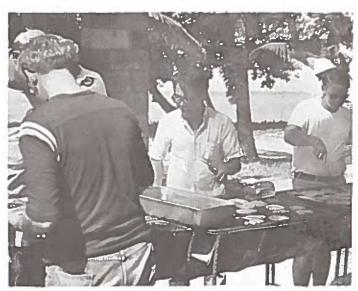
Minutemen eat, complete and grab a seat at Seabee Park mid-deployment bash.

The halfway point of the NMCB 62 Minutemen's Diego Garcia deployment was duly marked by an all-day, come-one-come-all party at Seabee Park July 3.

In addition to the presence of a mountain of food and drink (that was summarily consumed by the hungry men of 62), the picnic featured doorprizes, live musical entertainment and several sporting events.

While Seabees decided between spare ribs and chicken, or maybe a few hamburgers instead, the tropical airwaves burst with electrified melody.

Three performing groups were on the scene: White Tide (rock and roll), the Rhythm Rounders (country), and last - but proud of it - Paul Cornwall and his Not-Ready-for-Any-Kind-of-Time-Players (sort of folk-country unclassifiable rock).



HAMBURGER HEAVEN Seabees wait for these tender and juicy patties to finish cooking. Then they'll apply catsup, mustard, pickles, onions—and eat. (US Navy photo by PH1 Robert Vaughn)



COUNTRY MUSIC The "Rhythm Rounders" were one of three groups to make the scene at Seabee Park. Although no one asked for their autographs, the Rounders' music was appreciated by all. (US Navy photo by PH1 Robert Vaughn)

Coconut throwing is not as popular in the states as it is here. But that's understandable, since there are a lot more coconuts around here for the throwing.

UT3 Dan Herrick threw his coconut for more than a loop as it bounded through the air for a 109 foot ride. And in so doing, he won first prize: another watch.

CMCA Greg McKenzie gave UT3
Herrick a run for his watch,
though. McKenzie forced his own
"plantation projectile" to take an
aerial excursion of 108 feet.
Good enough for second place and a
gift certificate.

The music and fires faded as night covered Seabee Park. Buses took partied-out Minutemen back home to Camp Cummins. Then the sand crabs came out of their holes on the beach, and started looking around for handouts.

And that's the way it was for the Minutemen on Diego Garcia.. July 3, 1977. The three groups took turns performing onstage until five p.m., when Cdr. C.E. Fegley, PNC Rosauro Macaraeg and MCPOC William Sweeney jumped on the platform to hand out doorprizes. These ranged in stature and material worth from a color television to a Mr. Coffee machine (which one would YOU rather have?).

The day was also filled with sports competition in several areas. For team sports, the officers ran away with first place in volleyball, while Alfa company found themselves at the top of the softball competition.

NC1 Andy Prevento threw his horseshoes better than anyone else, and won a watch for his efforts. BM3 Glenn Salzwedel threw HIS horseshoes better than anyone else, too. Except for Andy Prevento. Glenn also received a watch.



HIT IT! Men on both sides of the net leap to help an indecisive volleyball decide which way to go. The competition was tough and exciting, but the officers' team beat everyone else palms down, and took first place. (US Navy photo by PH1 Robert Vaughn)

new dining facility opens

Project completed by Charlie and Bravo companies

The long-awaited opening of the Naval Communication Station's new enlisted dining facility took place on July 17 at the evening meal.

BUl Ron Marshall (Charlie company's project superintendent whose crews completed the facility) and Island Commander Captain B. Andrews, USN, cut the blue ribbon stretched across the entrance to the Plantation Inn. This marked another milestone in the ultimate completion of the communication station here.

Worked on previously by NMCB 5 and NMCB 133, the dining facility became operational after final equipment installation and interior finishing work by NMCB 62's Minutemen.

Charlie company crews, led by SWl Grover Bowers and BU2 Paul Ericson, completed various ductwork and metalwork. UTl Charles Tibbs and CEl Ken Shaddix guided their Bravo company crews in the final installation of electrical and mechanical equipment.

Covering a total area of over 13,000 square feet, the Plantation Inn's seating capacity is 400, compared to the old Reindeer Inn dining facility's seating of 212.

The airconditioned building, furnished with attractive seats,

tables and artwork (displaying the early history of Diego Garcia), contains the most modern food preparation equipment available to the military.

Twelve hundred persons were served on opening day. And they all were extremely happy while feasting on a menu which featured steak and lobster, corn on the cob, prepared and tossed salads, apple pie and hot fudge sundaes.

Plantation Inn's value as a morale booster to the men here can't be measured in dollars. It can't even be measured in the amount of food consumed at each meal. Just take a look around: smiles, laughter and carefree conversations abound at each table. The line for "seconds" is just as popular as the line for "firsts"

Someone shouts, "Hey, Bert! Get me another sundae, will ya? And throw a lot of hot fudge on it!" Seabees examine artistic displays on the walls, and read historical accounts of life as it was on a 19th-century coconut plantation.

Yes, the new dining facility has changed things here. And everyone agrees the change has been, once again, for the better.

Seabees and Naval Communication
Station personnel make good use of the new
Plantation Inn after its official opening
Everything tastes better and island personnel receive a morale boost from the more
aesthetic interior. (US Navy photo by PH1
Robert Vaughn)



GRAND OPENING BUI Ron Marshall of 62's Charlie Company cuts a ceremonial ribbon stretched across the entrance to mark the Plantation Inn's official opening. His crew performed finishing touches of construction needed for full operation. Looking on are UTI Charles Tibbs of Bravo Company, and Captain B. Andrews, USN, the island commander. (US Navy photo by PHI Robert Vaughn)





Bravo and Charlie company men responsible for the enlisted dining facility's completion (from left) LT.(jg) John Crosby, UTC Charles Dale, CE3 Joe Cordell, CE1 Ken Shaddix, UT3 Tim Tague, CE3 Kim Fairchild, CE3 Jay Boyles, UT3 Steve Robinson, UTCN Dominic Gingras, BUCN David Antoff, UT1 Chuck Tibbs, SWCN Dan Patrick, BU2 Glenn Thorsen, UTCN Robert Sheppard, SW2 Mike Cozart, BU2 Kenneth Bell, BU1 Ron Marshall (project supervisor), BU2 Doug Fogle, BU3 James Chambers, BU3 R.B. Snodgrass, BU2 Paul Ericson, BU3 Steve Bouley, SW1 "Red" Bowers and SW3 Dave Walker.

Sports: ADMIN/PERSONNEL VOLLEYBALL CHAMPS BRAVO COMPANY TOPS IN SOFTBALL

VOLLEYBALL CHAMPS Front: YNSN Mike Fleming, PH3 Steve Frass, YN3 Jerry Kraska. Back: YN1 Norm Hunt (coach), YNC Roy Sommers and HM1 Steve Moseley. Not pictured: YN1 Dormas Dunbar and DKSN Jeff Baker.





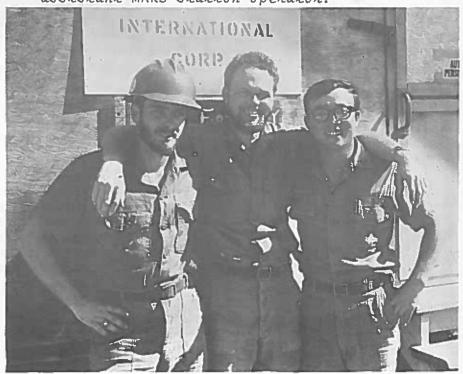
Bravo company's softball team took first place in the battalion's initial round of competition. Front Row: UT2 Cleo Pemberton, CE1 "Pete" Peterson, UTCN Dominic Gingras, CE3 Chuck Cornelisse. Back Row: UT1 Dennis Tracy, CE2 Doug Erb, CE2 Bill Burke, UT2 Tom Treece, CE3 Rick Kuehl and CE3 Dale Hardesty.

headquarters company



UT2 Jim Inman and CE2 Stanley Clark of the Quality Control Department check plumbing and wire specifications at the modulux barracks project.

NMCB 62's electronic technicians: SN John Pritchard, ETN3 Lonnie Trammel and ETN2 Ken Leong. These men maintain all battalion communications and telephone gear, and install phone lines. ETN2 Leong is also the Wang computer repairman, and SN Pritchard is an assistant MARS station operator.



Alfa Company provides support



Equipment operator runs an HD-21 bulldozer at the Point Marianne dredge pile. Alfa company is supporting the POL project by hauling over 200,000 cubic yards of coral fill.

A gradeall machine does some grading work at a POL ring site.





An old seahut is hauled away on an Alfa company flatbed truck. As fast as Alfa company takes away the wooden-framed seahuts, Charlie company installs new airconditioned portahuts.

Charlie Co. projects continue

The BEQ construction project, persons. directed by BUCS McGatha and BUl Dale Whitney, required extensive onto a concrete foundation terial studies and lists.

atively new to the Seabees. Bring- this project. ing buildings to floor elevation Under the supervision of BUl Bernie on Diego Garcia is a backbreaking Holsapple, portahuts, which hold 4hand excavation.

placed for footings, grade beams dismantled, and their material will and floor slabs. Wall panels are be used in other work projects. then formed on casting beds by the BU2 Doug Fogle heads up the builders of Charlie company. Work force in construction of Steelworkers and lifting devices. With con-living units. Alfa installation.

Charlie company has accom- company. plished much under adverse conditions. Foundations for BEQ 6 are complete with floor slabs. BEO 7's foundation is about 40% plete with rapid progress being made on BEQ 8. All precast panels on BEQ 6 are completed and ready for tilting up in place.

BUC "Red" Fadden is the BEQ project supervisor and directs the made by his talented progress crews. Tons of rebar are bent and tied daily by SWl Carl Dixon's Precision formwork of the crew. panels is directed by BUl Bob Meece. Bul Worley is in charge of excavation and placement of foundations.

Modulux and portahuts

Besides the BEQ construction, Charlie company is putting up a temporary Modulux barracks and portahuts throughout the camp. The Modulux is a two-story prefab-

Bachelor's enlisted quarters (BEQ) ricated structure transported from Thailand, capable of housing 80

Sections are being rebolted homeport planning. Many hours - reflashed (replacing metal roofing - on and off duty - were devoted to strips that protect against water research, isometric drawings, ma- leakage). The Modulux is steelframed with interior partition The large scale, precast wall wood and will be airconditioned. panel construction method is rel- BUl David Waldner is in charge of

task for men who do the necessary 6 men each, continue to replace the open-air 12-man seahut Forms are set and concrete Cummins. The seahuts are being

then install rebar these new prefab, airconditioned crete placed and curing time al- cantonment crew, led by EO1 Lyle lowed, the panels are ready for Wilterdink, provides equipment provides equipment support to the men of Charlie



BUI Edgar Worley and BUCN Joe Murdock place a column footer at the BEQ job site.



Wall section of a portahut is installed by Charlie company men in the camp area, with support from an Alfa company crane.



This is the Modulux temporary barracks being constructed by Charlie company. It is designed to house 80 persons.

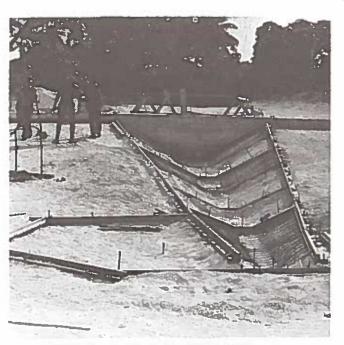
POL: Delta co's biggest job

A major part of NMCB 62's construction effort here is being concentrated on the permanent POL (Petroleum/Oil/Lubricants) storage site. The goal of this project is to provide a large increase in fuel storage capacity, which will enhance the island's operational and support capabilities.

The plans call for the construction of eight, 80,000-barrel welded steelplate structures. An individual tank is 120 feet in diameter, and will stand about 40 feet high.

The project site for the storage tanks is located north of the airfield and the Alfa company yard. This location is accessible to both the POL/supply causeway and the airfield operations area. The site covers a land area of about 27 acres and represents an exceptionally large earthmoving operation.

Since part of the site was a former borrow pit which was back-filled with logs, barrels and or-



Close-up of a channel sump inside a concrete base ring. It will collect any oil leaking from the tank to prevent contamination of the island's water supply.

cavation below the water table and leak from the tanks, thereby prosurge filling operations.

The total earthwork requirements included the hauling and compaction yards of dredge fill material.

Naval Construction Force personnel will build the tank pads and foundations, plus all associated collateral systems. tual tank erection will be done by Herb Amey, Chicago Bridge and Iron (CBI).

Each tank foundation has heavily reinforced concrete ring and a reinforced concrete base pad will begin once the tanks are comthat slopes inward from the ring pleted by CBI. drainage to a central sump and system.

mind, as each tank is connected to making its mark with the progress central device facilitates the col- small tropical atoll.

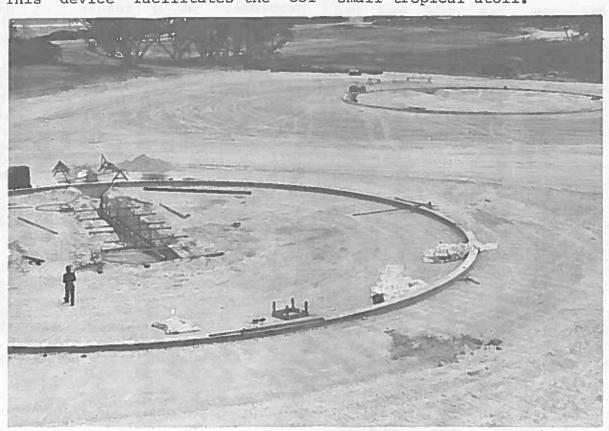
ganic fill, it required deep ex- lection of any oil which might tecting the island's underground water supply.

> Alfa company is taking care of about 300,000 cubic of earthwork for the project under the skilled direction of EOC Ajoc and EO1 Hector Roberts.

> > Delta company, under the capable supervision of SWC Thomas The ac- Panger, SWl John Blume and BUl is constructing foundation and base slabs.

> > > Additional site work and installation of collateral systems

NMCB 62 began its 8-1/2 month deployment in February. This system has been designed over the POL project from NMCB 133 with environmental protection in after initial site clearing, and is oil water separator. being shown at the site on this



Two base rings in different stages of completion. base of ring in foreground has been brought up to grade and readied for the concrete slab. The ring in background is equipped with a channel sump as opposed to the other ring's pipe sump system.

Lt. Bruce on personal health

At the risk of using a cliche, it is worth emphasizing that physical health and mental health go hand-in-hand. In fact, they are inseparable.

However, far too many people - doctors included - tend to erect
barriers between the two, and
create an artificial separation.

As for a man's mental health on deployment, it's only natural for one to have ups and downs with regard to his mood and outlook on life.

Everyone has good and bad days. However, when one is away from home, the bad days tend to be magnified. To help offset this magnification, one should develop hobbies for the creative release of frustrations. Sports, social and religious activities are all helpful to one's well-being.

It also helps to realize that one isn't alone with his problems. There are probably other people who have either experienced the same problems in the past, or are currently going through similar problems. It's always a good idea to find people one can discuss his anxieties with and share experiences.

In conclusion, mental and physical health is a personal responsibility. There are no wonder drugs which can replace a "common sense" approach to living.

While on deployment, the medical officer sees at close range the various subtle interplays of mental and physical

health. Let me cite a few examples.

Take, for instance, the man on deployment who doesn't get the proper amount of sleep and eats too much "junk" food. He not only is setting himself up for a host of physical ills (i.e., colds, flu, indigestion, etc.), but also may have a change in behavior, and become hard to get along with.

When a man is in less than top physical shape, he finds it more difficult to cope with routine problems he hears of in his letter from home. Sleep is harder to come by at night because he worries unduly about domestic problems. As a result of his increasing loss of sleep, he leaves himself open to nagging physical ills.

This is not to say that being in perfect physical health will keep the car from breaking down, or one's child from breaking his arm while "hubby" or "daddy" is on deployment. But it is to say that being in good physical health will help one cope with these problems in a more rational manner.

Basically, the key to good physical and mental health falls under the category of "good old common sense."

Just because a man on deployment gets his body transported 10,000 miles around the world, doesn't mean it's been transplanted. He still works with the same body he had in the U.S., which is subject to the same rights and considerations.

Five Minutemen re-enlist



MS3 Don Chilcote; four years.



DK2 Agustin Francisco; six years.



MS3 Steve Ries; six years.

PN3 Sam Mills, Jr.; four years.



E03 Conrad Webb; six years.

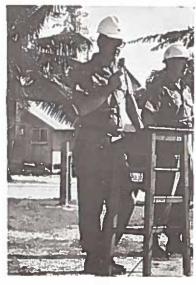


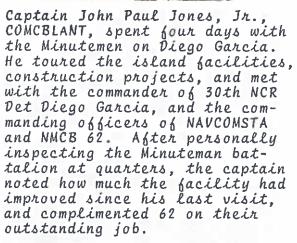
Captain Jones pays a visit















special events



GMG3 Franklin Hall is given the Seabee of the Month Award for his outstanding work at the battalion armory.

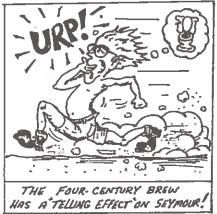
CHANGE OF COMMAND The colors are retired on Diego Garcia's parade ground during the 30th NCR's change-of-command ceremony here in July. Saluting the colors' passing are the regimental staff members. In the background are the NMCB 62 Minutemen.



THE ADVENTURES of "Sonable"

By Tom Janik & Meph Callaghan







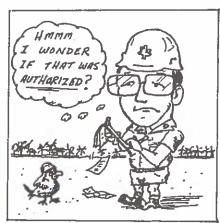


IS CRACKED BY AN UNEARTHLY ROAR ...











BATTERY! IT'S SUPERBEE! (COMMOND.

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

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the seacon

CHARLIE: CHAGING THE LANDSCAPE





DELTA:
PULLING FOR
THE FINISH

CO NOTES SUCCESS

62 MEETS RETENTION GOAL

NMCB 62 has met another important milestone: our first-term reenlistment goal. We reenlisted 32 of 163 personnel whose obligated service expired in fiscal year 1977.

This figure represents 20% of all personnel who were eligible for separation, and 33% of those considered to be qualified and desirable for retention in our Navy. Our career reenlistment rate was 97% of the eligible personnel, but we sustained a heavy loss due to retirements.

We must do better! The Navy needs to retain skilled personnel after their first enlistment. How can we do better?

Concerned leadership

First, and foremost, we must have sincerely concerned leader-ship at all levels. Companies, platoons and crews which are well-managed, work hard and take care of their men have the highest reenlistment rates.

All leaders must become involved in discussions of the pros and cons of a naval career with our men; be able to answer questions intelligently or seek answers for them.

Encourage and inform

The next point to consider is the Command Retention Team. These jobs must continue to be taken seriously. Our men must know the Navy wants them through regular encouragement, praise and interest in their work, and concern for their advancement.

They must be kept informed of their rights and benefits, and the

NMCB 62 has met another fact that our Seabee detailers tant milestone: our first- will give them personal attention.

Detailers welcome calls from individuals, career counselors or anyone in the command who is trying to retain our finest resource: people.

Filling the void

The future in the Navy for our young men today looks brighter than ever. BUPERS has told us there is serious concern over a growing deficiency in the middle management area (E5 and E6).

For men in the Navy today, this translates into excellent promotional opportunities. Because this void will continue to surge ahead of them, advancement opportunities will be brighter in the years ahead.

Pride in belonging

The Navy is the only place young construction workers will find early career responsibilities, challenging and diverse work, opportunity for rapid advancement, close comradery that will last a lifetime, and the finest retirement program in the world.

Think about it, and see your career counselor. You're in the driver's seat; in a position to negotiate. All it takes is a little time to see what the Navy has to offer.

Navy life is as exciting and rewarding as you want to make it. You can remain a part of it. I'd like you to experience the pride of being a part of this Navy Team. So see your career counselor...and Go Navy!

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WRAP UP WORK ON PERMANENT AND TEMPORARY QUARTERS

Starting back in May, Charlie Dining facility company experienced a readjustment in job scope and priorities. We We took over as prime con-were assigned wrap up work for a tractor on this job from the first few minor jobs, then concentrated day of our deployment. Assisted our effort on installation of the by the UT's and CE's of Bravo Modulux, Portahuts and completion company, BUl Ron Marshall and his of the dining facility. Later, we crews were determined to complete began construction at the final this important facility in the water treatment plant.

progresses, have been reduced to utilize other problems could not be al-manpower for the erection of the lowed to become causes for delay. Portahuts and Modulux.

overall project supervisor. His tion. many years of experience in construction and management have been achievements.

shortest time possible.

Although the job was turned The permanent BEQ project over to Charlie company about 90% although crew sizes complete, material shortages and The slack time was gone, and each problem required quick attention In charge of all this ac- from Petty Officer Marshall and tivity is BUCS Bob McGatha, the his crew leaders for rapid solu-

This project, over its sevkey factor to this company's eral years of history, has under-nievements. gone many design changes. But the long supply lines were eventually conquered by BUI James, company expediter, who spent countless hours with the Material Liaison Office researching materials.

The steel work and the major part of equipment installation was guided skillfully by SWl Carl Dixon. The crews involved in the finishing touches are proud of their accomplishment...and should be. It is a fine depiction of talent and expertise shown by true craftsmen.

Seahut to Portahut

After a second visit from the supply ship Transcolorado, construction resumed for our company. Camp Cummins is getting a major facelift with the erection of more Portahut units.

The new model units house six men and are airconditioned. The project supervisor, BUC Thomas

Gilmore, crew leaders BUl Bernie Holsapple and BU2 John Wiese, and assigned crews are determined to avoid any slowdown of their masterful work.

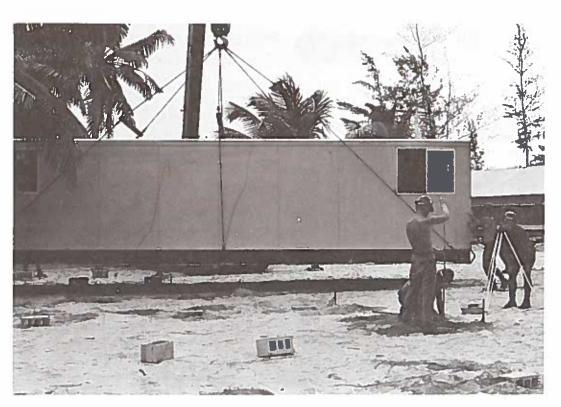
The old Seahuts are either dismantled with the materials being salvaged, or relocated for other uses with the help of Alfa company's dependable machinery.

It's a rather strange sight to see a 52-foot Seahut rolling down the street (or shall we say dirt road) on a flatbed truck.

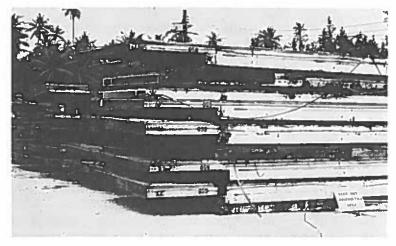
Current plans call for finishing most of the units in the camp area.

Erecting Modulux

Construction of the Modulux temporary BEQ got underway in June. This structure was previously erected in Thailand, retrograded, and moved to Diego Garcia for reinstallation.



BUI Bernie Holsapple's crew, assisted by an Alfa company crane, places another Portahut in the cantonment area.



BEFORE These stacks of metal panels--when fitted together properly--make up the bulk of a Modulux.

AFTER Nearly finished Modulux barracks, having changed drastically with a great deal of help from Charlie company.



Two 80-man structures are to be built, and 62's current tasking is to finish one of them by November. BUC Gilmore, along with Petty Officers Dave Waldner, Doug Fogle and crews are now seeing to the above task: with vigor.

The more burdensome task rehabilitating the interior this structure is also required. Interior electrical and plumbing work needs plenty of attention. Spot repairs, a new roof, and complete painting are also scheduled.

Final water site

Due to the rearrangement of construction priorities, Charlie company's tasking was revised to of include construction the treatment plant at the final water site. All structural work should witness the raising of a complete

be completed shortly.

BUC Frank Hosinski and BUl Ed Worley head up this crew. treatment plant has a floor area of 900 square feet, and will house equipment which treats all water used in the camp area.

BEQ work

The BEQ project reached milestone in construction when a tiltup test panel was hoisted into place back in May.

safety A rigid plan developed and put into effect by Senior Chief McGatha and Chief (Red) Fadden. The panel, enormous in size and 20 tons worth of weight, stood the test.

Many people were on hand to

end wall for the two-story building. This relatively modern construction technique is a challenge within itself.

Bad weather conditions caused temporary slowdowns at the BEQ site (nothing can ever be done But BUl Bob about the weather!). Meece and BU2 Tom Meredith (crew leaders) drove themselves hard to up for lost time. Petty Officer Meredith and crew are now bringing BEQ #8 out of the ground. They will have accomplished the hidden foundation work and floor slabs before the Minutemen leave this atoll, which is our goal for that phase of the project.

We employed another have of compaction on the method building subsurfaces. This consisted of a light water application before using the tamping machine (commonly known here as "whacker-packer"). This process has resulted in quicker preparation of the subsoil materials.

The teamwork and strenuous labor of BU2 (Buck) Bell and BU2 (Dutch) Irish has accounted for the progress of the tiltup panels that are now being installed.

BU2 (Hicky) Johnson and BU3 (Little John) Somma prefabricated form panels of lumber and plywood. Then, expert finishing of the concrete was accomplished by the whole crew.

Trusting that bad luck remains a stranger to this project, our long-term goals are to tilt up the walls on BEQ #6, and get BEQ's 7 and 8 up to floor elevation.

This entails many more hours of labor for the "rod buster" steel-workers. Theirs is no easy task, as will be attested to by SW3 Bill Boyd and SW3 Joe McCurry. Work performed by the steelworker crew. though hidden from view, is vital to the job's accomplishment. A hardy "well done" to the steel-workers, directed by SW1 Carl Dixon.

The forming and placement of concrete never ends as BU3 Mark Higley and BU3 Jeff Matthews bury their picks and shovels into the hard coral.

Many things have changed on Diego Garcia, but dark-tanned backs will always glisten with sweat as they toil beneath this hot tropical sun.

MANNING THE OFFICE BU2
Paul Ericson (company
clerk and training P.O.)
Lt.(jg) John Crosby (company commander), BUCS Bob
McGatha (company chief),
and BU2 Ed James (company
expediter).





BUC J.D. Johnson is project supervisor for the permanent BEQ construction project.



BU2 "Dutch" Irish

Permanent BEQ's

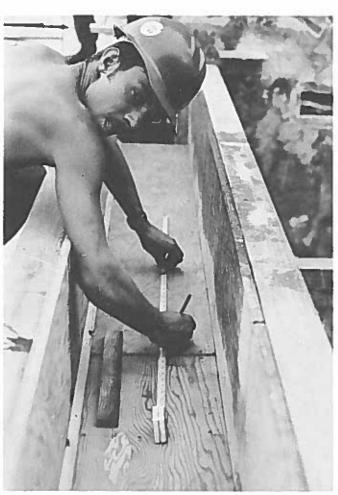
Project supervisor: BUC J.D. Johnson/Crew leader: BUl Bob Meece

Construction of the BEQ's involves the use of a technique known as tiltup wall construction.

The concrete wall sections are preformed in a horizontal position, then placed vertically on the foundation with a crane.

Three BEQ foundations are finished, and nine walls have been tilted up on BEQ 6.

BUl Bob Meece and his crew of 11 hope to complete the floor slabs on BEQ's 7 and 8, and place the remaining wall sections on BEQ 6.



BU3 Jeff Matthews measures beam forms used in BEQ construction.



BU3 Mark Higley and BUCN Brian Redfield install footer forms.



BU2 Terry McNorton.



BU2 Tom Meredith installs footer forms.



BEQ CREW Front: BUCN Brian Redfield, BU2 Tom Meredith, BU3 Mark Higley Back: BUC J.D. Johnson, BU1 Bob Meece, BUCN Tom Kidney, BU2 Dave Johnson, BU3 Jeff Matthews, BU2 Ken Bell and BU3 Glen Thorsen.

Portahuts

Chief Thomas Gilmore also oversees the work of BUl Gordon Gray and crew in their assembly of Portahut units near the new recreational facility area.

Once assembled, the Portahuts are placed within the cantonment area by a crew under the supervision of BUl Bernie Holsapple. After proper positioning, furniture is installed.

Collateral support is given by Alfa company crane and lowboy operators. Seahuts are lifted onto lowboys and hauled away; Portahuts are then held in place by crane crews for positioning.



BUCN Don Currier erects a Portahut wall.



BU3 James Sheldon

BU2 Randy Honeycutt gives a "hold" signal to the crane operator while installing the wall section of a Portahut.



BUI Gordon Gray at the controls of a crane. He is crew leader for Portahut assembly.



BU3 Kevin Lynch makes some finishing touches on a recently assembled Portahut.

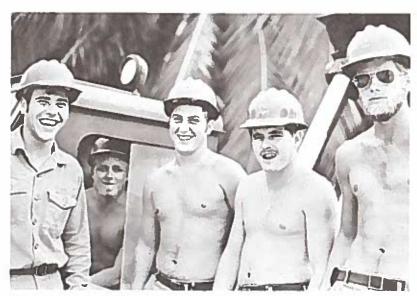




BUC Thomas Gilmore, project supervisor for the Portahut project, measures a site layout.



PORTAHUT CREW Crouching: BU3 Ed Little. Standing: BU1 Bernie Holsapple, BUC Tom Gilmore, BUCN Brent Barron, BU2 John Wiese.



The transport crew provides various equipment support for projects on the island. From Left: EOCN Ricky Jackson, EO3 Dave McWatters, UT3 Tim Carter, EO3 Cormier, EO3 Brian Laursen.

BUCN Brent Barron helps take elevation shots for Portahut installation.





BUCN Dave Meredith (nearest) and BU2 Ron Cooley give a new coat of paint to the temporary barracks.

Bravo company is the prime contractor for the new recreational facility project, and receives support from the Charie company crew of BUl Dale Whitney.

They are currently engaged in putting up backstops and fences for the tennis and volleyball courts.



SW2 Mike Cozart, BU1 Dale Whitney and BUCN Ken Maddux place posts for a tennis court fence at the recreational facility site.

Modulux

BUC Thomas Gilmore has directed the entire erection of an 80-man dormitory structure.

It is an interim solution for the berthing needs for NAVCOMSTA personnel until the permanent BEQ's are completed.

Bul David Waldner has led his men in building the Modulux from prefabricated metal panels, and performing much-needed rehabilitation work.

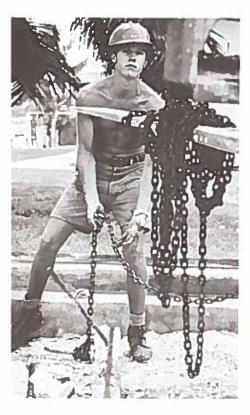
This included installing a new roof, new floor tile, a suspended ceiling, airconditioning units and plenty of painting.

units and plenty of painting.

The first Modulux should be done by November 1. Another one is to be erected by NMCB 74.



MODULUX CREW From Bottom?
BU1 David Waldner, BU2 Doug
Fogle, BU3 Steve Bouley, BU3
Joe Cassidy, BUCN Dan Colton,
BU2 Ron Cooley and BUCN Dave
Meredith.



BU3 Dennis Hamlet attaches chain to a length of rebar at the parking lot project.



BU2 James Greene operates a rough terrain forklift on the parking lot site.



BUCA Anthony Morris and RUCN Robin Robich excavate for a sidewalk placement at the EDF.

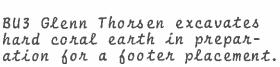
Enlisted dining facility

The enlisted dining facility's completion by BUL Ron Marshall's men is now history.

Their present concern is the placing of curbs for the EDF parking lot, along with sidewalks leading to the nearby chapel and ship's store buildings.

Alfa company is grading the parking lot area and placing soil cement.

Crew leaders BU2 Paul Ericson and SWl Grover Bowers are also planning to install decorative block screen walls around the dumpsters and airconditioning equipment.







Four workers at the EDF line up for action: BUCA Jeff Lundburg, BU3 Bill Toney, BU3 Jim Chambers and BU3 Britt Snodgrass.



BUCN Brian Spence mixes mortar for block laying at the final water treatment plant.

Final water treatment plant

The structure that will house pumps, a chlorinator and an electrodialysis unit is being built by Charlie company.

Leading this project are BUC Frank Hosinski and BU1 Ed Worley.

The treatment plant's foundation, floor slabs, equipment pads and walls have been placed. Bul Worley's crew is now finishing the roof placement.

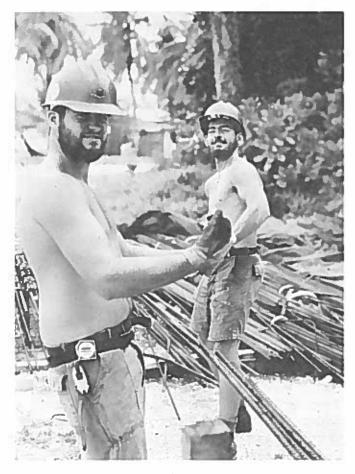
Steelworkers

Supporting each Charlie company project are SWl Carl Dixon and his men.

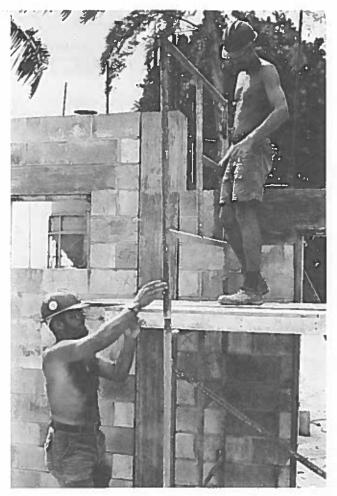
They undertake all necessary work with reinforced steel, which includes welding, bending and straightening as required by project needs.



TREATMENT PLANT CREW BUC Frank Hosinski BU2 Larry Wright, BU2 Tom Marmalich, BUCN Brian Spence, BU3 Joe Matsago, BUCA George Underwood, BU1 Ed Worley and and BU3 William Kronk.



SW3 Ken Cavanaugh and SWCN Fred French choose rebar to bend into required shape.



BUI Ed Worley and BU3 Joe Matsago erect scaffolding.



STEELWORKERS Front: SW2 Mike Mendoza, SW1 Carl Dixon Middle: SWCN Alvin McNear, SWCN Fred French, SW3 Jeff Smyser, SWCN Chuck Roll, SWCN Juan Esparza. Back: SW3 Ken Cavanaugh.

XO'S COMMENT: "I AM IMPRESSED."

Like anyone else coming to a battalion for the first time, I wondered, "What is it going to be like?"

The former executive officer had already told me 62 was the best. Having been on board now for three months, I believe Commander Chapla was right: I am impressed.

On the way to Diego Garcia, I spent several days in Gulfport, and had the opportunity to observe the in-port battalions. Obviously, the Minutemen have set standards that are difficult to imitate.

The clincher came during Captain Jones' visit, when the battalion "turned to" and put its best foot forward.

I was particularly impressed on that Saturday morning at personnel inspection, and experienced my first feelings of pride in being a part of the Minuteman Battalion.

As Capt. Jones expressed it

to me: "XO, you have a damn fine-looking battalion."

At that moment, I became a real member of the Minutemen. As long as each of us thinks of 62 as "my battalion", we shall remain the best.

Expectations

Many of you probably were wondering what the new XO was going to be like; what will he expect from us? I expect:

1. Attention to basics (and details) 2. .Honesty 3. Proper respect and courtesy to all members of this unit 4. Straightforwardness (telling it like it is) 5. Attention to one's responsibilities before asking for privileges.

As individuals, each of us must continue to better ourselves. As a battalion, we must continue to be the best.

DELTA COMPANY

PERFORMING AT "FINE-TUNED" LEVEL

Delta company started this deployment with a quick startup of construction activity which, through job experience and adaptation, has increased in scope and difficulty.

We are a well-coached team, with many individuals performing at a fine-tuned level of skill with professional workmanship ability.

At the administrative level, our company was led by Lt. Jerry Hill, and his assistant, Lt.(jg) Donald McLaughlin.

Lt. Hill recently moved to the plans and training department, whereupon Lt.(jg) McLaughlin took over the reins of the company.

Company chief SWC C.O. Godwin has been a steadying and stable factor, making sure our military and administrative responsibilities are met.

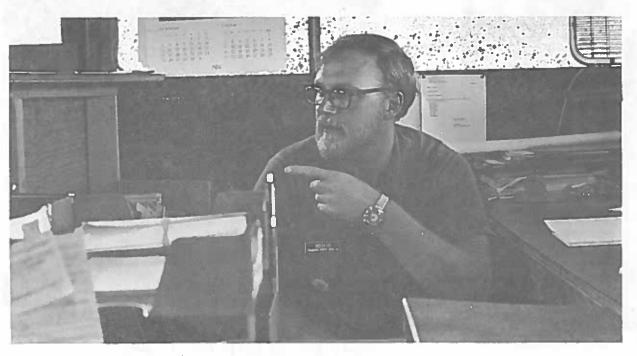
Our men have been tasked with a wide variety of construction projects, which have required many different skills and construction techniques:



BU2 Ronnie Barnett, company clerk and in charge of collateral equipment.



LT.(j.g.) Donald McLaughlin, company commander, SWC Tom Panger, in charge of the POL project and SWC C.O. Godwin, company chief hold a conference in the Delta company office.

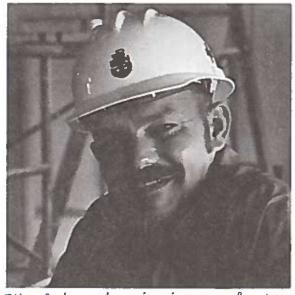


BUI Del Ray Brosdahl, training and operations P.O.; company career counselor.

Taken over from NMCB 133, Delta company crews (led by project superintendent BUC Ron Flockton and crew leader BU1 Robert McElroy) set out to apply "finishing touches" to the club.

A built-up roof was installed, interior walls were slurry-coated and painted, exterior walls texcoated, exterior and interior doors and windows installed, ductwork erected and insulated, floor areas tiled and walls plastered, and suspended ceilings hung. Bars were also installed, and all electrical and mechanical systems were completed.

The club is nearing completion, and by deployment's end will be close to a punchlist turnover and grand opening.



EM club and swimming pool project supervisor, BUC Ron Flockton.



SW2 Ray Oliver



Gazing from below is SWCN Jim McMahon, who was kind enough to steady the ladder for a shaking journalist.



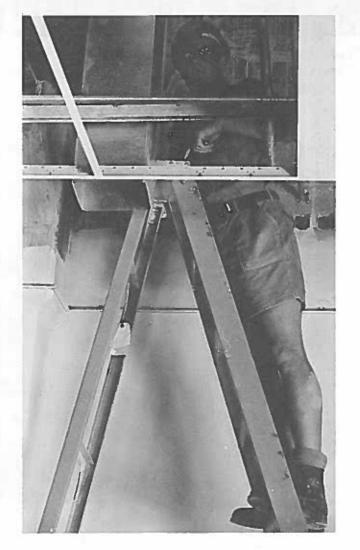
BUI Bob McElroy, EM club crew leader.

Planing a door for hanging are BU1 Paul Evans and BU3 "Yahoo" Buckley.





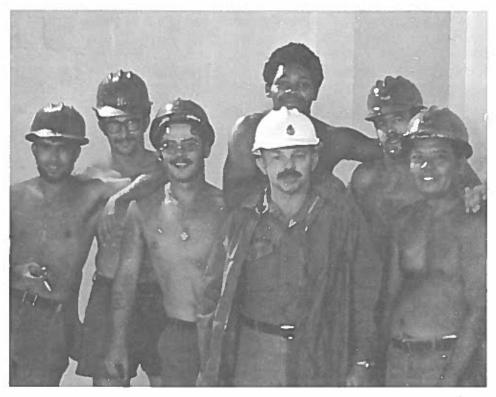
BU2 Charles Weinzirl gets ready to grind the EM club deck to a smooth finish.



Up in the rafters is SW2 Tom Miller, installing ductwork.



EM Club's night crew: BU2 Bob Richards, BU3 Charlie Harris, BU3 Tom Hertz and BU3 Larry Johnson.



EM club crew: SWCA Paul Stancati, BUCN Richard Bobie, BU3 Kevin Buckley, Chief Flockton, BUCN George Bell, BU1 Paul Evans and BU2 Larry Unadia.



Runway/POL pipe/laundry

We have provided all associated vertical construction support for the battalion's "down island" projects.

SWC Thomas Panger has guided several crews at the runway, laundry and precast operations sites.

Under the supervision of BUl Gene Rindahl and BU2 Jess McBride, the runway crew has constructed two reinforced concrete-jacketed pipe culverts, and associated wing walls.

They are completing the taxiway radii and blast pad sections. The precast operation has completed 300 manhole, handhole and light box units for the runway.

The crews have also built pipe supports for the POL manifold system, and completed support work on Bravo company's laundry project.

Hard at work with his jackhammer, SW3 "Boo-Boo" Clark chips away concrete.



BUCN Mike Quigley operates a rough terrain forklift at during work at the runway.



BUCN Mike Quigley, BUCN "Hawkeye" Hawkins, BU2 Norm Fischer and BU3 William Halm, Jr. take some exact measurements.



BU3 J.J. Hone

BUCA Jeff Hansen hammers away at a form used in placing a radius plug at the runway.





BU2 Jess McBride and BU1 Gene Rindahl on top of the tube float (concrete finishing machine).



SW1 Billy Wood, final water project crew leader, scales the 50,000-gallon water tank.

Final water

Early in the deployment, the final water crew placed the roof slab for the 50,000-gallon tank. Then they went right to work on the 150,000-gallon tank, supervised initially by BUC Jim Sterling, then by BUC Ron Flockton and BUl Wayne Berry.

SW1 Billy Wood has been a stalwart of the final water project; from the predeployment planning stages to a crew leader in the field.

The larger tank involved placing 360 cubic yards of concrete and 79 tons of steel. The quality of construction was nearly flawless, and represents an outstanding example of Seabee accomplishment.

BU3 Andy Etiene, BU3 Mark Kerlin and BU1 Wayne Berry check the quality of a recent concrete placement on a water tank roof.





BU3 Steve Sebring strips forms

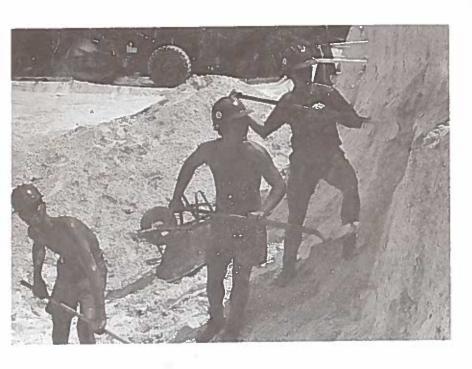
Swimming pool

Starting with a water-filled hole in the ground, Delta, Alfa and Bravo companies have brought the swimming pool construction into its final stages.

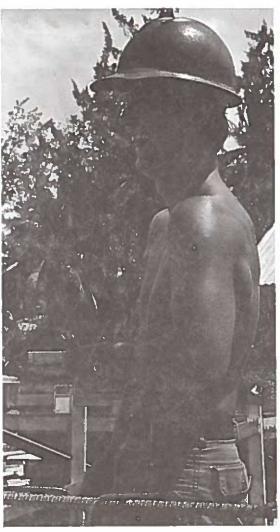
The mechanical room was structurally completed in June, and the pool has been built up to its final shape.

Directed by BUC Ron Flockton and crew leader BUl Dave Holloway, the pool crew has placed the reinforcing steel, and will finish the final "gunniting" process before our departure.

Shaping pool walls are BUI Dave Holloway, BUCN Rick Eder and BU2 Billie Scobee.



Tying a length of rebar for use in the swimming pool project are SW2 Kurvin Sampson and SW2 Ron Dobry.



SWCN Pete Philips



POL CREW: "WE'RE FINISHED!" (TWO MONTHS AHEAD OF TIME)

(POL) storage project for Diego Eddie Ajoc and EOl Hector Roberts. Garcia was undertaken as a joint endeavor. The purpose of this Ocean.

welded oil tanks. The site pre- concrete. paration, base ring construction and associated piping facilities are being built by the Seabees.

eight tank base rings. Delta About 10% of the earthwork had company was chosen to be prime been completed. contractor, with SWC Thomas Panger as project supervisor.

petroleum/oil/lubricant and crew leader roles fell to EOC

The tentative schedule for facility is to increase support completion had been set (in acfor fleet activities in the Indian cordance with homeport planning). Four base rings were to be completed in mid-August, and two each month after that. Work require-Chicago Bridge and Iron ments called for the placement of Company was awarded the contract 200,000 cubic yards of coral fill, to erect eight 80,000-barrel steel along with 2,000 cubic yards of

When the Minutemen arrived on the island, NMCB 133 had already cleared the POL site, and started NMCB 62 was tasked with site to fill in some old borrow pits preparation and completion of the used for log and barrel storage.

Alfa company went to work without hesitation to bring the SW1 John Blume and BU1 Herb POL site up to grade, concen-Amey became the crew leaders, trating on the base ring pad while Alfa company's supervisory sites.



Placing concrete on a ring pad: BU2 William Bourgeois, BU3 "Pizza" Dellapiazza, SWCN "Legs" Landon, BU2 Mike Gallagher and BUI Herb Amey, crew leader.



SWCN Landon and BU3 Dellapiazza pull their share of the load.

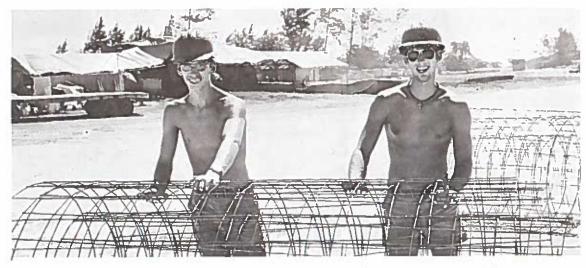
In March, the first pad was up to grade, and Delta company went to work in earnest. Three by two-foot steel and plasticated wood forms were used to form the base ring, which is three feet high, 18 inches wide and 380 feet in circumference.

Reinforced steel cages (each 20 feet long) were pre-tied and placed along with the forms. During the construction, placement time was cut from 33 days for the first ring to three days for the last one.

After the rings were placed and stripped, Alfa company went to work bringing their interiors to desired elevation. When Alfa men moved out, we moved back in and placed the concrete interior pads, each which has an area of over 11,000 square feet.

Then Alfa company finished up the base rings by spreading a half-foot of oiled sand over the concrete pads.

The original schedule for completion called for the final ring to be done by November 24, but the combined determination of man and machine outdid all planning: the last ring was finished September 19...two full months ahead of schedule.



BUCA "Hatchet" Henderson and BU3 Tim Terlecky roll wire fabric toward its ring pad destination.



MASTER CHIEF SWEENEY

placed concrete with a motorized screed.

full, smoothing out freshly-

"EMOTIONAL TUNNEL VISION"

Safety, on and off the job, 1. They have warm relations the responsibility of each man with others, particular

Each of us is vulnerable to accidents at any given moment, but especially when we are influenced by strong emotions.

in the battalion.

A strong emotion dulls our ability to perceive what is going on around us.

It is a sort of "emotional tunnel vision", which so constricts our behavior and thinking that we don't protect ourselves intelligently or competently.

We've all seen people in this state of mind and often observe, "He just isn't himself today." They really aren't, but an accident will hurt them just the same.

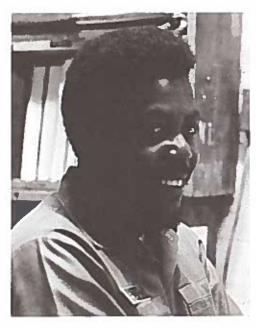
Let's check ourselves and develop the traits of safety-conscious persons:

- 1. They have warm relationships with others, particularly with members of their immediate work groups.
- 2. These people know where they are in life; they plan ahead and plan well.
- 3. They do not express aggression or hostility toward the organization they work for.
- 4. There is a good deal of realistic concern over their state of health and bodily condition.
- 5. Their reported health rate is superior to that of the accident-repeating group.

Feelings are something we cannot live without. But they

shouldn't be taken to extremes when safety depends on our personal clarity of mind. All of us have a heart. Let's make sure we keep it in good condition!

PLANS AND TRAINING



SK1 David Lowery is NMCB 62's human resource management specialist (HRMS). He has attended the Human Resources Management School in Memphis, Tenn., for 12 weeks, and participated in an HRM detachment seminar at Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines, for certification as an equal opportunity program assistant.

Petty Officer Lowery advises the commanding officer in matters which pertain to the battalion's Human Goals/Equal Opportunity Programs.

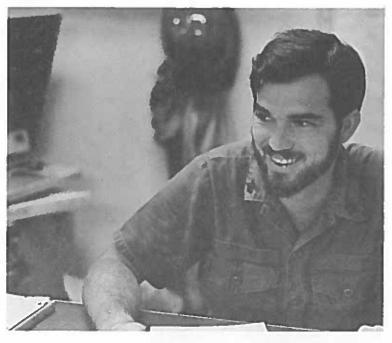
He works closely with the plans and training department, scheduling and monitoring the workshops held on Saturday mornings. These include classes in military rights and responsibilities, cultural expression and drug & alcohol abuse.

Petty Officer Lowery is a consultant for the Command Training Team, and a member of the Human Relations Council. He has assisted NAVCOMSTA personnel during their human goals cycle by conducting workshops and advising the command of other useful human goals programs.

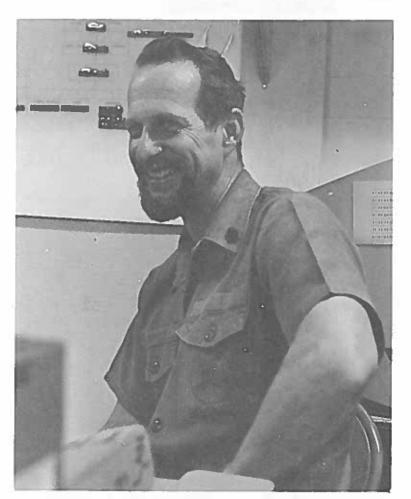
With everyone's assistance and support, Petty Officer Lowery is striving to achieve a strong and effective human goals program for the Minutemen.



CALLING FROM MARS While volunteer SWCN Ferris Walker looks on, full-time MARS operator CE3 Bruce Stewart shows him the tricky art of 10,000-mile communication.



CE2 James Fesperman; formal schools coordinator.



ABOVE: The battalion training chief, CEC E.F. Anderson. RIGHT: Lt. Jerry Hill, formerly Delta company's commander, now battalion training officer.



NMCB 62's embarkation petty officer, E02 Palmer Connell.



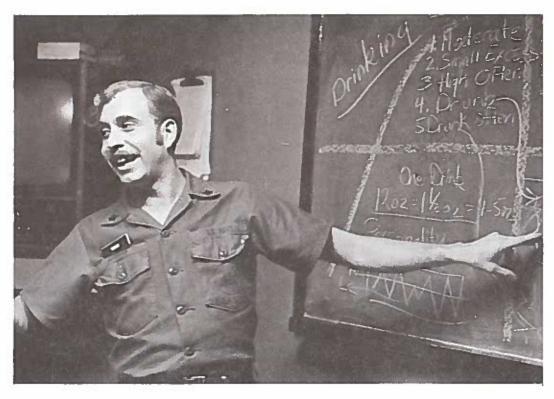
GySgt. Willie Smith is the Minutemen's new military advisor. He reported here in August from MCRD, San Diego.





CE3 Chuck Cornelisse, the battalion's drug and alcohol education specialist. He is a full time instructor and counselor at the DMZ, a semi-official alcohol rehabilitation facility on the island.

CE3 Bob Norman is the CODAC: collateral duty alcohol counselor. Here, he explains the typical symptoms of alcoholism.





Armed with a 19th-century British naval gun are the masters-at-arms. Front: BM2 James Sumrall and BM3 Glenn Salzwedel; Back: BUI Thomas Gates and BMC Flint Faulkner.



INVESTIGATORS' LINEUP Ready to investigate any and all violations on the island are 62's elite investigators: BU2 Jerry Mosser, MAC Al Wangerin, and BU2 Lambert Hoomana. (Petty Officers Mosser and Hoomana are both MA1 selectees)



Taking a well-deserved break is the MAA rotational work force. They put in a great deal of effort to maintain the grounds of Camp Cummins. From the left: BUCA Tony Washington, BUCA Dan Hinkley, CA Jon Dolina, BM3 Glenn Salzwedel, SA Sandy Walker, Chief Faulkner, CECN Don Broughal, EOCN "Red Dog" Davidson (Det 133), SWCN Dan Patrick, EOCN Luders (Det 40), SA Joey Philips, and BUCA Charles Mason.

EO1 ROBERTS' CREW ZIPS ALONG ON OILSANDING PROJECT

Headed by EO1 "Robbie" Roberts, the POL (petroleum oil/lubricants) crew is once again setting records in their work. This time, they are busy putting an oil/sand mixture in the 120-foot diameter, completed tank ring bases to prepare them for the contractor, Chicago Bridge and Iron.

EO3 Chet Winchell assists EO1 Roberts in the supervision of this high priority job, and operates the asphalt distributor truck. EO3 Mike Bush is in charge of maintaining the transit mixers used in placing the oiled sand in the tank rings.

EO3 Don Smith and EOCN Marty Florez run transit mixers, and assist in laying down the base course. BUCA Bert Blades wheelbarrows the oiled sand down to the sump of each ring and helps in spreading the finished course. BUCA Henderson from the Delta company crew sets the sump forms.

The tank ring bases, 120 feet in diameter, have one inch of dry sand as a base, topped by seven inches of the oiled sand as fill in each tank. The average amount of oil and sand mixture in each ring is about 280 cubic yards of sand and about 3,700 gallons of MC-70 liquid asphalt.

The oiled sand helps to preserve the bottom of the steel tanks, and provides a cushion for the tank itself. Also, it filters condensation on the bottom of the tank down to the sump for transfer to a final drainage system.

The average amount of time it takes to complete the operation for one ring is 4 1/2 days. When first started, the bases were formed into pie-shaped wedges,



BUCA "Whiskey" Blades peers from the window of his transit-mixer laden with oiled sand.

then topped with oiled sand.

Now, thanks to the ingenuity of EOl Roberts, the depressed sump alone is formed. Oiled sand is brought in for the entire base, compacted, then finished by means of a wire stretched between the ring and sump.

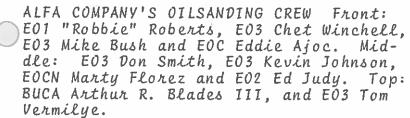
The second method cuts down considerably on physical labor, and shortens the length of completion time for a ring. The oil sanding, final operation in the base rings' construction, was finished two full months ahead of the scheduled turnover date. The crew's confidence in their work was evident in each minute detail of their task.



E03 Chet Winchell gets ready to crank up the asphalt distributor.



E03 Donald Smith has a good time filling the asphalt distributor.





LT. DOUG BRAMWELL DENTAL OFFICER

KEEPING THOSE "PEARLIES" WHITE

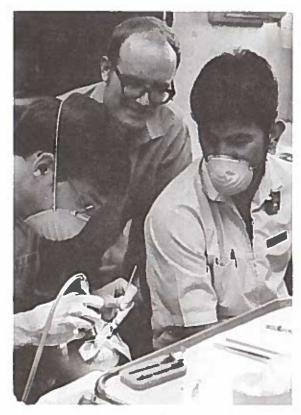
Making the dental experience as comfortable and painless as possible, and driving preventive measures home are the two primary goals of the dental team on Diego Garcia.

If we can achieve these, dental emergencies can then be averted, and the battalion's men can remain in the field doing their various duties. Out of this, a high dental awareness will also develop.

The dental team of DT2 Tom Wann, DN Charles Griego and Lt. Doug Bramwell were assigned the task of maintaining the high quality of dental care initiated by Lt. Stan Cowley, who was relieved in mid-July.

By deployment's end, all personnel in the battalion will have had their teeth cleaned, and received instructions in brushing and flossing.

Also, those who have not had an examination during the past year are now being scheduled



Lt. Doug Bramwell, 62's new dental officer, fills the tooth of yet another Minuteman. Assisting him are DT2 Tom Wann and DTSN Charlie Griego.

during sick call hours to insure they are in good dental shape.

Being far from homeport, certain aspects of dental treatment will have to wait until we return to Gulfport. These include the making of dentures and gum surgery.

But those patients seeking restorative and oral surgery work are given the best possible consideration and care.

For the most part, the men show a great interest in having their dental work completed while here on the island, and are motivated to keep their "pearlies" white.

NEARING THE FINISH: DON'T LET UP ON "SAFETHINK"

Safety responsibility has been stressed throughout the deployment to everyone, from the commanding officer to new arrivals on Diego Garcia.

By making each individual aware of potential hazards that exist here, on or off duty, an aggressive safety program can be maintained.

Hazard awareness training and education is essential for a sound program, as well as a positive attitude toward safety in both work and leisure.

Now that 62 is in the home stretch of this deployment, each individual should rededicate himself in carrying out policies, procedures, and standards of safe work practices.

to ensure that: proper personal protective equipment is used; proper construction techniques are being followed; unsafe conditions are reported and corrected; others are warned of known hazards or their failure to observe safety precautions.

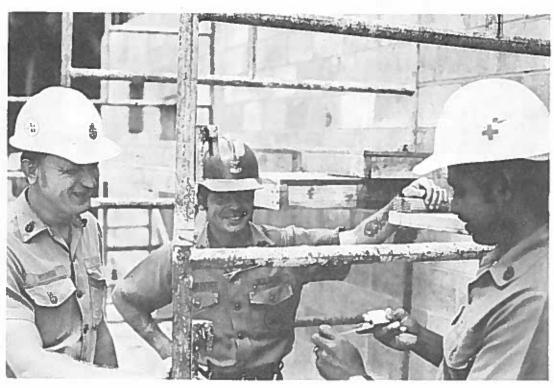
Whether you are a builder, equipment operator, storekeeper, personnelman, mess management specialist, engineering aid, journalist, or any other rating that makes up a Seabee battalion, we all have a common goal while on Diego Garcia.

That is to accomplish our mission and get on that "stretch-eight" in the same condition we arrived in, and head home to our friends and loved ones.

Take the extra time required

Lest we SAFETY!

forget...THINK



BUC Frank Hosinski at the treatment plant project with safety chief BUCS Carl Ballard and his assistant, BUI R.E. Prokopowicz.

BRAVO CO. MAINTENANCE CONTINUES

Maintenance control continues to pave the way in achieving an effective maintenance management program for Camp Cummins.

A rigorous program of inspection and scheduling is currently underway. Our master scheduler, BUl John Nelson, firmly commits 60% of the shop's forces to specific job orders and preventive maintenance.

UT2 Ricky Vanthof insures that needed materials are always on hand, and sends direct turnover stock to the right shop.

The trouble desk, manned by SW2 Jerry Walsh and CE3 Ricky Kuehl, handles and directs to the shops over 400 emergency or service trouble calls each month.

The crew of BU2 Bob Spracklin and BU2 Bill Hammond is busy with Portahut and seahut repairs. And in the steel shop department, SWl Grover Bowers recently put together the pontoons and platform which contributed to the record cement ship offload at the silos.

SWCN Mike George is assisting UT2 Philip Barlow in the office as battalion engraver, and doing an outstanding job.

The maintenance shop puts out the "welcome mat" to CE3 Jay Boyles and UT3 Dick Harris. Jay came from Bravo projects, and joins CE1 Raymond Winstead and his crew in the motor rewind shop.

UT3 Harris, also from projects, joins UT1 Everett Cleversy and crew at the water point. These men operate and maintain the water supply system to provide a safe and adequate supply of water.

CE3 John Miller and CECN

Donald Broughal just finished a complete rewiring of Alfa company's machine repair shop, and also installed floodlights at the dispatch office.

And we can't forget CE3 Kevin Andreasen and CE3 John Sloane; they are both doing fine work at the rewind shop.

UT1 Bob Seaman and crew (UT2 Kevin Capell, UT3 Jim Mahan, UTCN Ronald Pennington and UTCN Hayden McElroy) provide competent maintenance and repairs to the camp plumbing systems.

Recently, the UT's had to make extensive repairs on the saltwater main with the replacement of six lengths of defective pipe. All things considered, the maintenance side of Bravo company keeps chugging along on Diego Garcia. Until we leave, this island will be seeing a lot of work from us.



Lt._D.R. Keith, Bravo company commander, was recently promoted to the rank of lieutenant commander.

MAKING TODAY COUNT CHAPLAIN PEPPER (NOT TOMORROW OR YESTERDAY)

Human nature is a funny We either dread the future (as when preparing for an upcoming deployment), or can hardly wait for the months to pass, so we may return to homeport from our deployment.

Both of these attitudes separate us from the present; from They separate us from reality, harsh or otherwise.

While examining the past for mistakes is valuable, and planning you make today count. action, we should be careful to your personal life leveling look at our motives in either and your spiritual life m case.

We may be falling into the trap of becoming preoccupied with the past or future, and paying less attention to the problems of today.

In a spiritual vein, a similar tendency can rob us of precious opportunities to make today It is no accident that "Make Today Count" is the name and philosophy of a national organization for cancer patients.

These people have a limited life expectancy than you The limit itself is unbut that is the point. known, When you don't know how much time you have left, why not make today (and every day) count?

The Bible says we are not given the insight to know the number of our days. "Sufficient unto the day is its own evil," states Matthew 6:34.

If we carry the heavy the past and anticipation of the future on our shoulders, no wonder

we are always tired today! man carries all things in proportion, he is said to be balanced. Yesterday's lessons are valuable, but they only help us in today's life.

The future beckons, luring us to dwell in some dream. But the only reality is today, and substance has the only abiding reality.

Your life will be better You will ahead to avoid pitfalls is wise find advancement coming faster, pleasing.

New Chief Petty Officers

Congratulations to those First Class Petty Officers selected for advancement to Chief Petty Officer by the Fiscal Year 1978 Selection Board:

BUI Wayne P. Berry

BUI Dale L. Whitney

CM1 James W. Whitlow

CE1 Earl K. Shaddix

UT1 James C. Findley

UT1 Robert R. Woods

UT1 Dennis H. Tracy

LATEST RE-ENLISTMENTS...

















E02 Ray Watkins, CE2 Larry Riner, BU3 Steve Sebring and E02 Dennis Kahler. Top row:

BUCN George Bell, BUI Wayne Berry, E01 Joel Fitchie and CM1 Charles Titus; E02 Jerry Barger. Bottom:

AND PERSONAL RECOGNITION



THE CHAMPIONS Winners in the island-wide wrestling tourney receive trophies. From left: BUCN Shawn Crosby, BU2 John Wiese, BU2 Tom Marmalich and SA Bruce Jones. Not pictured: DTSN Charlie Griego and BUCN Clarence Bouse.



CMCN Harold Newell, Jr., is presented with the "Seabee of the Month" Award for the month of August.

Homecoming

we return to complete the circle started so many nights and days ago when palm trees first began to sway for us in the wind which rushed to greet us that very first night now these trees sway to the rhythm of our heartfelt expectations as an eight-month lesson in unique existence draws to an unhurried finish

shall we recall our first day here? yes, just as we are sure to recall our first moment back home: the initial lurch of landing gear that sends our eyes reaching forward to the exit doors of the plane (to the entrance doors of our emotions)

outside, a crowd of smiles
of colors and faces blurred
is gathered together waving
swaying to the breeze
of their heartfelt anticipation
judy and frances and patty are there
little tommy sporting a black eye
and linda
whose throat is just a little sore
(but I'm alright,
now that you're back, daddy)

through the hugging and kissing and tears that flow freely from the reunion of it all our heads will hold visions intact of a certain foreign sunset sinking below an Indian horizon of an unfurling flag being raised into a morning haze of suntanned features with voices ringing out on the sunlit beach of tropical fish glinting in undersea reflection how brightly they shine on...

yes, through the reunion of it all we will see what shape the car is in see how much our children have grown or perhaps smile upon a new addition to the family with that first I-think-he-looks-a-bit-like-me glance

on Diego Garcia, bee-eye-oh-tea coconuts are certain to fall forever missing us not at all but a Seabee's return is a circle made complete let no one interfere with our at-long-last-moment of reunion (of it all)

-- PM Callaghan/5 Sep 1977



THE ADVENTURES of "Softable"

By Tom Janik & Meph Callaghan







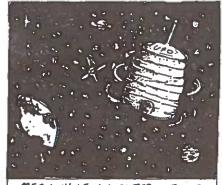
LOOO FEET IN THE AIR --SUPERBEE DISCOUERS HIS UNCANNY TRANSIT-VISION.



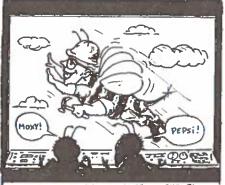
AT ONE BUILDING SITE, DELTA
CO. BREAKS FOR LUNCH. SUDDENLY...







MEANWHILE IN OUTER SPACE ALIENS ARE OBSERVING SUPE'S EVERY MOVE!



TWO ALIEN OFFICERS FROM THE PLANES HONEYCRISPIX PAY SPECIAL AHENTION TO THE FLYING POWER OF OUR HERO.



THE SPACEMEN SPEED TOWARD EARTH THINKING THEY HAVE FOUND A LOST MEMBER OF THEIR RACE! TO BE CONTINUED...

US NMCB-62 FPO NEW YORK, N.Y. 09501

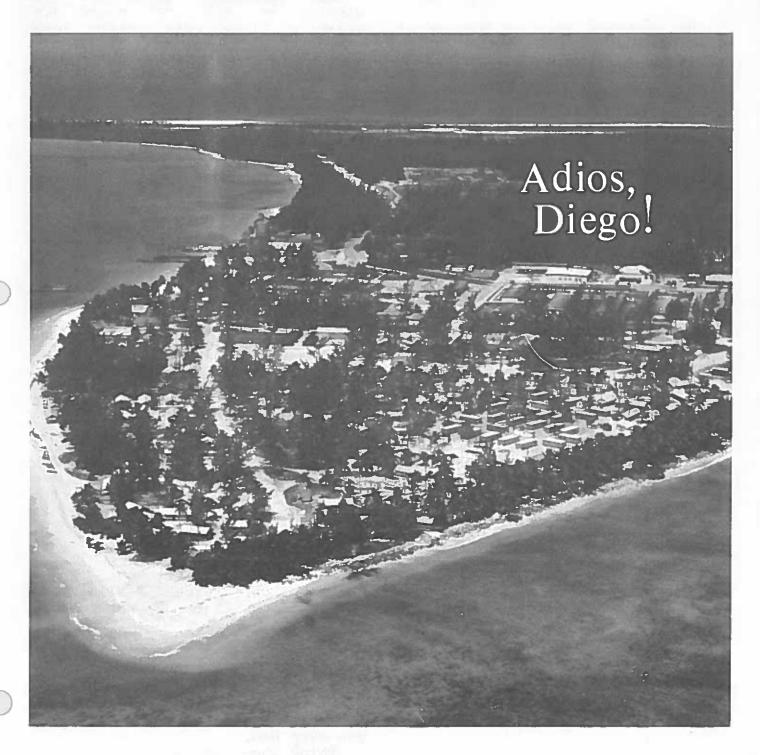
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NMCB Sixty-Two The "Minutemen"

the seabeacon



Comments from..

Commander Fegley

The articles in this edition of the Seabeacon tell the story of a dedicated and skilled battalion of Seabees who are justifiably proud of their accomplishments.

There is little I can add to their story. They tell it quite well.

TEAMWORK is the golden thread that runs through the deployment from start to finish.

DEDICATION got the job done safely, with professionalism, quality and "attention to details".

LEADERSHIP--the finest anywhere--made it happen. Satisfac-

tion and overwhelming pride; that's what these past nine months mean to me.

The loyal support of the officers, chiefs and other Minutemen of "Sixty-Two", your accomplishments and comradery are sincerely appreciated.

I know a great number of you feel the same as myself: this Diego Garcia deployment has been the most personally satisfying experience of my career.

You earned the "E", you deserved the "E", and you can bask in the pride of knowing you're the best there is—let's keep it that way!

Master Chief Sweeney

As we finish our deployment on Diego Garcia, every man in the battalion can be proud of his accomplishments in everything we did as a unit.

The finishing touch was the winning of the "E" Award for Atlantic Fleet construction battalions. It was won by the superior efforts of every individual in 62.

Personally, I have enjoyed being--and am extremely proud to be--the master chief petty officer of this command.

I wish to thank the officers and men for their support and help while on deployment. It has been a very rewarding nine months.

LCdr. Corcoran

Now that we're all safe and sound in home port, we should all look back on our just-finished deployment to Diego Garcia and reflect on what we accomplished (before memories grow faint).

We accomplished A LOT. We were able to do that because our work was our principle...and not our pastime.

Diego may not be great for liberty, but it's a good place to work...and work. That's why we felt a little tired toward the end.

Believe it or not, even Headquarters company was feeling the strain of our rigorous workload by October.

For those of you who have deployed before, and—in future years—for those of you that have deployed for the first time to Diego Garcia, I believe you will look back on this tour as the best you ever had.

Think about it.

Minutemen take "E" award Capt. Jones offers congratulations

Near the end of our deployment to Diego Garcia, NMCB 62 was named the winner of COMCBLANT's Battle "E" Award for Temporary Fiscal Year 1977 and Fiscal Year 1977.

The word was received by message here and read to the entire battalion at morning quarters by the CO, Cdr. C.E. Fegley.

The message, sent by Captain John Paul Jones, Jr., CEC, USN, who is COMCBLANT, read in part:

"It is with extreme pleasure that I name NMCB 62 as best of type and winner of the battle efficiency award for the Atlantic Naval Construction Force...

"Selection...culminates 15 months of superlative performance highlighted by an eminently suc-

cessful deployment to Diego Garcia.

"Every Seabee in NMCB 62 can take pride in his contribution to the outstanding record established by the battalion. My heartiest congratulations."

While Cdr. Fegley read Capt. Jones' message at quarters, a light tropical shower fell on the men. But they didn't seem to mind; their hard work had paid off in a big way.

Everyone wore a proud smile as the "meatball" pennant was raised. The rain cleared, sunshine warmed the air, and the Battle "E" pennant caught its first gust of an early morning breeze over Camp Cummins, Diego Garcia.



Mr. Freed: teamwork is routine for us

Teamwork/team play: these words are defined as work done by several associates with each doing a part; collective play (effort) with mutual assistance of team members.

I--being brand new to the Seabees--was hesitant, and wondered what to expect from NMCB 62. I had heard many statements from others prior to my arrival here:

"Oh! You don't want to go there...," or "You'll regret it," and even "You'll be a fifth wheel-an outcast!"

Well, after three months with the Minuteman Battalion, I know I got the better end of the deal. The adage, "Don't knock it if you haven't tried it" applies here, and you'll never know until you experience it yourself.

I've found the Seabees far from unattractive. They are friendly, helpful and always have a helping hand outstretched to assist, if and when you need it.

The phrase "team play" is ever-present in our organization, and the teamwork is outstanding. Everyone I've asked for assistance has given me a friendly welcome and the help I needed. Everywhere

I look, all I see is solid teamwork--that "can do" attitude.

I am especially happy with the S-l Department (admin, personnel, legal, medical, dental, post office, special services, photo support and public affairs). Each individual in S-l has given me his support, enabling me to complete my task at hand.

During our home port period, I foresee many new and varied challenges—our team effort will be expanded; our teamwork will be enhanced. I am positive that, with the assistance of all the team members, we will better ourselves and obtain that second "E" next year.

After the home port period, I am looking forward to our Guam deployment. We shall function once again as a complete unit (even with several detachments scattered throughout the Pacific), and be ever ready with that "can do" spirit.

Such a spirit displays the cooperative effort I have come to know while serving this short period of time with the Seabees, and especially with the "Minutemen", NMCB 62.

Chief Warrant Officer Robert Freed was administrative supervisor for the Naval Station Correctional Center in Norfolk before coming to the Minutemen in July. CWO2 Freed now serves as NMCB 62's administrative officer.



Some of the S-1 gang



YNSN Isaiah Williams



YN3 David Bohnsack



YNSN Bobby Williams

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Solid Training on Diego

Flexible schedule fits into workload

The very nature of the Diego Garcia deployment placed heavy emphasis on construction projects rather than training. Fully aware of the time limitations for training, our department formed a program flexible enough to be scheduled around the heavy workloads of the battalion.

Formal training consisted of general interest topic areas for battalion personnel. Topics were broken down into four subject areas: safety, first aid, military and general military training.

They were presented as sound and slide programs between 10 and 15 minutes long. Presentations were scheduled on both company and department levels.

The Minutemen kept up with Phase Two training while on deployment. This included classes in military rights and responsibilities, cultural expression and drug/alcohol abuse.

The program was supervised and coordinated by our Human Resources Management Specialist, SK1 Lowery. Petty Officer Lowery underwent extensive training for his billet prior to his deployment. His knowledge, devotion and commitment to the program are noteworthy.

A fine drug and alcohol education program was provided by two capable petty officers, CE3 Bob Norman and CE3 Chuck Cornelisse. They are totally given over to their work, and initiated a most elaborate instruction plan.

All Phase Two training was held on a regular basis, and proved highly successful.

The training department conducted additional courses while on deployment: 12 persons in MARS operation, four persons in nuclear moisture density meter operation and 22 in structural fire fighting

operations.

"I" Division indoctrination training was also coordinated for some 120 people, under the able leadership of our training chief, CEC Anderson.

Formal leadership and responsibility classes were held for junior petty officers throughout the deployment. They covered the basic responsibilities of a petty officer in the Navy.

Personalities were the key to the plans/training department's success. Little would have been achieved had it not been for the untiring efforts of our staff.

Communications

Battalion-held communications equipment consisted of vehicle mounted tactical field radios, handheld "walkie-talkie" radios and field telephones.

This equipment required specialized cleaning and maintenance to keep it running properly.

Our communications shop was manned by ETN2 Leong, ETN3 Trammel and SN Pritchard, who was most eager to strike for electronics technician. Their hard work on Diego Garcia accomplished a great deal...too much to mention for a story of only reasonable length. But their most noticeable tradework was the total replacement of Camp Cummins' field phone system with handier dial telephones.

Ordnance

NMCB 62's armory staff was composed of four gunners mates who exhibited much self-discipline. They needed little or no direction in the performance of their duties here. They are GMG2 Hubble, GMG3 Hart, GMG3 Hall and GMGSN Hansen.

Gunners Mate Hubble was with us

GMGSN Hansen and GMG3 Hall pass the time with one of Diego Garcia's local inhabitants.



only a short time before he was assigned to a Naval Construction Force armory in the Philippines.

Petty Officers Hall and Hart received much-needed help from Seaman Hansen. He was considered to be the "workhorse" of the group.

The ordnance department aided all the line companies at one time or another. One of its largest responsibilities was the storing, handling and accounting of all blasting materials on the island.

"Operation Donkey"

MSgt. Thomas C. LeBoutillier did a great job in giving technical advice to the training department concerning armory and communication matters.

Besides serving as an advisor, he and four assistants carried out "Operation Donkey". This involved

the relocation of wild donkeys to a fenced-off portion of the island.

The efforts of his group did away with safety problems posed by the donkeys for aircraft and construction equipment.

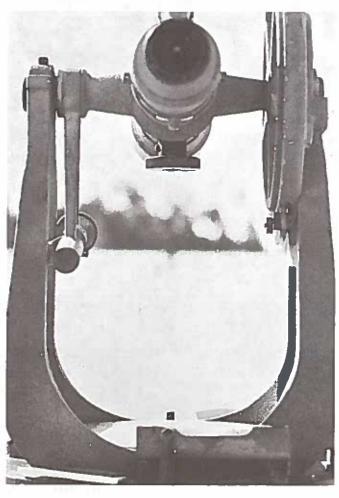
MARS station

Our MARS operators, Petty Officers Coffman, Alimusa, Stewart and Seaman Pritchard maintained round-the-clock communication with the continental United States.

They made major improvements on the station here, and always provided courteous service (no matter how much trouble they were having with the radio signal).

Their service was an important reason for 62's high morale on Diego Garcia, and gave a reassuring link between ourselves and those we love back home.

Operations dept. places emphasis on construction integration, efficiency



During the Diego Garcia deployment, several important personnel changes took place in the operations department, and many originally assigned persons found themselves with new or expanded responsibilities.

Lt. James Rispoli relieved LCdr. John Milkintas as the operations officer in May. Lt. Rispoli was a gain to the battalion, having just completed duty as officer in charge of construction in Columbus, Ohio.

In June, Lt.(jg) Scott Cleveland was reassigned to the position of engineering officer, after being relieved as assistant operations officer by Lt.(jg) Richard McAfee. Lt.(jg) McAfee was also a new asset to NMCB 62, reporting from the staff of NCBC, Gulfport. No newcomer to the Seabees, he jumped into the hectic pace and handled the monumental administrative tasks of the operations department.

Ably assisted by BU2 Donald Drumheller and YNSN Michael Fleming, this small but potent team implemented use of the minicomputer as a management tool not only for construction, but also virtually every department in the command.

BU2 Drumheller became a familiar face as he set up the time-lapse photography equipment at our active jobsites, to be used as a management tool. A review of the reading file serves as testimony that YNSN Fleming prepared a full 50% of the command's correspondence: a hidden (unsuntanned) face, but vital to our construction management.

Heading up the quality control (QC) staff was BUC Bill Kaden, whose duties were to organize the QC staff, schedule concrete, and coordinate between QC and operations. When the chief left Diego Garcia near deployment's end, EAC Bernal was the lucky man to get the job.

EOl Newman took over the job of scheduling concrete, along with his QC work. EOl Newman and EO2 Granger split up the EO work being done.

BU1 Gallant, BU2 McBride and BU2 Jones covered the BU and SW quality control work on all 62 and detachment projects. Petty Officer Gallant did the QC at the POL tank rings, concrete precast yard and final water project. BU2 McBride covered the parking apron and runway extension. BU1

Gallant took this over when BU2 McBride transferred to Delta company, to assume the crew leader's job on the runway extension project.

BU2 Jones did the QC on the subsistence building, EM Club, swimming pool, Modulux, Porta-Huts, BEQ and the tennis and volleyball courts projects.

CE2 Clark and UT2 Inman were not as lucky as the other rates; they couldn't split up their jobs. They covered the QC for their rates on all the island projects.

BU2 Jones, CE2 Clark and UT2 Inman also had the planning and estimating work to do for the Minutemen. This consisted of camp maintenance projects and proposed new construction. Hard workers all, a careful observer would have noticed many of these

men assisting on critical projects during their off-duty hours--as crew members instead of quality controlmen.

With the temporary loss of EAC "Mac"
Banks (for advanced schooling), EAC Benito
Bernal assumed duties as engineering chief,
along with his QC chief job. Manning the
drafting tables were EA3 Gene Munoz, EACN
A1 Samuel and several detachment members,
all under the supervision of EA1 Andy
Embuido.

As the parking apron and taxiway neared completion, EA3 Bob Sexton, EACN Tony Treadway and EACN Bill Titch provided line and grade for the backblast and overrun area of the runway project. Surveying support for the cantonment area, BEQ's, swimming pool, POL, general warehouse and cold storage projects was provided by EA2 Ken Myers and EACN Kevin Clark.

Personnel assigned to the materials testing lab, ably headed by EA2 Nestor Lista, continued their vital role by taking IPD's and conducting concrete strength tests.

EA3 Steve Tutokey, EA3 Paul Ducharme, and EACN's Tony Fernando, Jerry Wolfe and

Harry Stephenson, Jr., were the lab men who judged whether materials passed or failed.

A hearty farewell to EA3 Stu Larson, EA3 Fred Cirksena and EA2 Curt Liscum, who have all joined the civilian ranks to further their education, and to EA3 Danny Newood, who left us for another duty station.

BUCS Carl Ballard and BUl Prokopowicz were familiar faces everywhere the battalion worked. There was an office side to their job, too—safety reports and injury reports for the entire regiment. We couldn't have asked for a better team.

The stabilizing influence in the department was CUCM Jim Johnson, who was seen daily, imparting words of wisdom at each active job site. We were happy to see the advancements of BU2 Jones, Lt.(jg) Cleveland and Lt. James Rispoli.

Many faces in the operations department are known by all; others are behind-the-scenes supporters. They all have one goal in common-good quality and efficient construction. Together with our tremendous line companies, we accomplished that goal!



Lieutenant James Rispoli and Lieutenant (junior grade) Richard McAfee are the operations and assistant operations officers (respectively) for the Minuteman Battalion.

MLO: Largest project material site in NFC is put into 'outstanding' shape by supply

In the heat and humidity of Diego Garcia, there's always action in the Material Liaison Office (MLO) yard. Confronted with managing the largest project material site in the Naval Construction Force, the men of NMCB 62's MLO have shouldered a monumental workload in an "of course we can" fashion since arriving here in January.

For the first time in the island's history, the MLO area received a grade of "outstanding" from the Operational Readiness Inspection. This was followed by another "outstanding" grade on a supply inspection; a difficult achievement, considering the harsh corrosive climate materials are constantly exposed to. Through crabs, jungle growth and sand, maintaining the MLO yard was no small feat.

Faced with a mountain of excess material that had accumulated here over the years, MLO pushed the jungle back to make room for everything.

In addition to moving material, it also had to be identified, inventoried, and catalogued for future use. The eventual product of our labors will have a very real effect by saving the Navy thousands of dollars in procurement costs.

A recent visit from CBPAC, Rear Admiral Neal Clements, afforded the compliment, "...I've never seen the MLO yard look better ...outstanding job you've done here..."

An ongoing and hard-charging operation, MLO has always been ready and able to provide all materials for the men of 62.







Faces...















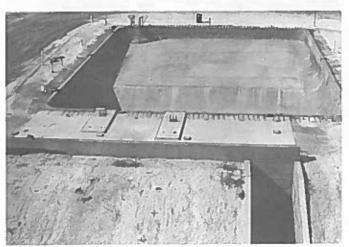


... and some finished places











Achievements of 62's Alfa company are many and nearly unbelievable

E03 Paul Howell



It was a long, uphill fight much of the way, but the deployment to Diego Garcia proved to be one of the most profession—ally rewarding and personally satisfying experiences in some time for the Seabees of 62's Alfa company.

The battalion earned the COMCBLANT Battle Efficiency Award/Best of Type for its accomplishments over the past 15 months, and the men of Alfa company can reflect with pride on their contribution toward winning this coveted honor.

Perhaps the most dramatic accomplishment was in the upgrade of the battalion's allowance of Civil Engineer Support Equipment (CESE), or "USN-numbered" equipment, as it's more commonly known.

The early months of the deployment were filled with frustration as horizontal construction efforts fell behind schedule because of equipment availability constraints, and the string of deadlined equipment grew longer daily. Overall equipment condition at the start was well below "force average", with 80% in only fair or worse condition.

The deadline grew to 25%, availability of heavy earth-hauling equipment dropped below 30%, and the Seabees' largest horizontal construction tasking in recent

years appeared to be in jeopardy. But Alfa company proved it was up to the challenge.

With full support and backing from higher commands, as well as the ranks of the Minuteman Battalion, a highly aggressive maintenance program was begun with the goal of upgrading overall equipment condition. Progress was slow and tedious, but the many long hours of concentrated effort ultimately paid off.

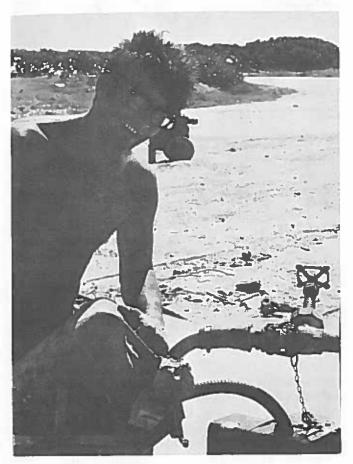
The BEEP report (Battalion Equipment Evaluation Program) at the deployment's end told the story.

The camp turnover equipment deadline of 3.5% was the lowest at any deployed battalion site today, and the lowest ever for Diego Garcia.

Availability of heavy earth-hauling units stood in excess of 90%, far exceeding anyone's expectations.



CM3 Robert Besaw



Overall equipment condition coding had been raised one full level from the "fair to poor" category to the "good to fair" category.

The feats of Alfa company's projects division were no less impressive. Equipment constraints had forced slippages in the construction schedule for nearly all projects.

The situation was critical, since the battalion's line companies were dependent on timely support from Alfa company in order to keep their own projects on schedule, and a signed contract with a civilian construction firm for the erection of the POL fuel storage tanks mandated that the site fill and foundation work be completed on schedule.

The EO's were determined to succeed despite adversity, and literally worked around the clock.

Careful management and strong dedication paid off, as established construction milestones were methodically achieved on or ahead of schedule.

All told, over 300,000 cubic yards of earth fill was placed, 72,000 cy of soil cement installed, 50 acres of jungle cleared, and 50,000 cy of spoil hauled off in the most massive horizontal construction tasking the equipment operators have had in some time.

The POL facility was the largest single project for Alfa company, requiring 200,000 cy of fill, and 2,000 cubic yards of oiled sand in preparation for the tank erection contractor.

Working in close coordination with Delta company, who installed the concrete tank ring foundations, the crews involved on this job (scraper, roller and oiled sand crews) worked tirelessly to ensure that not only every project milestone was achieved ahead of schedule, but that new time records were set on each succeeding tank foundation.

Alfa company's north runway/parking apron crew likewise achieved noteworthy results. An extensive cut-and-fill effort was extended to reshape and drain the entire construction site. Seventy thousand square yards of soil cement base were in-



E03 Randy Pummill

Below: E03 Edward Kathrens peers outside from within a transmixer's drum.

Right: Seabees apply asphalt and gravel to the ship's store parking lot on Diego Garcia.

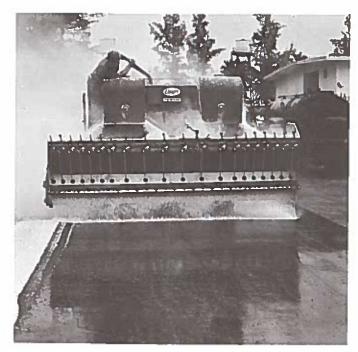
stalled for the concrete pavement placed by NMCB 5's detachment and Delta company.

Miles of contraction joints were sawed and sealed in the pavement, and extensive earthwork support was provided to Bravo company electricians, who installed the airfield lighting system.

Except for minor setbacks caused by rainy weather, the entire job progressed smoothly and achieved established goals.

Just to the north of the POL facility was another beehive of activity for Alfa company, as acres of jungle were cleared, and the land reshaped. One area was cleared and leveled to accommodate a pipe storage yard and pre-fab facility for the POL.





In another section of this site, foundation pads were installed for two proposed warehouses. And in the northern corner of the clearing, a waste water lagoon for the new laundry facility was excavated and shaped. As with other projects, each of these jobs was completed in a highly professional, punctual manner.

Construction of the new sandpier at harbor operations provided a special challenge. Although the start of this job had been delayed due to project approval constraints, completion was still required before the next re-supply ship arrived.

Several mid-construction design changes were needed so that locally available materials could be used, and the winds and tides added their own special handicap to the work.

Nonetheless, the men of the pier construction crew lived up to their "Can Do" reputation by working every opportunity, beneficially finishing the job only days ahead of the S.S. Transcolorado.

The camp crew for Alfa company likewise achieved outstanding results in their support of the vertical construction effort. Fill and earthwork for the swimming pool, Modulux, BEQ's recreation facilities, final water facilities and many other support taskings were carried out by EOl Wilterdink and his men.



The third major division of Alfa company, transportation, was no less a part

of the success story.

The cement haul operation moved 17,000 tons of cement from the supply ships, through the silos, and to the two concrete batch plants, on a 24-hour per day basis. This was in support of the slip-form paving operation, as well as for vertical construction concrete. The concrete batching and transit mixer operation produced and delivered 12,000 cy of concrete.

Left: CM2 Dennis Turner overhauls a "deadlined" engine in the heavy equipment shop.

Below: Bulldozer pushloads a TS-24 scraper as it fills with coral aggregate at Point Marianne.

The crane crew was constantly on duty, making weight-handling lifts such as Porta-Hut relocations, precast concrete panel erection, or cargo offload, as well as conducting dredge fill recovery dragline operations at Point Marianne.

Included in the services provided were fuel deliveries, taxi service, equipment pool dispatching, personnel and cargo transport for aircraft, sanitary landfill management, and countless other essential support functions for the battalion and its construction mission.

Each element of the transportation division demonstrated professionalism and dedication in the performance of its taskings.

The challenge on Diego Garcia was great, and so were the men who so effectively met it. The battalion's goals and objectives for the deployment had been achieved through professionalism and dedication to duty.

And as the men of Alfa company reminisce on their adventures of this deployment, they can call it anything but uneventful.



How did you bless Diego Garcia?

This is being written as the Minuteman Battalion leaves Diego Garcia.

The advance party is in home port after a slight delay enroute (if twice the estimated travel time can be considered "slight"), and the rest of us are spending the last hectic days turning over jobsites, equipment, buildings and a few memories to the "new kid in town"--NMCB 74.

It's time to ask ourselves just how the island that's been our home, work, liberty, duty, joy and tribulation has changed from the place we came to in January and February.

Undoubtedly, it is different from tons of fill moved, to the heights of our newly-erected Modulux barracks.

The beaches are less crowded with shells, the sea less dense with fish, the population of coconut crabs decreased, although little notice will be taken by those coming after us. How, then, is the change to be known, felt or shown?

At the close of any divine service, a blessing or benediction

is given. This blessing normally expresses the fulfillment received by the people, and that the joy and peace of their time together should go with them as they leave.

We have been blessed in many

We have been blessed in many ways; ways not experienced by everyone in the same manner. But the main body of opinion seems to say that it was good for us to have been on Diego Garcia.

The Best of Type/Battle Efficiency Award given to us is a strong sign of this spirit. Hard work, devotion to duty, and "getting the job done" brought it about.

Now we leave, remembering our time here. We can be confident, both in the blessing we leave here, and the benediction we carry with us to home port, our next duty station, or home.

We can never be the same, nor can this island remain unchanged. Each of us knows if we gave as much as we took; if you leave with a sigh of regret, or a shout of victory. "The blessing of Almighty God be upon you and remain with you, now and forevermore."

Amen.

A special Jewish religious service is held at the chapel of Diego Garcia. It was one of many occasions which allowed Minutemen to celebrate their love for God individually and collectively.



After 8 1/2 months, Bravo Seabees are proud



After eight and one half months of suffering from family separrain, ation, loneliness, heat, coconut crabs, land crabs, aircraft not arriving as scheduled, and one heck of a lot of hard work...we're going home as proud Seabees.

We've been lucky because we've had the rare opportunity to really work construction. Here on Diego Garcia, we've done it all. hasn't been a field in the UT, CE, SW or BU rating that hasn't been

worked on.

Let's take a backward glance and see what we've accomplished. The CEs have done high voltage cable splicing on 13,000-volt electrical systems, rerouted those same systems, installed interior electrical systems, hooked up air equipment laundry conditioners, and trouble-shot electronic control circuits. They've put in a runway lighting system and placed concrete.

UTs have done it all, too. They've installed air conditioning systems, galley equipment, heads, swimming pool equipment, put in boilers, produced and distributed

They have air-balanced airconditioning systems, and have run an electrodialysis treatment unit (what a monster!).

SWs have done sheet metal work, gas, arc and TIG welding, worked and reworked the pontoon systems for pumping cement from ships.

BUs have placed concrete, laid rehabilitated block, concrete buildings, built shipping crates, made retirement flag boxes, built doors and constructed footlockers. Not to mention a great deal of varnish assorted painting and work.

We also had the pleasure of doing paperwork. And on top all that, we've had to send every nonrated man in the company to temporary duty in the mess hall at least once.

we're proud; we accom-Yes, plished our goals and did it safely. Bravo company set a safety standard that will difficult for anyone to ever duplicate. During the six-month in period which an award was presented monthly to the company with the highest safety standards, we received it four times.

Our company stayed militarily smart, too. Captain Jones, COMCBLANT, commented that Bravo company was "outstanding" during the personnel inspection, the only company to receive those comments. Yes, sir...we're proud!

We worked on virtually every project on Diego Garcia assigned to the battalion. We also did a tremendous amount of maintenance work improving the electrical safety at Alfa company shops, living conditions of the camp berthing area and improved the sanitary waste system.

We developed the first comprehensive maintenance program ever on Diego Garcia, and wrote the instruction to guide others in using it. Proud? As Groucho would say, "You bet your life!"

Our company competed in athletics, too, and won the softball tournaments twice, four-mile relay twice, a racquetball tournament, a wrestling bout and the Diego Garcia coconut-throwing contest.

Yes, sir, we're going home -heads high--filled with the pride of accomplishment and satisfaction, knowing we're the best. The teamwork, spirit and solidarity of this company is hard to equal. No one person can be singled out; we've done it all together.

As we look back on the deployment, we can now say the long separation and hardships were worth it. We've learned; we've grown professionally, mentally and spiritually with our success...but we wouldn't want to do it all over again!



Front-end loader and conveyor belt supply gravel for a built-up roof placement at the EM Club.

Medical dept. Responding to the value of life

While in homeport, the medical department sent corpsmen to cold weather training, heavy weapons firing exercises, general military training and special schools. All this was in preparation for the upcoming deployment to Diego Garcia.

Before leaving homeport, contact was made with the medical department on the island to gain all the information we could about our new deployment site. Health records were carefully screened and, with some apprehension, we were off.

Leaving winter behind, we said hello to nice, warm, tropical sunshine. Much to our surprise, we found excellent medical facilities awaiting us on Diego Garcia: an almost new dispensary complete with laboratory, x-ray, pharmacy, emergency room and operating room.

We quickly settled in to work with the Naval Communications Station medical department staff, which was already at work in the new dispensary. The first few weeks brought a heavy sick call of sunburns. Soon, everyone had a tan, and sick call dropped off to coral cuts and minor injuries.

Although most serious problems were evacuated off-island to the Philippines, we were called upon three times to perform appendectomies during our stay here.

It seems that they always happen the same general time as baby deliveries...in the middle of the night.

In July, the medical department bid farewell to our medical officer, Dr. Bruce, and welcomed Dr. Bonner aboard as his replacement.

With the deployment at an end, all thoughts have turned to home and the loved ones we left behind. We leave Diego Garcia with many fond memories, and a great deal of

respect for the skills of the Seabees we support.

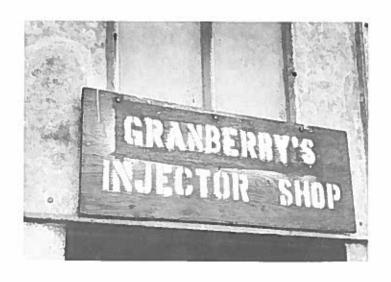
Many lessons have been learned; they will help us throughout our careers. Indeed, they will be put to good use the moment we touch down in Gulfport.

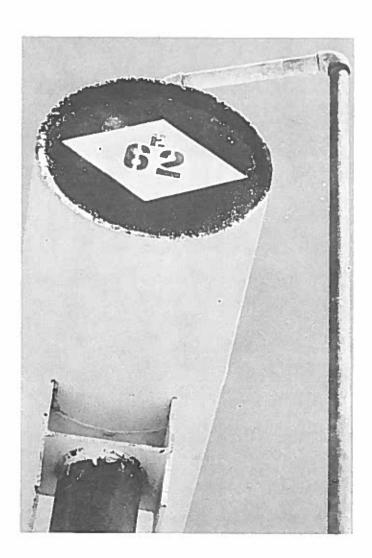
Our heartfelt thanks go to those who, when called to donate blood or give assistance of any kind, responded with the self-lessness common among men who know the value of life.



This "Notice to Visitors" sign still hangs on the wall of a building which used to serve as the old coconut plantation's hospital. Needless to say, the prescribed visiting hours are no longer in effect.

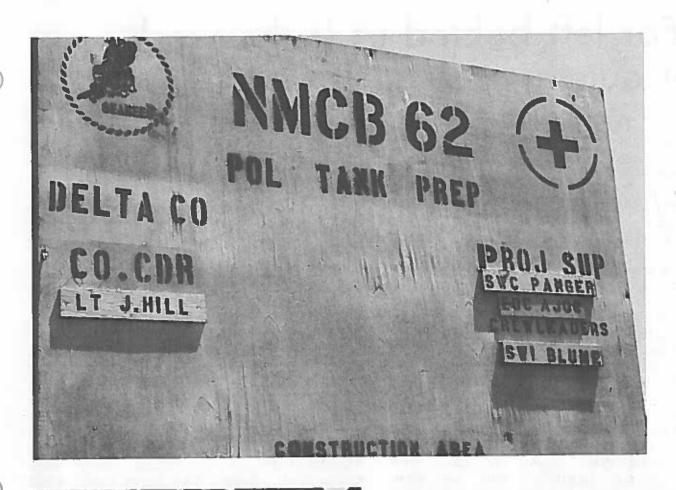
Signed...













SAFETY SAFETY IS THE ABILITY O REACH ONES GOALS WITHOUT DEMOLISHING ONES SELF BEFORE YOU REACH THEM YOUR EYES HANDS EARS YOU DON'T DRAW A NEW SET THINK FIRST

"For left behind us is the work of outstanding craftsmen

"Dear Mom", "Dear Dad", "My

Darling"...I'm coming home.
This is the start of many letters now leaving Diego Garcia, and--yes--Charlie company is also coming home. Each and every man of Charlie company can hold his shoulders back with chest out, look straight ahead, and be proud when he leaves Diego Garcia; proud to be a part of NMCB 62.

For left behind us is the work of outstanding craftsmen in the construction field. It's been a long nine months on this island. Our tasking and goals, which seemed unrealistic at the start of the deployment, have been met or surpassed.

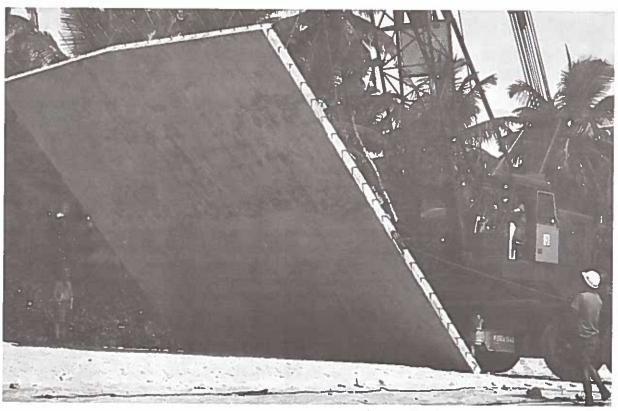
Carrying the motto, "What you complain about today, you'll brag about tomorrow," has paid off. Today, tomorrow, and in the future, we can proudly say we did our work as a team...a Charlie company team.

In this article, the names of our men won't be seen, for would take a much longer story than this to tell what each man accomplished. But mention has will be made concerning the tremendous accomplishment of a group of Seabees joined together to form the unforgettable Charlie company of NMCB 62.

What did we do as a team? is my pleasure to take this oportunity to tell you.

The first completion job was the interior finish and equipment installation of the new dining facility, "Plantation Inn", under the project supervision of Charlie company and supported by Bravo company.

This building, with a seating capacity of 400 men, and the capability of feeding 1400 men stationed here, has been completed and is a greatly-needed morale booster.



Twenty-ton wall panel being tilted into place at BEQ project site.

Not only is it a pleasure to sit down and eat in modern style,

the meals are more enjoyable.

In addition to the interior work of the Plantation Inn, many man-days of work have been used to build curbs, sidewalks, land-scaping, concrete pads, and decorative block walls to round out a superior accomplishment of this task.

Living conditions on Diego? As a company, we improved those conditions with the assembly and erection of 60 Portahuts and 10 Portaheads, while removing 25 Seahuts.

To make it even better, over a mile of interwinding sidewalks

were formed and poured.

While on the subject of living conditions, we find completed to about 97% the once rusty pile of steel and scrap plywood called "Modulux".

Hats off to the men of Charlie company who had the initiative, skill and imagination to erect and rehabilitate this virtual pile of "junk" into an attractive and most-needed living space.

Getting to the modern phase of construction, Charlie company found itself on the pre-cast

concrete, tiltup BEQ project.

After five months of seeing nothing but bronzed and straining Seabee backs in ditches, the Alfa company cranes showed up on the jobsite one day.

The very next day, one of the first comments I heard was "Where

did THAT come from?"

The remark was directed toward a 24x22 foot, six-inch thick, 20-ton wall...standing upright, reaching toward the hot tropical sun.

The beginning of tiltup construction on Diego Garcia was at With the example of prohand. high competence and fessional personal standards set by Charlie Diego Garcia will company, modern building to its another architectural repertoire in the near future.

The permanent BEQ project of Charlie company, showing several of the tiltup wall panels in place.



Not only has Charlie company been a part of living and dining improvements here, but also had a part in the final water project. We were chosen to construct a 30x60 foot concrete block water treatment plant. Believe me, this is one crew that can really hold their heads high, and be proud of the accomplishment they have achieved.

Many of our assigned jobs were temporarily halted by ship off-loads; not one or two, but four of them--ranging from seven to ten days apiece. We handled many tons of needed construction equipment and material. The offloads, as with the rest of our work, were safely carried out.

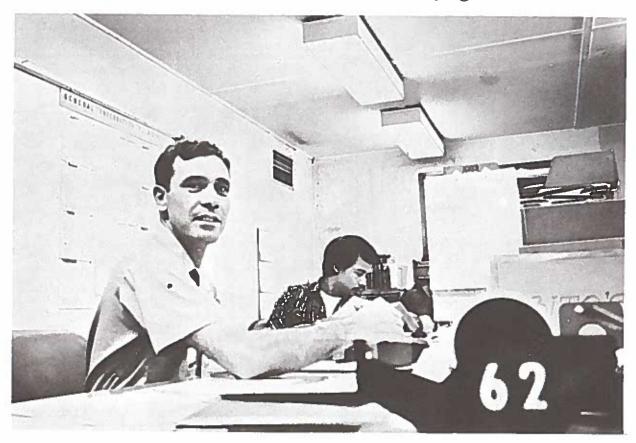
For the members of Charlie company, each man knows which project he worked on, and how he helped to make this story a plea-

sure to write.

So until next deployment, hold your head high. You've more than earned the right to do so.

CBPAC Representatives

Four "absentees" who were never really gone



Since late January, four Minutemen have been conspicuously absent. They have been separated by thousands of miles--not only from loved ones at home, but also from coworkers in the Minuteman battalion.

These men, Lt. Don Cosgrove, SKC Tom Hodges, SWl Dempsey Bumpass, and MS3 Virgil Hernandez comprise the group known as the CBPAC Representative in the Republic of the Philippines.

Unless you've joined NMCB 62 during the deployment, transited the Philippines on temporary additional duty, or taken some well-earned leave, you probably haven't seen any of these persons over the past 8 1/2 months.

However, many important visitors have formed initial impressions of our performance by treatment received here at Clark Air Base.

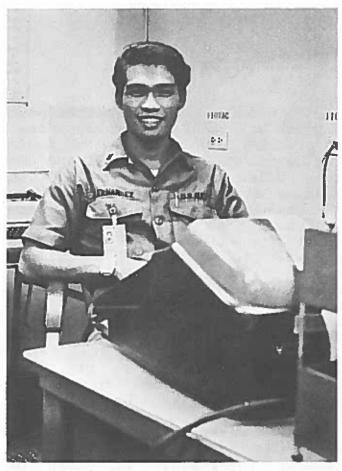
In addition to personnel move-

ment, the CBPAC Rep. is responsible for rapid movement of personal mail, shipment of provisions, and coordination of material shipment required to keep Diego Garcia the worker's paradise it surely is.

Even if you haven't seen members of the detail in person, you've at least benefited from their work.

The detail is made up of two units. The first, at Clark AB, mainly "babysits" individuals passing through the Philippines to or from Diego; it chases down "hot items" for use on the island, and coordinates flights which move personnel and cargo to and from Diego Garcia.

The group at Subic Bay is mostly concerned with liaison work among other military units. They walk through requisitions, prepare provisions for shipment and make personal purchases for the men on



SKC Tom Hodges (facing page), MS3 Virgil Hernandez (left), Lt. D.M. Cosgrove and SW1 Dempsey Bumpass (below) comprised 62's CBPAC Representatives in the Philippines.

These four men, assigned to Clark Air Base in Angeles City, were responsible for coordinating shipment of mail, provisions and material to the Minutemen on Diego Garcia.

Diego.

Also, the CBPAC Rep. is involved with the U.S. Navy Office in Singapore; their work relates to the special leave program, provision procurement and equipment repairs.

Some interesting and startling statistics follow: since Feb. 1, some 1800 persons have passed through the Clark Military Airlift Command terminal enroute to Diego Garcia.

Some 1.5 million pounds of cargo (including provisions) have been processed through this same terminal, bound for Diego on C-141 aircraft.

And of main concern to most people, some 500,000 pounds of mail have been sent to the island these past eight months.

Although we're "out of sight", the CBPAC Rep. should not be "out of mind" to the Minutemen on Diego. Though in a more ideal location, we have never forgotten our all-important function in support of our battalion.



Men of Delta

A tight, spirited, hardworking company



Delta company has enjoyed a fruitful and successful deployment; one which saw the development of a tight, spirited, hardworking and fun-loving company of efficient Seabees.

From the start, it was apparent to the men of Delta company that their assignment was not only huge, but would have to be accomplished with much difficulty.

This challenge seemed to draw us together in the drive to achieve our goals. Each crew meshed into well-coordinated teams, and showed inherent versatility by transferring from one company project to the next with smoothness and ease.

It didn't matter whether our project was the POL, runway, final water, EM Club or swimming poolthe pressure was on us, and the men pulled together to place an amazing amount of quality work on the island.

From the high-priority POL (petroleum/oil/lubricant) project-which was completed a full two months ahead of schedule--to the swimming pool site, the Delta company "Darlings" completed tasks which some claimed could not be done.

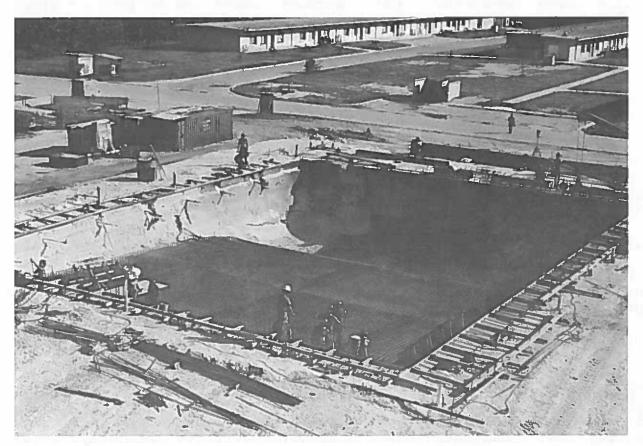
The story of Delta company is a personal one. Rigors of this environment left men to rely on each other like brothers or lifelong friends.

There were the usual goodbyes, with new faces reporting aboard at regular intervals. But here on Diego, the goodbyes seemed longer than the time it took for the "Newbees" to fit in with the more experienced ones.

This unique work experience molded our men into one solid unit. But when one speaks of day-to-day work, one speaks of the individual blood, sweat and tears that went into the excellent management, planning and initiative demonstrated by everyone. These were the ingredients that made Delta company perform at an optimum level.

Especially noteworthy were the efforts of our project superintendents and crew leaders: BUC Ron Flockton, SWC Tom Panger, BUC Skarzynski, BUL Herb Amey, BUL Bob McElroy, BUL Holloway, BUL Wayne Berry and SWL Billie Wood.

As the advance party left, each man could stand tall, proud of what he did here. The men of Delta company have returned to Gulfport, knowing they were part of an award-winning "E"ffort on Diego Garcia.



Minutemen change the face of an island

NMCB 62, the Minuteman Battalion, has changed the face of an island.

The island is Diego Garcia, British Indian Ocean Territory. The manner in which NMCB 62 changed the face of this island bears forth a somewhat longer explanation:

POL tank site

In February, 10% of the earthwork was completed for the POL (petroleum/oil/lubricant) site. Now, eight concrete base rings (each one 380 ft. in circumference) stand on a cleared and graded area of land measuring 27 acres.

The eight welded steelplate tanks with 80,000-barrel capacities have already risen from 62's foundations.

To bring the site up to grade, scraper operators hauled 221,000

cubic yards (cy) of fill. Each haul trip was 7.5 miles, and the scraper operators became quite familiar with even the smallest pebbles that made up the haul road.

When the first concrete base ring was placed, it took 33 days; the last placement spanned only 72 hours. For each complete foundation, Seabees used 250 cy of concrete and 260 cy of oiled sand.

Construction planning called for the eighth ring to be finished by Nov. 24. But the men didn't carry calendars with them onto the job site, and instead of November they finished in September.

EM club

It all started with the shell of a building. Then the Minutemen went to work:

The roof was put on, all out-

side walls were texcoated and inside walls painted. The interior slowly became more than a concrete shell: ductwork, electric and water lines, wood and tile work, varnishing, grinding, installing suspended ceilings, placing all doors and windows.

What else? Well...what else can you think of? Oh, yes; the bars-can't forget those. They've been installed, too, along with all collateral equipment. It's now ready for a grand opening.

Final water

A 50,000-gallon tank minus the roof, plus a small concrete block pump house. That's all there was at final water.

Now there stands completed a 50,000-gallon tank, a 150,00 gallon tank and an 1800 square foot water treatment plant.

It didn't happen by magic. Ask the builders about the 360 cy of concrete they used, and the steel-

workers about the 80 tons of steel rebar they handled.

Swimming pool

After a hard rain, it looked like a small water-filled hole. After a hot spell, it was simply an empty hole.

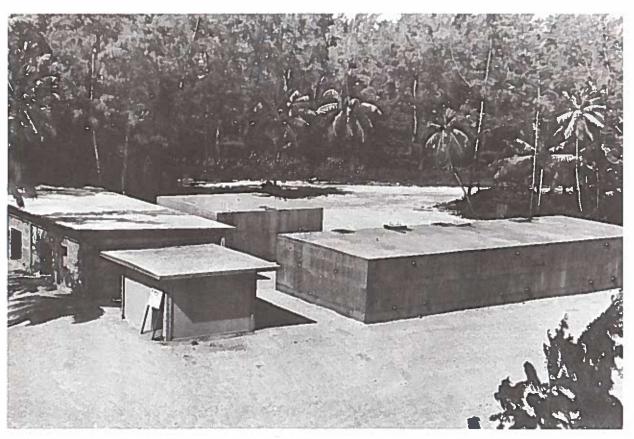
The swimming pool has no swimmers, but it does finally have a shape, including a concrete lining and mechanical room with equipment.

Eighty tons of steel and 9,000 cy of fill tend to do that--create a shape--and this one is eight lanes wide and olympic in size.

If necessary materials had been available, the Minuteman crew could have finished the entire swimming pool with another six weeks of work.

Runway/apron

The Minutemen precast and installed over 300 manhole, hand-



The final water project---after 8½ months of hard labor by the Minutemen.

View of the POL site, looking down from the top of an 80,000 barrel-capacity fuel tank.



hole and light box units at the runway. Not to mention all the radii and blast pad construction.

For eight months, we watched the stabilizer crew do its work on a hot square of white coral. The result was 58,000 sq. yds. of soil cement.

Two miles of ductwork were also furnished, along with 24,000 lineal feet of electrical conduit.

Enlisted dining facility (EDF)

The EDF looked nearly completed when we arrived, but the battalion still found itself taking meals in the adequate, but also antiquated, Reindeer Inn.

Material shortages and design changes had to be overcome if Plantation Inn was to be a reality. And they were.

Modern collateral equipment was installed, and interior work finished. BUs, CEs and UTs found themselves working together, trying to accomplish their dif-

ficult assignment in the shortest time possible.

In mid-July, Seabees stepped into the EDF for a dinner featuring steaks to order and baked lobster. A surprise awaited them; this wasn't a dining facility at all—it was a restaurant!

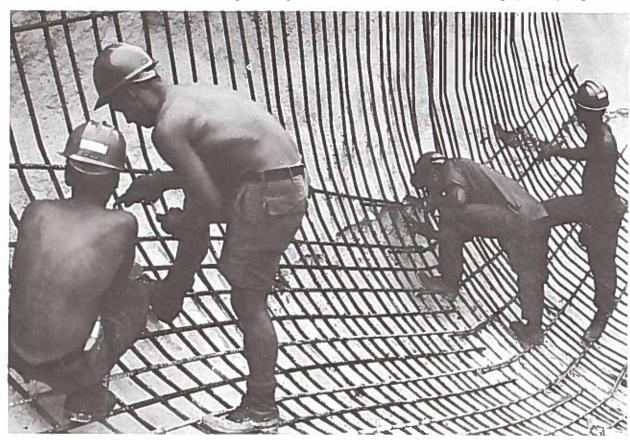
Portahuts

Six-man airconditioned Portahuts have been crowding Seahuts out of the cantonment area all deployment. We have erected and installed 60 Portahuts and 10 Portaheads.

The Seahuts have been put to use elsewhere, or dismantled so their materials can be used in other projects.

Modulux

You've heard the phrase, "silk purse out of a sow's ear"? So have we; but here, there's another name for it: Modulux.



An attractive building that will serve as temporary quarters for 80 men, the Modulux started out as a pile of...well, it was something indescribable.

The 24x150-foot structure had been retrograded from Thailand, and needed a GREAT DEAL of rehabilitation work (electrical, plumbing, insulation). Add a new roof and new paint job...presto! The Modulux BEQ complex.

BEQ's (permanent)

In the beginning, there were parts of two foundations; and another one was graded to elevation. And nothing else.

After seven months, the foundation, floor slabs and 18 tiltup walls are in place on BEQ 6, the foundation and floor slabs are done on BEO 7 and 8.

Two of the permanent BEQ's are 26x263 feet; the third is 26x233.

As a fill-in project at the start of this deployment, the same

BEQ crew completed the foundation and floor slabs for a new 30x240 foot Bachelor Officer Quarters.

Sand pier

To top things off, the Minutemen have constructed a new sand pier to replace the old "pier" previously used for ship offload. Measuring 60x180 feet, this project represents a large amount of work carried out by only a handful of men.

Other activities

The above projects are only the major efforts we've been involved with on Diego Garcia.

In addition to these, there are: site preparation work for the general and cold storage warehouses; sewage lagoon construction; laundry equipment installations; lighted recreation facility with ballfield, three tennis and four volleyball courts;

cantonment landscaping; ship's store parking lot; connection of jungle wells into the final water system; and chiller unit installation for the Security Group.

every specific explain activity of the battalion, all the progress made, and those responsible for it would take literally a

novel's worth of space.

Alfa, Bravo, Charlie and Delta companies are responsible for the majority of work in the tasks assigned to them as individual companies. But we achieved this successful deployment as a battalion, and we'll take credit as a battalion.

All of us know which company took care of the myriadal paperwork needed for our smooth operation, and wielded the mighty typewriter with expert efficiency (can you imagine a construction battalion without a Headquarters company?).

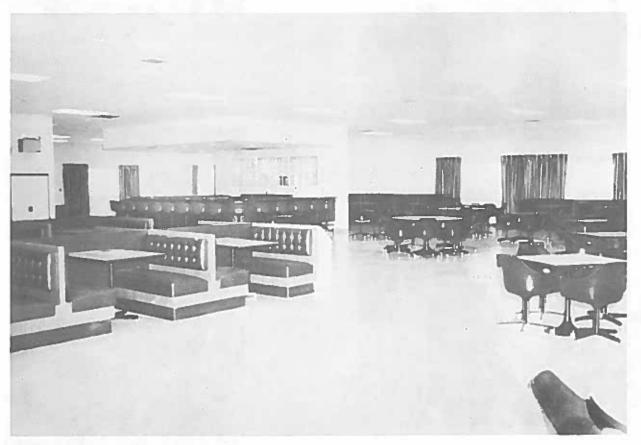
The facts of our accomplishment speak for themselves: 12,000 cy of concrete batched, delivered and placed; 350 tons of reinforcing steel bent, welded and one-quarter million cy of fill placed; 50,000 cy of spoil removed; 50 acres of land cleared and 72,000 sq. yds. of soil cement placed.

The Resident Officer in Charge Construction on the noted, "Without any doubt, the Seabees of NMCB 62 have placed the quality of construction achieved to date on Diego Garcia."

The Battle "E" Award speaks for itself. But Captain J.P. Jones, Jr., COMCBLANT, said it this way:

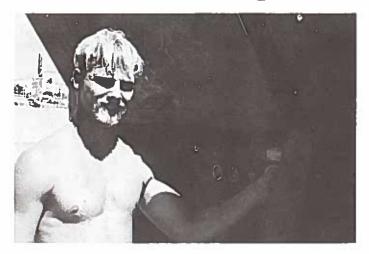
"Every Seabee in NMCB 62 can take pride in his contribution to the outstanding record established by the battalion."

And we do.



Interior view of the new enlisted men's club on Diego Garcia. achieved a "beneficial occupancy" status on this project days before the deployment's completion.

and we almost forgot...



EOCN David Link.



E03 Ed D'Antonio



CM1 Juan Labadan, CM2 Ben Mamaril and a fellow worker from NMCB 133's det.



CMCN Paul Degele



CMCN Al Brandt



E01 Jerry Ferguson



CM3 John Houghton



BU3 David Shaw and EOCN Larry Riehl



EOCN Billy Shears



CMCN Steve Blanford



CM3 Dave Kondrup and CM3 Mike Pedder



CM3 Richard Bopp



CM1 Charles Titus



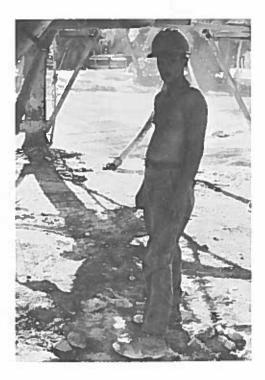
EACN Harry Stephenson, Jr.



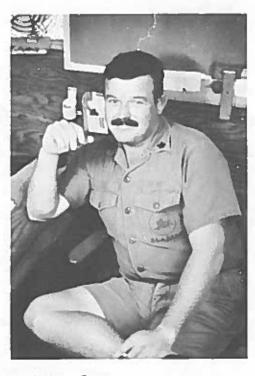
CECN Paul Choiniere and EOCN David Andress



BUI Paul Gallant



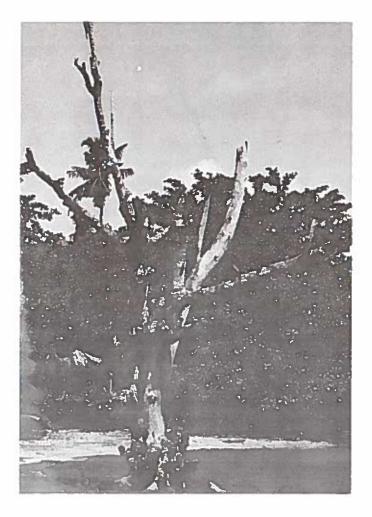
EOCN Steven Henkemeyer



BUI Les Jones

Diego Journal





"Our story begins with an island of coral, forever washed by rhythmic blue waves, known to man as the Indian Ocean.

The island, Diego Garcia, has been alive a long time, and is well-acquainted with the footfalls of men and varied walks of animal life.

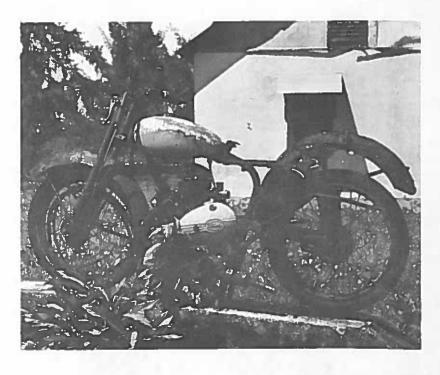
Since 1498, the trees have seen people come and go: Portuguese, French, Spanish, British and American—to name a few. People who harvested cocoputs and extracted the oil to sell it overseas.

An entire plantation lived for nearly 200 years, and now it is dead. The stoves are rusted and dirty, and buildings are in disrepair. The pier recalls better days, when ships from afar would sidle up to its moorings. Men ran up and down its length, shouting orders and carrying cargo.

The old motorcycle knows it used to be the fastest thing on the island. But it hasn't felt the loose earth beneath its tires in many years. Now the bike waits only for photographs.

The island itself constantly waits. It hears every sound and feels every movement. When a jet plane roared through the sky on Valentine's Day of 1977, the chickens stopped their clucking to take notice. The whole jungle grew silent and waited in anticipation. Someone new had arrived...











"...and they called themselves the Minuteman Battalion. No sooner had they left the plane and set foot on their new home, than the island began to shake with the strain of their labors.

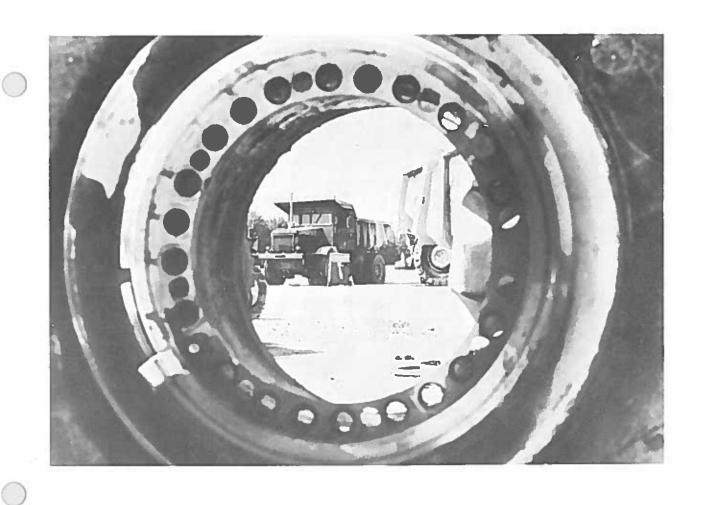
Machines—huge ones—rumbled aggres sively across the landscape. Multitudes of sand crabs found themselves scurrying for shelter from the night—and—day moving machines. Sometimes they didn't make it, and became part of the earth itself.

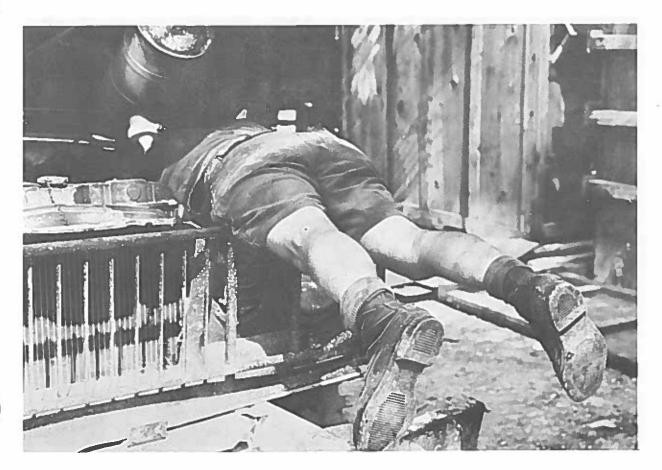
Palm trees could be heard discussing the matter at hand. One would mutter, "These Seabees mean business. Do you think we should ask them exactly what they're up to?" Another responded, "It's obvious these Men-Who-Never-Stop-Working are changing the entire face of our island. And I have a feeling that whatever they create...is definitely built to last. So we may as well get used to it."

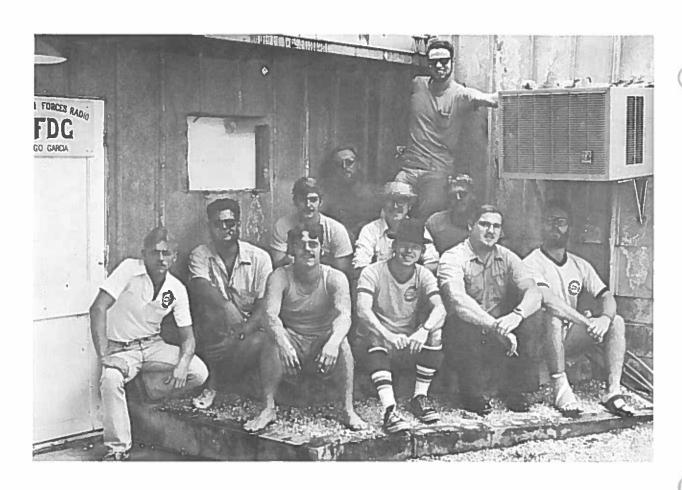
The work went on, and bodies of Minutemen turned from white to red to tan-glistening with sweat every minute of the day. Cranes swayed on the dock, supply ships tossing in the lagoon, torches flashed in the pitchblack nights, jack-hammers popped away somewhere down the road, surrounded by protesting birds.

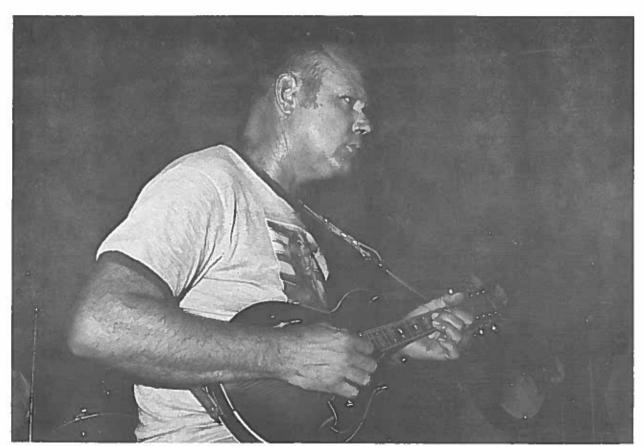
Jungle gave way to concrete, material changed into buildings and roads. Work and play became one constant flow of activity, and at the hub of entire island transformation was NMCB 62...















"...There were parties, productions, concerts and gatherings. Hobbies were continued or created to fight the boredom of an isolated existence. Capturing coconut crabs and entombing them in shellacnow there was something to send home in the mail. Searching for shells on the reef late at night, flashlights waving to and fro a quarter-mile from shore. Staring down into deep green cracks, watching for the tidewaters to return.

Musical bashes at the club, "Your Cheatin' Heart" ringing in our ears, wild applause for every performance because we knew they were the only ones we'd get. USO shows and glimpses of pretty women—just enough proof to let us know they still existed.

Celebrations with our British friends, Naval Party 1002. They showed us how to play darts, spoke to us of Picadilly Circus and Stonehenge, the white cliffs of Dover and Westminster Abbey.

When the fun subsided, we'd hit the rack and turn on the radio, where a few Seabees got the opportunity to be star disc jockeys for a captive audience. They were heard in Australia and India, too. But most importantly, they kept the Minutemen entertained with a flow of music and personal antics: "You're listening to AFDG Radio, Diego Garcia, 1475 on your FM dial...



"...All the while, our island routine was broken by the appearance of visitors on the horizon.

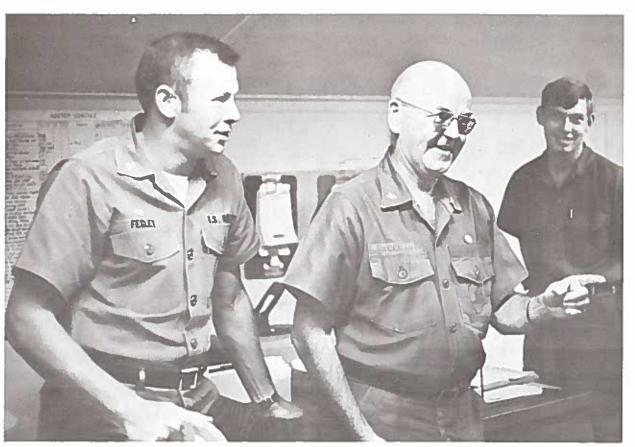
Among them were Captain R.D. Keegan, CBPAC Chief of Staff; Captain J.P. Jones, COMCBLANT; RAdm. Neil W. Clements, COMCBPAC and Dr. Gilbert, Minister of Defence for the United Kingdom.

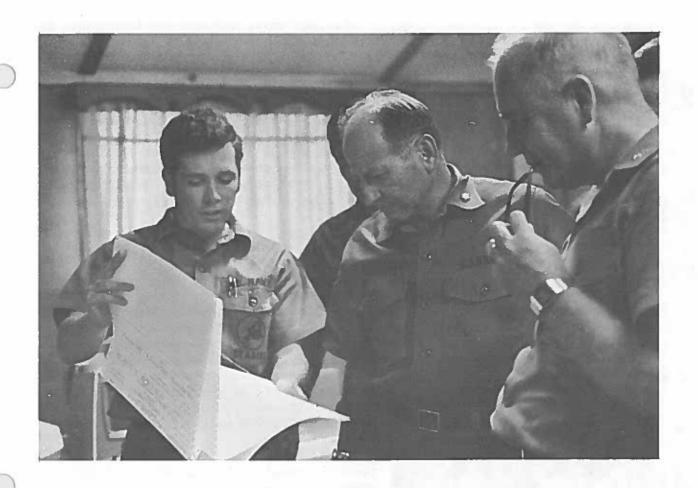
All were curious about the island, what NMCB 62 was doing there, how the construction effort was progressing. After spending several days watching us work under a burning tropical sun, between heavy showers, before dawn, after midnight and until it was time to stop, each and every one of them wound up the same way: impressed.

Not because they were supposed to as a matter of courtesy, nor because they were easily impressed. The reason was this: they couldn't help it. If actions speak louder than words—as they usually do—then the Minutemen shouted their lungs out far past the bursting point to anyone who showed up to see them.

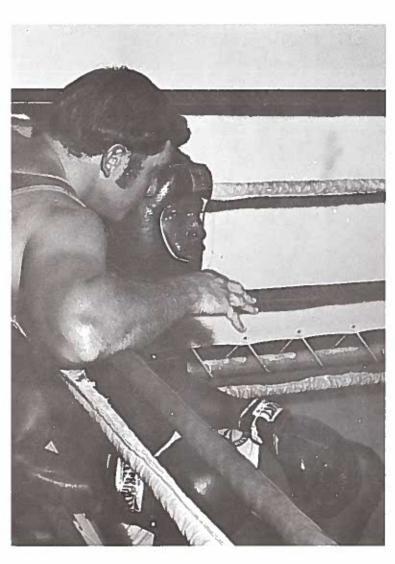
New faces arrived in the ranks, and old ones left. Retirements, transfers, liberty and leave. These minor transitions happened every day. But something big was shaping up in the winds of change. The flags flying above the palm trees knew it; they felt the shift coming—and never said a word to us about it...











"...Suddenly, the end was in sight. It was no longer just another Wednesday, but one month until the end of our deployment.

Calendars were no longer pages of numbers glued together somewhere outside of Valparaiso, Indiana. They were separate moments of patience strung together like pearls in a miser's vault.

Time became a hard thing to catch, so we picked up the pace and dashed for the finish line—as a unit and as individuals—to make up for time's irritating slowdown.

We flexed our tension away in the boxing ring, ran our impatience to exhaustion at track meets, worked even harder at our jobs, wrote more letters, started packing belongings...and dreams of the past eight months quietly took on the shape of reality. A reality that awaited us on the other end of that string of pearls.

We began to hear sounds from 10,000 miles away. A low murmuring of engines. Engines attached to a plane bound for one coral atoll 2,000 miles from Anywhere Important.

Final gazes were given to the surrounding jungle. In our work, through spasms of loneliness, quiet nights of reflection and days of personal desperation, Someone Special had been with us every moment; He had not forgotten us-we had never really been by ourselves...













"...And we were going home together. Waiting for the plane to land was now a matter of hours, not days or months.

Duty had called the Minuteman Battalion away from the country it had grown up in. On Diego Garcia, we grew up in another way, and weren't about to forget lessons learned about life.

We had given the island our best, and now it was time for "the Rock" to let go.

Seabags were borne lightly upon shoulders filled with excitement; our loved ones were just a plane ride away. Briefings were given, farewell speeches made. The British Representative received a standing ovation for his words of kindness and praise of our work.

Engines heard from a great distance now sounded over our heads—loudly. Eyes were shaded and aimed skyward; a metallic flash among the clouds ignited a powerful burst of cheers from below.

A last bus ride was taken down Diego Garcia Highway Number One. Seabees stepped onto a runway they had helped to build, stood in lines seven degrees below the equator.

Smiling stewardesses welcomed us aboard a "stretch-eight" jet, and we settled down for the long trip ahead. Our hands raised in a farewell gesture, two words came flying through our heads: "Adios, Diego!" And the Minutemen were gone...















"...Gulfport, USA is like any other medium-sized town on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Except on the day when Seabees return from an eight-month leave of absence.

Then the town becomes something else.

It turns into a mountain of joy.

NMCB 62 never stops its coming-andgoing circle. All Seabee battalions are destined to bear out a shifting existence. The Minutemen are home, but won't be for

Another spot on the globe is waiting to receive us, and we will most definitely go. Then return to home port once more. cycle is constant, and experience speaks to us from all points of the compass.

One compass point will stand out in our minds forever--when all roads led to an Indian Ocean island that we changed for all time.

In return, the island changed us, too. In the final analysis, I guess we all learned a great deal about ourselves...and about each other."

-- JO3 PM Callaghan, NMCB 62



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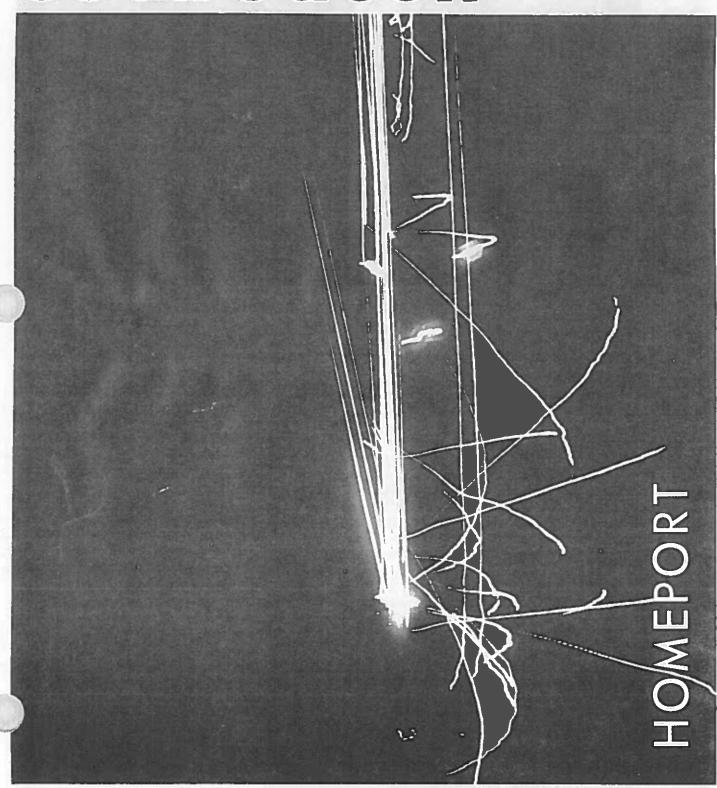
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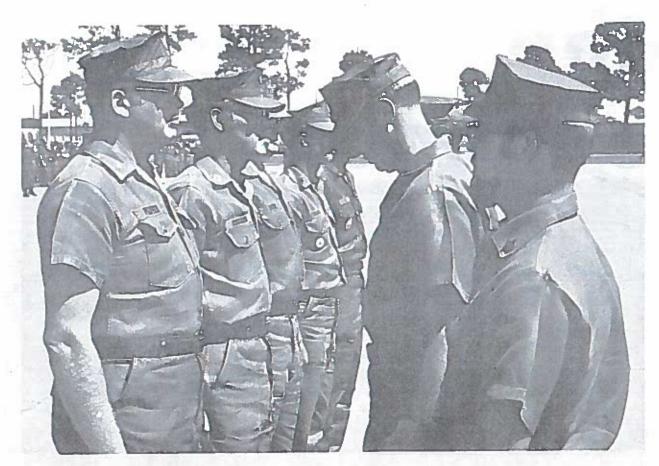
POSTAGE AND FEES PAID DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY DOD 316



THIRD CLASS

the season





CDR Charles E. Fegley gives close scrutinization to his staff in an inspection held shortly after Sixty Two's return from Okinawa.

We stood in lines under the bright yellow sun of a Mississippi morning. Okinawa was a life experience filed under "past"; it was something never to be repeated or to be lost from our memories. But now it was time to concentrate on the next six months in Gulfport. Inspections, schools, military training, construction projects, and living in the USA once more.

Davs spent in the autumn rain, lying on the ground behind the vibrating barrel of an M60 machine gun. Taking a break for C-rats, and trying to avoid the cans with ham and eggs. "Fey, Crazy Eight! Let me borrow your John Wayne-my teeth don't work too good on this metal. Then later in October, we fired bullets in the night and watched the bizarre red patterns criss-cross before our eyes.

Men in yellow suits paraded with gas masks as they created a makebelieve nuclear war. They drove like mad to the corner of Fifth and Painbridge. Someone yelled out, "A hundred roentgens of radiation here!"

In wintertime, the snows of New York blew steady and cold. Mork was hard, and fires were warm. The most beautiful sight in the world was a hot cup of coffee.

Before we knew it, the sound of waves was calling to us from the Indian Ocean. The name of Diego Garcia was on everyone's lips and minds. Time can't be divided into pieces—it just keeps moving. Ar somewhere between the second hand and the minute hand, homeport was over.





Zeroing in on a target ove:

CDR Fegley visits the men at Carp Shelby. eft:



Above: Ensign Dovle makes sure that FA3 Bob Sexton and FACH Jerry Wolfe know how to handle their shotguns before standing watch. Right: Two men start





Gun crews prepare for a round of fire from the noisy and powerful 106mm recoilless rifles, capable of destroying any existing tank.





Above: G/Sgt. T. LeBoutillier Left: On line at the M60 range



Above: PUCN Fill Tonev adjusts an M60 Machine gun. Right: After a long day, PUCN Kevin Lvnch looks forward to a game of cribbage.





Acting as forward observers for the 81mm mortars and crews, EACN Jerry Wolfe helps EA3 Bob Sexton plot target coordinates.



There's a pause in the action at the MBC warfare training grounds. But not for long: a make-believe A-bomb is coming.



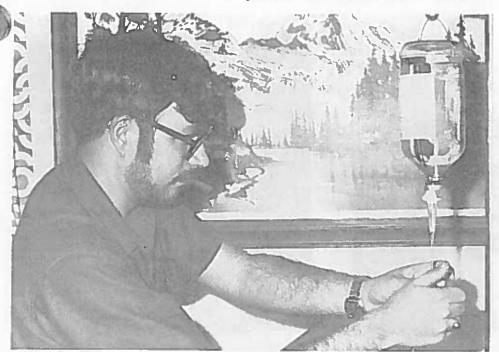
Checking for radiation.



Sending information by radio.

MEDICAL/DENTAL

(A DOCTOR A DAY KEEPS THE APPLES AWAY)



PM2 Pon Rhodes replaces a glucose bottle with speed and dexterity. Pehind him is a type of panoramic view definitely foreign to Piego Carcia.





Center: FMC Ted Punch stavs busy with various kinds of essential medical paperwork.

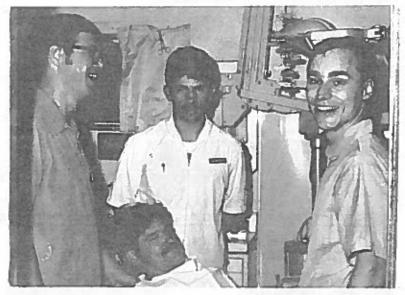
Pight center: With the friendly face of HM1
Steve Moseley at the reception desk, how can anyone be afraid of going to the dispensary?

Pight: FM1 Palph Bratcher checks the inner ear of a patient, hoping he won't be able to see out the other side.





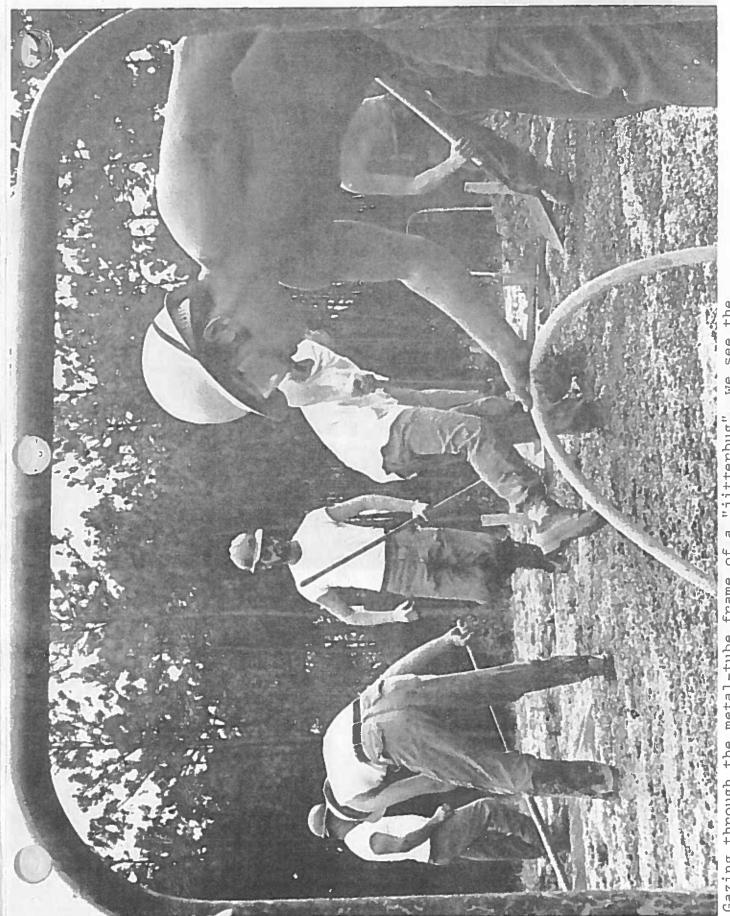




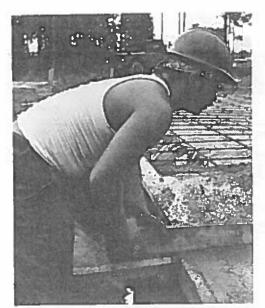
Top left: Lt. Bill Pruce examines an interesting X-ray

negative.
Top right: Writing out a prescription. HM2 Andy Subisak does his part to stop illness. Above: The "Toothfairy" Brigade--DT1 Dan Leffler, DA Charlie Griego and Lt. Stan Cowley, plus a happy patient Right: HM1 Ken Kutzner shows off dispensary equipment.





Gazing through the metal-tube frame of a "iitterbug", we see the image of Minutemen hard at work on one of several homeport projects.



SM3 Rick Clark levels a concrete surface.



Top: "Jitterbugging" is a craze when it comes to placing concrete.
Right: Three men of Delta Company dig in with their shovels.



BU2 Larry Faws watches the flow of concrete as it fills in the pad site for Pldg. 284.





MINUTEMEN TRAIN IN THE COLD

"The wind it was howling, and the snow was outrageous.."-Bob Dylan.

Icicles. Look at them shining gold and purple in the New York sunset. Snowshoes. Seabees tramping over miles of glaring whiteness. "Hey, I think my toes have frostbite." "No, they don't have frostbite, they're just ignoring how cold it is." Coffee. A priceless brown liquid jewel welcome at any moment and any time by pairs of hands encased in Arctic gloves.

For 117 men of NMCB 62, cold weather training at Ft. Drum, N.Y., is an unforgettable experience.

Mustering in subzero coldness before the sun rose. Human breath billowed into steam as it hit the winter air. Long underwear. Face masks. Parkas and liners. Three sets of gloves. Sunglasses. Furlined hoods.

We didn't complain too much. The challenge of it all kept us busy, and our determination met that challenge.

It was dusk when we finished pitching tents and lean-to's for our overnight stay in the wilderness. Some ate their C-rats in the dark: others built their fires and had a hot meal. Sleep came upon most of us quickly: it had been an exhausting day. Hiking is tiresome, but especially so when wearing snowshoes which lend a somewhat awkward character to one's feet. We had fired the M16 and M60 that day, too.

One Minuteman awoke in the middle of the night to find that over a foot of snow had fallen on his chest. But he felt very warm because of the fact that his sleeping bag was between him and the The huge, fluffy flakes snow. fell rapidly; someone walking through the camp said, "It must be a blizzard... I can hardly see the tents--they're all covered up with snow." Just then his foot landed on someone's hidden tent, about one inch from the occupant's head. A muffled yell escaped from the ground. The walker stepped back in shocked amazement. "Wow! people under there!" There are

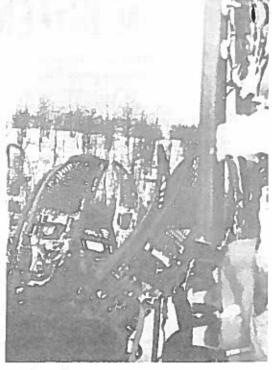
Yes, we survived. That's what the iourney was all about: cold weather survival. And although we find ourselves in a climate that hardly requires its use, it is better to be prepared for anything than to wager we'll never be needed in a colder climate. Put us to work anywhere in the world, and we'll get the job finished.



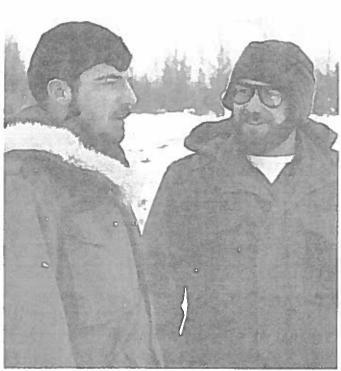
Four members of the advance party for cold weather training prepare to deploy by tactical airlift to Wheeler-Sack Airfield in Ft. Drum, N.Y.



Amid snow and howling wind, Minutemen draw a bead on targets as they learn to shoot with accuracy under cold climate conditions. Weapons training also included the firing of M60 machine guns.



Snowshoes wait patiently for their users to return.

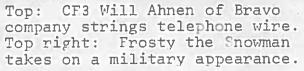


Top: Fnsign Ben Whatlev discusses surveying with EA3 Stew Larsen.

Right: FO2 Mike Thomassie bulldozes his way through snowfall.









Above: Lt. Don Cosgrove and Cdr. Fegley view construction. Right: BUCN Jeff Mathews works a forklift at the loading dock project site.







Two Minutemen huddle before a fire during a well-deserved break. Hot coffee and fires were provided at each site.



The work was hard, the weather was cold, and the morale--for the most part--was outstanding. These faces prove it.

H COMPANY

THEY ADMINISTER THE PERSONNEL

They don't drive bulldozers or place concrete. Surveying is a foreign art to them, and grading is something done on an evaluation report.

The tools they use are pens, pencils, typewriters and files. They construct a foundation of organization which no construction battalion could survive without.

They are the men of Headquarters Company.

Invincible typists

With the strong leads of PNC Rosauro Macaraeg in personnel, and Lt.(jg) Leonard Kaplan II in the admin office, the battalion's quota of personnelmen and yeomen keep up with the large amount of paperwork necessary for proper administrative functioning. Their hands are invincible, and their typewriters are dependable.

Training the men

A key to professional excellence is education. And Lt.(jg) Tom Doyle holds the reins steady in S-2 (plans and training). All schools and seats are arranged through this office. T/Sgt. T.C. LeBoutillier, battalion military adviser, is more than adept at making certain the men are prepared to defend their work with weapons if the occasion arises.

Operations and Supply

Operations Officer Lcdr. John Milkintas, along with Lt.(1g) Paul Stasiewicz, BUCS John Johnson and Fngineering Chief Mac Banks, maintains firm control over drafting, surveying and construction progress on the island.

In the supply department, our head man is LCdr. Thomas Rauman. He ensures that the need for any supplies is met, and that CTR, MLO and CSR continue providing qualitative support to the Minutemen.



LCdr. Barton Pepper, battalion chaplain, spends a quiet moment composing a letter.



YNSN John Marks, Jr.; CO and XO's yeoman.

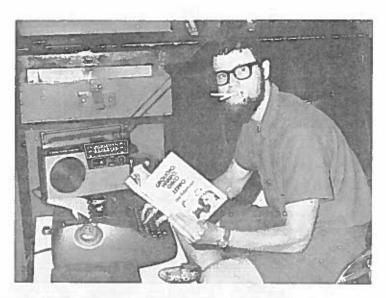




Left: NCl Andy Prevento talks things over with one of his clients at the Career Counselor's office.

Relow: Pest control specialists, UT3 Harold Faves and UTCN Terrence Vanstrander.





Left: PH3 Steve Frass shows the size of his camera lens. Above: This character claims to be the battalion journalist, JOSN P.M. Callaghan.

ADMIN/PERSONNEL WHO ARE THE **BLACKSHOES?**



YM1 Jerry Pradley



YM1 Dormas Dunhar



YNSN William Brothers



VMSM Ray Kuczwara



YMC Poyce Sommers



YN1 Morman Hunt



Lt(ig) Leonard Maplan TT





PM1 Richard Goode



PN1 Harley Familton



PMC Rosauro Macaraeg Personnel Officer



vijski Jerru Kraska



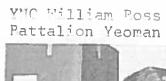
PMCM Paul Cornwall

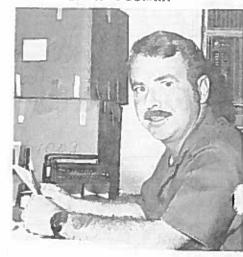


PM3 Samuel Mills. Jr.



PM3 Manuel Bravo





C. O. HOTES HOMEPORT SUCCESS, URGES SAME HERE



The homeport was a resounding success. We ended up cramming more technical and military training into a short time span than was ever dreamed possible. We even had some unusual types of training to prepare us specifically for Diego Carcia construction, materials and equipment.

In military training, we exceeded our initial goals—including cold weather training—and achieved a high percentage of qualifications (95%) our first time through the range.

Overall, T believe the battalion's image could not have been better, as perceived from personal appearance and management of our assigned BEO and headquarters building spaces.

Off to a good start

· The pre-deployment planning and indoctrination of personnel that went into the construction projects and overall Camp Cummins management has paid off very handsomely upon arrival on Diego Garcia.

Projects got off to an excellent start our hard-charging companies and departments adjusted rapidly and smoothly to changing priorities and requirements; services adjusted rapidly to the transition between battalions: camp standards of cleanliness and sanitation took hold immediately: and I have heard several comments about the beauty of the island and the amount and type of construction being considerably better than anticipated.

Continue "Minuteman" tradition

The important things we must never lose sight of are: 1) to continue planning and managing our

projects exactly the way we started in homeport: 2) we must think ahead constantly. Not just day-to-day, but 6-8 months ahead where materials and equipment are concerned: 3) keep up the "Minuteman" tradition of leaving our camp, shops, work spaces and equipment in hetter condition than we found it: 4) we must always look out for the most important resource we have-our men.

This is going to be an outstanding deployment. Sixty-Tvo will leave its mark on Seabee history through good quality construction in direct support of the fleet.



Cdr. Charles F. Feglev III dons snowshoes during his visit to the cold weather detachment in Ft. Drum, N.Y.

FACES











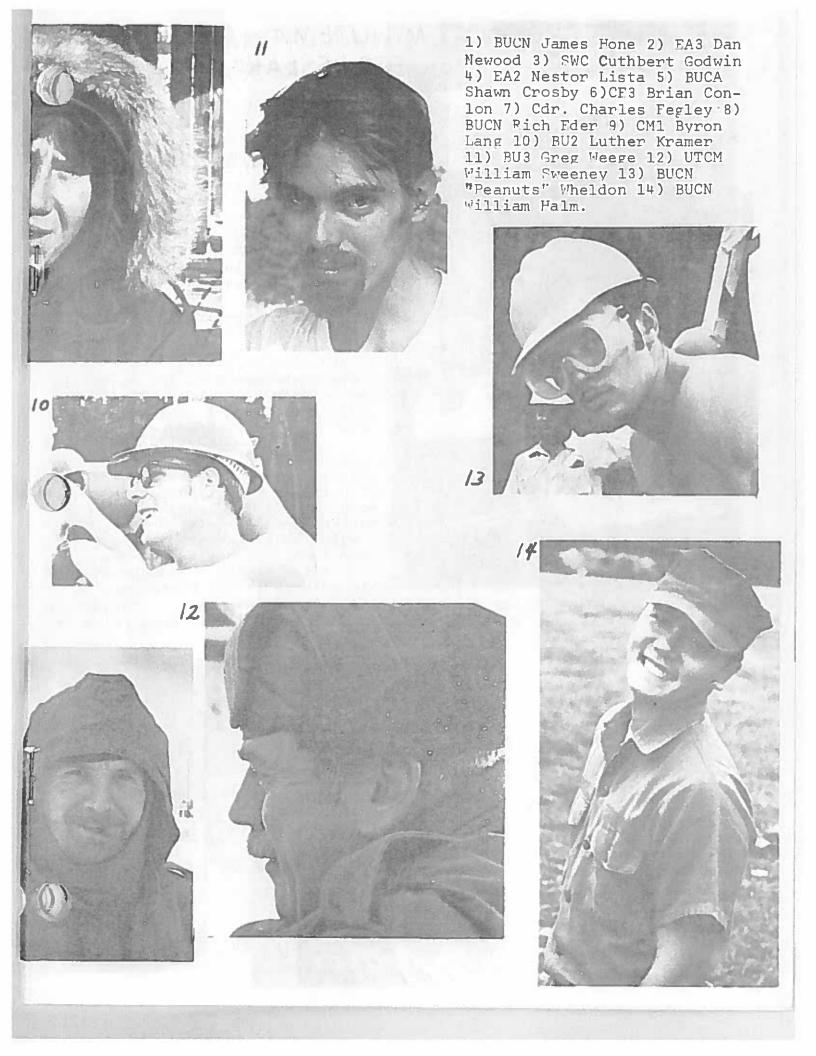












Lt(ig) Donald J. McLaughlin, Jr., at his desk in the Delta Company office.

MINUTEMAN OFFICER GETS RESEARCH

Lieutenant (iunior grade) Donald J. McLaughlin, Jr., assistant Delta Company commander, was recently honored with an award for his masters thesis project at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

The award, presented by the Fastern Snow Conference (an informal professional group of engineers, scientists and meteorologists), recognized McLaughlin's work as the top student project submitted last year.

The project involved studying snow loads on 21 structures in the Albany, N.V. area. Factors such as exposure of a structure. its properties (aerodynamic, geometric and thermal), and the influence of sliding snow, roof drainage and eave icings were studied.

Lt. (ig) McLaughlin used field measurements of snow depth and density as well as photographs of roofs illustrating their snowloads to document his findings. He then made recommendations for the conversion of ground snow loads to roof loads for design purposes.

After making a presentation of his methods to the Conference in Belleville, Ontario, McLaughlin was awarded an additional prize of \$250 by the group.

Right: PC1 Chester Wright, among his many other duties as postal clerk. prepares to sort letters into mailbags.

Far right: PC3 John Moore, among his many other duites as postal clerk, has a good time selling money orders.





PLANNERS OAND TRAINERS

Pight: Lt(ig) Tom Dovle.
plans and training officer
Below: Keepers of the
armory. GMG1 John Kitzmiller, GMGSN Franklin O.
Hall and GMG3 William
Hubble.









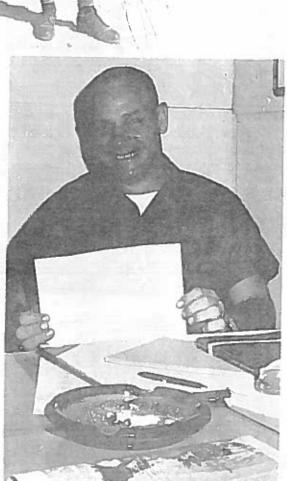
Above: H Company career counselor and PPCP, F02/MC C.K. Sipler gives off an air of pride and distinction.
Left: PU1 Bennie Cruz is in charge of formal schooling for the battalion.

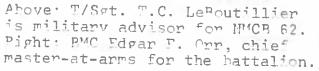


Left. Squinting in the hot Diego Garcia sun, FT3 Lonnie Trammel strings new lines for armory control.

Below: Lurking in the shadows of a surrealistic atmosphere, PU1 Mavnard Wright

clenches a stogie between his teeth and contemplates the progress of informal schools.









PROMITHE X. O.'s DESK "RESPECT ONE ANOTHER'S

LIMES ALL MISLIMES"

At the commencement of every new deployment, each of us is required to make necessary adjustments in our our lifestyles.

We leave the familiar and comforting environment of homeport in exchange for another one full of new challenges and drastically changed conditions.

In many cases, we now share living spaces in close quarters with fellow shipmates who were, a few short weeks ago, only casual friends or brand-new members of the battalion.

Cure Misunderstandings

We also have our close friends who, in the deployment environment, seem even closer. Perhaps too close, because we find ourselves associated with them practically every hour of the day.

These conditions may rub some doing your day raw edges and generate misunder- know your neight standings unless each of us, to the parameters are not the other guy. Give and and dislikes: take, of course, but it requires a contributing to great deal of giving by all to a cleaner. hea smooth over the rough edges. More- place to live.

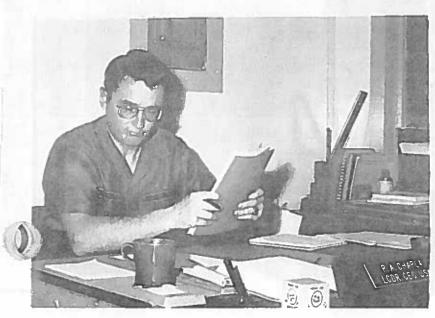
over, it takes firm leadership within the ranks to change the habits of those who might act through ignorance or deliberate neglect: those who selfishly engage in offensive activities contrary to harmonious interests of the camp.

Must work together

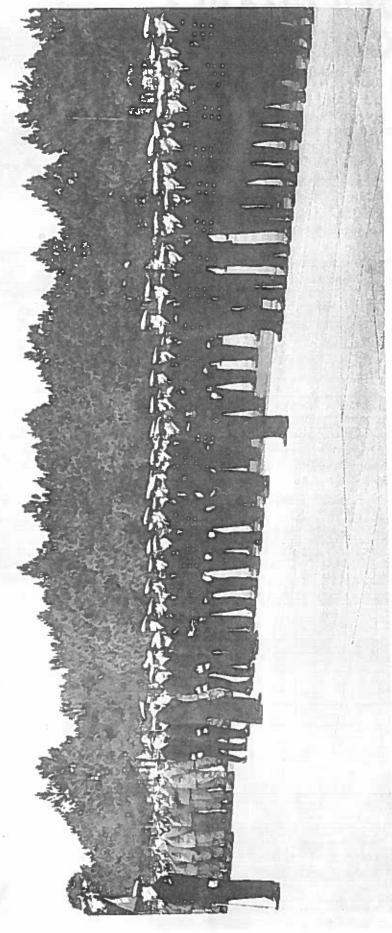
Our temporary home on Diego Garcia may be somewhat austere. but the island is also a beautiful work of nature. We can enjoy it without abuse, and labor to make it comfortable for us and those who follow.

These things we've already set out to do. But, hasic to reaching our goals, we of Sixty-Two must continue working together. We've done it before and our ranks have the talent, determination and spirit to do it again. Besides just doing your day-to-day work, get to know your neighbors and fellow Seabees.

Pespect one another's likes and dislikes: do your fair share of contributing to make Camp Cummins a cleaner. healthier and better place to live.



I ieutenant Commander Paul A. Charla at work in his office. Yr. Charla has been executive officer of the Minuteman battalion for nearly two years.



service than a month later, some of the men pictured found themselves a climax to a successful homeport period. dress blues, stands administrative inspection Jan. 7 of this arrayed in both green utilities and ing on the sandv pround of Diego Garcia, B.I.O.T. The Minuteman Battalion, The event served as

stand-

Diego Garcia binder covers will be available shortly at the public affairs office -- free of charge Paper Note: Instead of discarding the seabeacon after you're finished reading it, why not hang on to each copy and collect the entire deployment set?

HELLO, OPERATIONS? WILL YOU BUILD THIS STRUCTURE, PLEASE?











Top left: EAl Andy Embuido surveys at the pier project site.
Center right: Pattalion tirekeeper Pritt "nodgrass(PU3) shows the rain tool of his trade.
Left: EACY Paul Ducharre is the

Left: EACY Paul Ducharre is the raster copyraker.

Above: FA3 Fred Cirksena.



Left: One-third of the quality-control group: UT1 Jim Findley and PU1 Ed Pannell



EACN Kevin Clark and EA3 Curt Liscum with their trustv transit.



Above: FA3 Stew Larsen, FACN Al Samuel and FAC Mac Panks. Engin-

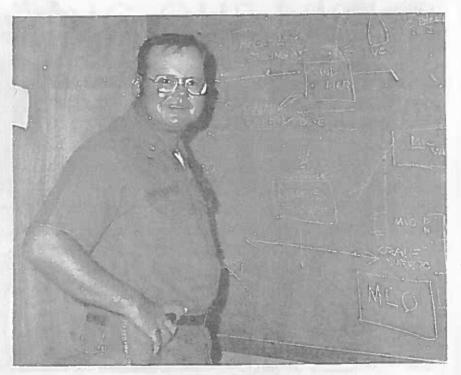
eering Chief.
Pight: Quality control: CF2 Stan
Clark. FO2 Jerry Granger, E01

"Baldy" Mewman and BU1 Herb Amey.





Stretching the tape to its limit, FACN Jerry Wolfe marks the point where the corner of a structure ill be placed.



Operations Officer Lcdr. John Milkintas makes great use of his blackboard.



Lt.(ig) Paul Stasiewicz is the man in charge of the engineering department. He supervises all drafting, surveying and soils lab operations.

Additionally, Mr. Stasiewicz is projects management officer.

BUCS John Johnson, operations chief, looks over the work of Operations Yeoman YN3 Mike Peck. Senior Chief Johnson supervises personnel allocation and checks the day-to-day progress of Minuteman construction.







The Soils Lab Gang display paraphernalia of their profession: FACN Bill Friend, FA2 Nestor Lista, FACN Bill Titch, FACN Steve Tutokev, FACN Scott Cope, FACN Tony Fernando and ECCN Tom Janik.



An integral part of Sixty-Two's drafting division, EA3 Dan Newood stops his work to check up on an engineering formula.

Two Fves are Petter than One. Gathered 'round the transit are: EA3 Bob Sexton, EACN Kevin Clark. EACN Gene Munoz, EA3 Ken Mvers and EACN Tonv Treadway.



MCPOC POSES QUESTION

MARE WE DOING OUR BEST IN THE JOBS WE PERFORM?

The operational readiness inspection is upon us. Its purpose? To ensure that each individual in the Minuteman battalion is doing his particular job in the best possible manner.

Success or failure?

The ORI lasts only one week, but its meaning extends to every day of military operation. The difference between deployment success and deployment failure: between gaining self-satisfaction and feeling the pangs of inadequacy is the answer we give to this question: are we performing the tasks assigned to us properly and with the quality of xcellence?

Fach man is important

No matter what your iob is, or how small you think its contribution is to the entire battalion effort here, the point remains that everything done on Diego Garcia is important. And because a job done is no better than the person who did it, YOU are important.

This importance is relative to a person's own self-esteem. If we do a job properly, our supervisors don't have to waste valuable time looking over our shoulders. If not, he will have to take time from his own task to attend to yours. If we don't do our job well, someone else winds up doing it for us.

Facing responsibility

Such a situation carries no selfesteem, no importance. None of us really want to turn our work into extra duty for another man. So ask yourself the question: "Am I

doing mv job as well as I possibly can?" If the answer is no, then do an about-face and start facing your responsibilities.

UTCM William Sweeney Became Master Chief Petty Officer of the Command Jan. 14 this year, the same day he came on board with the Minuteman battalion.



S ea(bee) tories

An Enterprising Tale

By LCDR P. F. JACOBS, CEC, USN

A visitor to the Naval Support Facility, Cam Rahn Bay, (circa 1966-71) bought popcorn at the movies, and may have bought it from CBMU 302, the exclusive agent for this rare and delicious commodity.

The Seabee's exclusive franchise was seriously challenged once, however, by the Base Special Services, who attacked with a 10c price cut and free milk shakes. The advantage was multiplied by the fact that those waiting in line could see the movie screen.

The Seabee customers had to wait behind the screen. When the Seabee's popcorn-manager asked the XO if he could put a "fix" on the competition, he was told that competition and free enterprise were the basis of the American Way and that he should use his ingenuity. The popcorn manager's only request was to work two extra hours each night in exchange for

a three hour lunch break. The request was granted.

Three weeks later, the competitor went out of the popcorn business. Suspecting something other than "free enterprise," the XO held another interview. The popcorn manager advised the XO that the base popcorn line was so long, people got tired of waiting and switched to the Seabee line: "We can serve them five times as fast, sir."

"How can that be?" asked the XO. "Our machine is the same size as theirs."

The confession was forthcoming: "I pop most of it during the noonhour."

"Nobody can sell cold popcorn!" protested the XO.

"It isn't all cold," said the popcorn manager. "We can make enough to put 2 inches of hot stuff on the top of each bag. By the time they eat that far down, they never notice the rest is cold."

Stories reprinted from fall, 1976 issue of the Navy Civil Fngineer magazine.

Conversion manual for metrics

The Naval Education and Training Program Development Center in Pensacola, Fla., has developed a manual on the metric system and how to convert to it from the British system of weights and measures.

The training manual, The Metric System (NAVEDTRA 475-01-00-75) and its accompanying two-assignment correspondence course, contains a brief history of measurement systems and discusses units of length, area, volume, weight and temperature. Formulas for converting from one system to the other are presented in an easy-to-use table.

The booklet and correspondence cover is in the process of discribution and also will be available through the supply system at Philadelphia, Pa. The stock number is 0507-LP-475-0000.

By LT JAMES L. DELKER, CEC, USN Seabee Division, NAVFAC HO

Alexandria, Va.

NMCB Deployment Schedule

Since June 1975, Naval Mobile Construction Battalions (NMCBs) Seventy-One and Ten have been disestablished, which has reduced the Naval Construction Force (NCF) to eight active NMCBs. Even though the number of active battalions has decreased, the five deployment sites, Diego Garcia; Guam; Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico; Rota, Spain; and Okinawa have remained unchanged.

With the decrease in the number of battalions and holding to a constant the 8-6 deployment cycle, the NCF can man only four-and-one-half of the five deployment sites with full battalions. Adjustment in the deployment schedule was required.

The time-tested cycle for NMCB deployments of eight months on deployment and six months in homeport has proven over the years to provide optimum training, personnel and project planning and contingency readiness. High priority is placed on unit rotation of Seabees preserving this 8-6 deployment cycle.

Many alternatives covering the gamut of advantages and disadvantages of scheduling eight battalions at five deployment sites were considered.

The selected scheme is to divide battalion personnel and have one-half at the deployment site and the other half in homeport. The two halves of the battalion would then alternate between homeport and the deployment site on an 8-6 rotation cycle.

This will allow a two month overlap period once every 14 months during the eight month portion of the deployment cycle in which both halves of the battalion personnel will be together. This provides the advantages of not gapping a deployment site, providing continuous manning at the deployment site with air det. capability in both deployed battalion halves, maintaining the proven 8-6 cycle deployment schedule and preserving unit rotation of Seabee personnel.

A schedule using the continuous manning of a deployment site by part of a battalion has been approved by CNO. In April 1977, NMCB Three will begin this deployment scheduling concept on Okinawa. The two halves of the battalion will make unit movements on the standard 8-6 cycle schedule.

DEMAND FOR SUPPLY

THE WINNING NUMBER IS "1250"



Supply Office personnel: SKC Robert Schamens, SK3 Al Brumitt, SKSA Ralph Thompson, SK3 Jesse Crockett, SK2 James Ready, CF3 George Clayton, and SKC Melvin Ott.



IC Schamens with LCDF Thomas numan, Supply Officer, discussing upply business.



SKSN Dennis Gnandt cracks a joke to someone not pictured.



BUCN Joseph Burton works to repair a broken machine part in the central tool room.



In the small engine repair shop, CMCN Rickev Compala restores a "wacker-packer" to operable condition.



The men who man the central supply room: CE3 Don Tallev, SK3 Hugh Burgess, SK2 Jack Tinsley, SKSN Hudspeth and FOCN Robert Dixon.



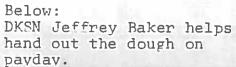
Material Liaison Office; Top row: Fnsign
Pen Whatlev F03 Vernon Anderson, BU2
James Major, UT3 Dennis Pannister, BUCA
Dennis Walker. Bottom: CF3 Brian Conlon,
CFCN Richard Schmidt, and BUCN Allan Frank.



Central Tool Room personnel: CECN Tom Goodwin, CE3 Charles Poswell, BUCA Joe Burton, BU1 Willis Hopkins, CMCN Rickey Compala, SW2 Bobby Mayes and BUCN Joseph Christopherson.



Above: Fnsign Frnest Knorr, disbursing officer, counts his treasures carefully: wouldn't you?







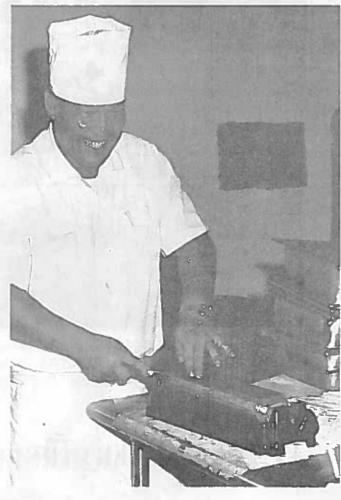
DK1 Virgilio Tomas and DKSN Anthony Jules thumb through piles and piles of crisp and clean greenbacks.

Typing away in the disbursing office, DKSN Martin Rodriguez keeps track of allotments.



PORTRAIT OF A GALLEY







Top left: MSSN Larry Sisneros is in a good mood at the galley because his potatoes turned out just the way Mom used to make them.

Above: Chopping onions is a tear-ful experience. So MS2 Rolando Jarin makes sure his knife is good and sharp so he can finish the iob fast. Left: Another pan of brown, crispy rools is pulled from the oven by MS3 Steve Ries, in charge of the bake shop.



The meat is good and tender, and MS3 Don Chilcote has no trouble slicing it into strips.



MS3 Wavne Wolfe displays a pan of freshly-cooked meat and mutters, "Bet you can't eat just one."

AT THE BARBERSHOP

Open the door and there he is. Armed with a comb, shaver and witch hazel. SH2 Wilton Leake makes certain the Minutemen stav well-groomed in their island appearance on Diego Garcia.





Gale Shaw, educational vices officer, arrives on island just in time to his picture taken for the er...welcome aboard, Chief.

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Artist: FOCN Tom Janik

Public Affairs Officer: Lt.(jg)

Leonard Kaplan II

Publisher: Cdr. Charles E. Fegley

III, commanding officer,

NMCB 62.

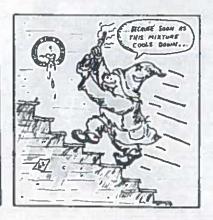


THE ADVENTURES of "Softer BEE"

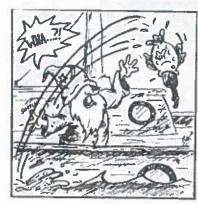
By Tom Janik & Meph Callaghan



















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C.E.C. BIWEEKLY REPORT

NAVAL FACILITIES ENGINEERING COMMAND

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5-78

7 March 1978

1978 ANNIVERSARY MESSAGE

Our celebration of the 36th birthday of the Seabees, the lllth anniversary of the Civil Engineer Corps, and the 136th birthday of the Naval Facilities Engineering Command is an appropriate occasion to reflect upon our proud and noble heritage and look forward to new challenges and responsibilities.

Throughout our long and distinguished history, the team comprised of the Naval Construction Force, the Civil Engineer Corps, and the Naval Facilities Engineering Command has been a winning combination. Our joint effort during the darkest days of World War II, in Korea, and again in Vietnam, as well as our peacetime accomplishments have repeatedly underscored our mettle, technical capability, and integrity.

This past year we have made great strides on all fronts. Seabees, active and reserve, continue their exceptional performance worldwide; our loyal and extremely competent civilian contingent provides that continuity so necessary for success; and Civil Engineer Corps officers have given the leadership and professionalism that melds this triumvirate into a cohesive, responsive force that can take pride in our accomplishments and "Can Do" spirit.

On this anniversary, my first as Commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command and Chief of Civil Engineers, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to each and every Seabee, civilian and Civil Engineer Corps officer for your outstanding support of this great team effort, and to congratulate you on your personal contributions to a job well done. We can look forward to the future with enthusiasm and firm confidence.

D. G. ISELIN

Rear Admiral, CEC, USN Chief of Civil Engineers

RESERVE CAPTAINS AND COMMANDERS SELECTEES

Congratulations to the Reserve CEC officers who have been selected for promotion to the ranks of Captain and Commander:

Captain

Osborne N. Ellis
James R. Collins
Clark H. Scherer, Jr.
Frederick P. Flack
Donald L. Roedl
Phillip D. Batton

Gerald W. Schmode
Horace W. Howard, Jr.
Louis L. Rizzi
Richard W. Braun
Francis X. Gannon

Commander

Phillip A. Lowe John K. Mott Dimitri A. Lukshin Earnest L. Vandiver Sherrill E. Smith Benjamin B. Law Richard R. Long Jack M. Smith William A. Smith Robert R. Bergstrom Robert L. Ferriter Robert R. Haupt Kenneth J. Gutzwiller Walter W. Laabs, Jr. Robert W. Gohier Eugene B. Harry Eugene R. Klein Richard K. Ennis Michael E. Nadoloski Robert T. Hudspeth

Garnett F. Bedenbaugh David J. Tandy John C. McKenna James L. Parrish, III Richard J. Wallace Thomas E. Gallagher William C. O'Connor George T. Ankrum David W. Cornwell John R. Urinyi Larry E. Mullinix William U. Klauss Richard C. Cullerton Ronald A. Mortensen William D. McCracken, Jr. James K. Harrigan Melvin E. Hoover Robert E. L. Greene, Jr. Edward D. Hill Leslie F. Bollman

PELTIER AWARD

The Chief of Civil Engineers has reported that the Society of American Military Engineers has announced the selection of U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion SIXTY-TWO as the recipient of the Peltier Award for FY-1977/7T. The award is offered annually to the most outstanding unit in the Naval Construction Force.

NMCB SIXTY-TWO distinguished itself during this award period with a totally successful deployment on Diego Garcia. The challenging and complex assignments, including a wide range of construction projects and camp support, were accomplished under arduous conditions in a highly professional manner.

Commander Charles E. Fegley, III, CEC, USN, is Commanding Officer of the Battalion.

RAdm. Iselin presents Peltier Award

A Gulfport based Seabee battalion has been named the most outstanding of all eight Naval Mobile Construction Battalions (NMCBs) in the Navy's construction force.

NMCB 62, commanded by Cdr. Charles Fegley, was presented the prestigous Peltier Award by Rear Admiral D.G. Iselin, Commander of NAVFAC, during ceremonies held here April 28. NMCB 62 is one of four Seabee pattalions homeported here with our others assigned to Port Hueneme, Calif.

RAdm. Iselin, known to some 12,000 Seabees as the 'King Bee', presented the award to Cdr. 'egley as the battalion looked on. VMCB 62 was named for the ward primarily due to its 8-1/2 nonth construction effort on Diego Garcia during 1977. The ward, named after a former hief of Navy Civil Engineers, is

based on achievement in construction, military readiness, leadership, administration and morale. The award is sponsored by the Society of American Military Engineers.

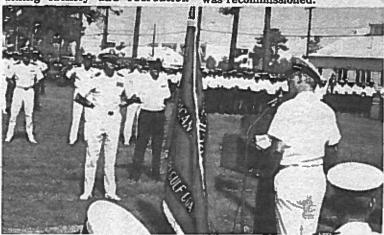
Praising the efforts of NMCB 62 RAdm. Iselin said, "Only the best battalion can sustain the type of construction efforts you have...Because of the work of NMCB 62 on Diego Garcia we are now in the highest rate of production ever seen in Diego Garcia construction history."

Construction efforts of the battalion while deployed to the Indian Ocean Island of Diego Garcia, one of the Navy's top priority construction projects, included completion of an enlisted dining facility and recreation

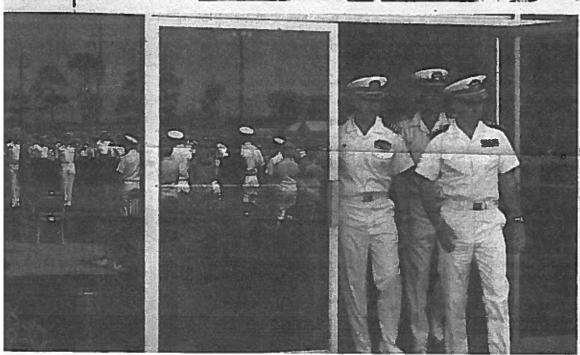
club, a new sand pier for ship off-loading and a fuel tank site completed two months ahead of schedule. The battalion also cleared some 50 acres of land and placed over 11,000 cubic yards of concrete.

While in Gulfport over the past six months, the battalion has undergone extensive military and technical training in preparation for its deployment to Guam and the Pacific Ocean area later this month. It was also NMCB 62 who was called upon to assist the New England area in the emergency snow removal efforts this past January.

This marks the third time the battalion has won the Peltier award since 1966 when NMCB 62 was recommissioned.



RAdm. D.G. Iselin presented the coveted Peltier Award to NMCB 62 in ceremonies held at CBC last month. Below, RAdm. Iselin exits Bldg. 60 as the battalion's formation is reflected in the glass doors. (U.S. Navy photos by PHCS Guy Gardner)



CO. CTTUZYER RULSSOG1318 0611920-UUUJ=RUNDPAA; ZNA HUDON I 7217427 HAP 78 FM CHCIVERS ALEXANDRIA VA TO RUCLBIANNER SIX TWO INFO RUEMALAZONO WASHINGTON DO CHEMBRA/CI-CPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI MUCESAAZCIRGLAMTELT NORFOLK VA HHHMBRAZCOMNAVLOGPAC PEARL HARBOR HI PHHMERA/CUHCEPAC PEARL HARBOR HI BULYSDK/COMCRLANT NORFOLK VA NUNTPBAZCOMRNOF KANSAS CITY MO RUNTPSA/FIRSTRNCB KANSAS CITY MO PUCLBIA/COM TWO ZERO NOR GULFPORT MS RUVNSAA/MAVSUPPFAG DIESO GARCIA RUHJPBA/COMTHREE ZERO NCR GUAM PUVNSAA/THREE ZERO NOR DET DIEGO GARCIA RUNDPAAZOOM THREE ONE NOR PORT HUENEME CA RUHJPBAZNMEB ONE PUADYRAZMMCG THREE RUMDPAAZMMOB FOUR RUCLDHAZMMGB FIVE PAGE 02 PUESSGG1318 UNCLAS RUVNSAA/MMCB FOUR ZERO RUVNSAA/MMGB SEVEN FOUR RUTKSHHINMCB ONE THREE THREE RULYSDK/UCT ONE RUMDPAAZUGT TWO RHMOGOA/CBMU THREE ZERO TWO SUBIC BAY RP CO RUMDXAA/PHIBCB ONE χ0 RULYSDK/PHIBGB TWO MOPOC RUCLBIA/CB# GULFPORT MS 11000 RUMDPAAZOBO PORT HUENEME DA « RUEDASFICEC DAVISVILLE RI 11102 RUEBEDAZOBU FOUR ONE FIVE VIRGINIA BEACH VA X1130 RUEDARAZCHU FOUR ONE FOUR NEW LONDON CT RULYSHYZOBU FOUR ONE ONE NORFOLK VA 2100A PUWJDHAZCBU FOUR ONE SEVEN WHIDBEY ISLAND WA RUWMBFA/CBU FOUR ONE SIX ACAMEDA CA PHHMSRA/CBH FOUR ONE THREE PEARL HARBOR HI RUCLADAZOSU FOUR OME TWO CHARLESTON SO MUCLEMAZORU FOUR DNE ZERO JACKSONVILLE FLERRERE RUMBXAAZORU FOUR ZERO FIVE SAN DIEGO CA COM31-15 UCT-2-2 CBC-11 NMCB-4

NMCB-40-

PAGE 63 PUESSOGIBLE UNCLAS RUCLEMAZOBU FOUR ZERO FOUR MILLINGTON IN PUEDEDAZOBU FOUR ZERO ONE GREAT LAKES IL RUWMHMAZOBU FOUR ZERO SIX LEMOORE CA RUESHHAZGBU FOUR ZERO THREE ANNAPOLIS MD RUCLMHAZOBU FOUR ZERO TWO PENSACOLA FL RIMDPAA/MAVSCOLCECOFF PORT HUENEME CA RUCLE14/MAVCONSTRACEM GULFPORT MS RUMDPAA/NAVCONSTRACEN PORT HUENEME CA RUHINDA/CBU FOUR ZERO SEVEN CORPUS CHRISTI TX 91 UNCLAS //NØ5060// PELTIER AWARD FOR FY-1977/7T IT IS A PLEASURE TO REPORT THE SOCIETY OF AMERICAN MILITARY ENGINEERS HAS ANNOUNCED THE SELECTION OF U.S. NAVAL MOBILE CON-STRUCTION BATTALION SIX THO AS THE RECIPIENT OF THE PELTIER AWARD FOR FY-1977/77. THE AWARD IS OFFERED ANNUALLY TO THE MOST OUTSTAND ING UNIT IN THE NAVAL CONSTRUCTION FORCE NMCB SIX TWO DISTINGUISHED ITSELF DURING THIS AWARD PERIOD WITH A TOTALLY SUCCESSFUL DEPLOYMENT ON DIEGO GARCIA: THE CHALLENGING AND COMPLEX ASSIGNMENTS, INCLUDING A WIDE RANGE OF CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

PAGE 04 PUISSGG1318 UNCLAS
AND CAMP SUPPORT, WERE ACCOMPLISHED UNDER ARDUOUS CONDITIONS IN A
HIGHLY PROFESSIONAL MANNER.
3. WITH THE HIGH LEVEL OF READINESS MAINTAINED BY THE UNITS OF THE
MAYAL CONSTRUCTION FORCE, THE COMPETITION FOR THIS COVETED AWARD WAS
EXTREMELY KEEN. CONSEQUENTLY, YOU CAN BE JUSTIFIABLY PROUD OF YOUR
ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND OF BEING SELECTED AS THE RECIPIENT OF THE
PELTIER AWARD FOR FY-77/7T. I EXTEND MY WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS TO
EACH AND EVERY MAN IN THE BATTALION FOR THIS FINE ACHIEVEMENT.
WELL DONE.
D. G. ISELIN, SEAR ADMIRAL, CIVIL ENGINEER CORPS, U. S. NAVY
#1318



RTTUZVUW RULYSDK4622 2841421=UUUU==RUVNSAA. ZNR UUUUUU RUCLBIA T COM TWO ZERO NOR GULFPORT MS/NMCR SEVEN FOUR RUCLDHA T COMCBLANT DET ROOSEVELT ROADS PR NMCB 62 "RUHJPBA T NMCB ONE RUTKSHH T NMCB ONE THREE THREE 8Ø/MCC RUVNSAA T NMCB SIX TWO R 1114157 OCT 77 FM COMCHLANT NORFOLK VA TO CHLANT INFO RUENAAA/CNO WASHINGTON DC RUCHSAA/CINCLANTFLT NORKOLK VA RUDONBAZCINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK RULSSAA/CHCIVENG ALEXANDRIA VA ZEMPLANTNAVFACENGCOM NORFOLK VA RHHMRRA/COMCBPAC PEARL HARROR HI BT UNCLAS //NØ1650// CNO FOR 0P-09819 ATLANTIC NMCB BEST OF TYPE/BATTLE "E" WINNER FY-71 AND FY-77 1. IT IS WITH EXTREME PLEASURE THAT I NAME NHOB SIXTY THO AS BEST OF TYPE AND WINNER OF THE BATTLE EFFICIENCY AWARD FOR THE ATLANTIC NAVAL CONSTRUCTION FORCE FOR FY=7T AND FY=77; SELECTION OF NMCB SIXTY=TWO CULMINATES FIFTEEN MONTHS OF SUPERLATIVE PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTED BY AN EMINENTLY SUCCESSFUL DEPLOYMENT TO DIEGO GARCIA; EVERY SEABEE IN NMCB SIXTY-TWO CAN TAKE PRIDE IN HIS CONTRIBUTION TO THE OUTSTANDING RECORD ESTABLISHED BY THE BATTALION, MY HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS

PAGE 02 RULYSDK4622 UNCLAS TO THE OFFICERS AND MEN OF NMCB SIXTY-TWO. 2. ALTHOUGH NOT THE NORMAL PRACTICE TO NAME A RUNNER-UP BEST OF TYPE/MEM BATTALION, THE COMPETION WAS SO KEEN, AND THE SUPERB ACHIEVEMENTS OF NMCB SEVENTY FOUR WERE SO NOTEWORTHY AND OUTSTANDING IN THEIR OWN RIGHT, THAT IT IS APPROPRIATE TO BREAK PRECEDENT AND RECOGNIZE NMCB SEVENTY FOUR AS RUNNER-UP BEST OF TYPE. CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE "DOES MORE" BATTALION, 13. IN REVIEWING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE ATLANTIC NMCB'S DURING DELIBERATIONS FOR THE SEST OF TYPE/BATTLE EFFICIENCY AWARD, I WAS IMPRESSED BY THE DEDICATION AND PROFESSIONALISM OF ALL BATTALIONS, MY SINCERE APPRECIATION IS EXTENDED TO EVERY SEABLE OF THE ATLANTIC NOF FOR PROFESSIONAL CAN DO PERFORMANCE. CAPT J.P. JONES, JR. 3 T 14622

TOR: 111831Z OCT 77/SA4H#Ø94/55



58

RTTUZYUW RHHMCSA6717 3030252-UUUU--RUVNSAA,
ZNR UUUUU
R 300204Z OCT 77
FM CONCEPAC PEARL HARBOR HI
TO RUVNSAA/NMCR SIX TWO
RUCLBIA/NMCB SIX TWO ADVANCE PARTY
INFO RULYSDK/COMCBLANT NORFOLK VA
RUVNSAA/THREE ZERO NCR DET DIEGO GARCIA
RUCLRIA/COM TWO ZERO NCR GULFPORT MS
BT

NMCB 62 3ØNCR 8Ø MCC

UNCLAS //NØ1650// DEPARTURE MESSAGE

1. AS YOUR DEPLOYMENT TO DIEGO GARCIA DRAWS TO A CLOSE, IT GIVES ME PLEASURE TO NOTE THE DISTINCTION WITH WHICH THE MEN OF NMCB SIXTY TWO HAVE CARRIED OUT DIFFICULT AND VARIED CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS.

THE RECENT SELECTION OF THIS "CAN DO." BATTALION AS ATLANTIC "BEST OF TYPE, IS EXEMPLARY OF THE MANNER IN WHICH THE "MINUTEMEN" E OF NHCB SIXTY TWO PERFORMED DURING THE PAST EIGHT-MONTH DEPLOYMENT.

2. THE TURNOVER OF ALL EIGHT POL FUEL TANK RINGS IN SUPPORT OF CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW POL SYSTEM, COMPLETION OF THE NEW SURSISTANCE RULDING, AND SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETION OF THE NEW EM CLUP

PAGE 02 RHHMCSA6717 UNCLAS AND SWIMMING POOL WERE SIGNIFICANT STEPS TOWARD ACHIEVING OVERALL NCF CONSTRUCTION GOALS ON DIEGO GARCIA; YOUR SUCCESS IN SUBSTAN-TIALLY INCREASING THE AVAILABILITY OF HEAVY CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT RESULTED IN AN UNSURPASSED EFFORT IN THE HAULING AND PLACING OF FILL MATERIAL AND IS A SOURCE OF JUSTIFIABLE PRIDE. ALSO NOTEWORTHY WAS THE PROFESSIONAL MANNER IN WHICH WORK WAS COMPLETED ON CONSTRUCT TION OF THE SAND PIER TO AID NOS HARBOR OPERATIONS, AS WELL AS THE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS MADE ON THE BEGIS, RUNWAY AND APRON CONSTRUC-TON, PORTA-KAMP INSTALLATION, WATER SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT AND PUNCH LIST ITEMS ON RDS PHOJECTS; 3. BEST WISHES FOR A SAFE JOURNEY HOME AND A HAPPY REUNION WITH FAMILIES AND FHIENUS. BRAVO ZULU SIXTY-THO. THE ATLANTIC AND DESERVINGLY SO. RADM CLEMENTS. TTPEn BT #6717

TOR: 300414Z OCT 77/SA4H#035/065

NNNN

RITUZ YUW RUVNSAA2875 2641228-UUUU--RUHGSUU. Z NR UUUUU R 211121Z SEP 77 FM THREE ZERO NCR DET DIEGO GARCIA 30 NCR DET IN ENVELOPE TO COMCELANT NORFOLK VA PASS TO CAPT. WEIS UNCLAS PERSONAL FOR CAFT JONES FM CAFT WEIS //NOBORG// EVAL OF BATTALION PERFORMANCE A. YOUR 016631Z SEP 77 1. ALTHOUGH NOT ADDEE, CBPAC PASSED REF A TO ME INFORMALLY, FOR POSSIBLE COMMENT. 2. REGRETABLY, I HAVE NO BASIS FOR COMPARISON OF NMCB 62 TO ANY OF YOUR OTHER BATTALIONS, HOWEVER, IF YOU HAVE ANY BETTER, THEY ARE WORLD BEATERS. FOR 62, OVERALL, IN EVERY ASPECT, IS BEST I HAVE EVER SEEN. ATTITUDE IS FANTASTIC, COMMAND STRUCTURE IS EXTRAORDINARY CPERATIONS AND CONST MANAGEMENT IMPRESSIVE, SUPPLY HAS MLO AND REPAIR PARTS SQUARED AWAY (NO MEAN FEAT ON D.G.), ALFA CO HAS EXCEEDED MOST OPTIMISTIC EQPMT AVAILABILITY GOALS (WE FINALLY ARE OPERATOR CONSTRAINED) & CAMP MAINTENANCE IS OUTSTANDING, SUPPORT FUNCTIONS ARE INORDINATELY EFFECTIVE. ALL IN ALL - TOTALLY OUT-STANDING. YOU CAN BE EXTREMELY PROUD OF THIS ONE, AND IF YOU HAVE A BETTER ONE, MY CONGRATULATIONS TO THEM. 3. WARM REGARDS. BI #2875

NNNN

TOR: 211439Z SEP 77 S2H2#51/53

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This is my final letter of the Diego Garcia deployment, and I must apologize for it being so late. I delayed writing this time, anticipating news on the selection of the Best of Type/Battle Efficiency "E" Award by the Commander, Construction Battalions, U. S. Atlantic Fleet (CONCOLANT). This is a highly coveted award, recognizing the Atlantic Freet battalion (there are four) which has had the best performance in all areas over the past year. This year, the period covered 15 months.

NMCB Sixty-Two is the "best of type", I'm pleased to announce. It was a hard fought battle, extremely close between ourselves and NMCB 74...they must be incredibly good.

Captain J. P. Jones, Jr., COMCELANT, in his message to us announcing our selection, remarked: "Selection of NMCB Sixty-Two culminates 15 months of superlative performance highlighted by an emineurly successful deployment to Diego Garcia; every Seabee in NMCB Sixty-Two can take pride in his contribution to the outstanding record established by the battalion".

It was a proud moment for all as we stood at quarters during a light rain while I read the message. The men are proud, and they have earned the right to wear the new "Best of Type" ribbon on their uniforms. It's an award our Minutemen have worked for diligently; each one of them individually and collectively. It touches me deeply when they compactulate me, saying "We did it for you." It's the most any commanding officer could ever hope for—to achieve that kind of dedication and notivation in his men. These are the finest officers and men I have ever served with.

I have gotten to know them well this deployment. Professionally, militarily and socially, I'd take them anywher — anytime—and undertake all construction, military or dicaster recovery missions, knowing with confidence that we'd excel.

By the time you get this familygram, many of our Seabees will already be home. The advance party left Sunday.

This has been a long deployment; it has been a hard and chall-enging one. It could not have been much better. We came out here to achieve a monumental job with many apprentices, young men and inexperienced managers/leadens. This battalion had not worked together as a complete unit since the Vietnam era.

We are going home with our self-imposed goals achieved or exceeded, a lot of skilled craftsmen-many with newly acquired skills in several areas--and a management team that is unsurpassed.

The quantity and quality of work the Minutemen did on Diego Garcia is really indescribable. To quote the Resident Officer in Charge of Construction, who monitors our work for the customer, the Naval Communications Station: "I would like to commend the cooperative spirit and dedication to quality construction envinced by your battalion. I speak for the entire ROICC staff in expressing

our respect and admiration for your efforts. Without any doubt, the Seabees of NMCB 62 have placed the best quality construction achieved to date on Diego Garcia."

Cleanup and improvements made in the maintenance and management of facilities, equipment, tools, materials, supplies and repair parts are too numerous to mention.

It was particularly rewarding to see the motivation of the men to achieve milestones—crows voluntarily working overtime and through weekends to meet schedules—rolus the teamwork and mutual support that developed between the companies and crows, helping each other achieve milestoner, nothing, of course, could have been accomplished without the dedicated support of the staff personnel in Headquarters Company, who provided escential support and personal services to the men in the field.

A complete wrap-up of all our deployment accomplishments will be covered in our final issue of the Scabescen, to be published upon our return to homoport. You should have received two issues by new, and three more will arrive soon. One is due back from the printer this week, another is on its way to the printer. Our final issue is being compiled right now.

Project-wise, we hauled a quarter-million cubic yards of fill, batched and placed 12,000 cubic yards of concrete, fied 350 rons of reinforced speed, cleared 50 agres of land and layed 15 acros of soil cement. We built an eight-lane of professional swimming prof; eight 120' diameter formulations for 80,000-barrel fuel storage truke; portions of the ulufield apren, takiway and running with lighting system; a 150,600 galien reinforced concrete unter storage tank; a 30 m 50 water treatment plant building; foundations for three 2-story quarters, plus 18 tiliup wall panels for the building (each weighting 20 tons); interior electrical/machenical and structural features of the new enligted dining facility (Emished); all interior work for the new enlisted men's club (finished); a two-story, prefabricated 80-man barracks; recreation facility with ballfield, three tennis courts and four vollayball courts (lighted and finished); a 60° x 100° sheet-pile pier; 60 portacamp berthing huts, and 10 Portacasp heads; a lurge ship's store parking lot; two large pads for warchouses; a large sewage lagoon; landscaping; and many more smaller projects.

Impressive? Yes. And I could go on to describe numerous other accomplishments in areas of construction equipment upgrade (reduction in describe from 25% to 3%); supplies and repair parts (stocking level accuracy raised from 80% and issue to more than 50%); consolidation of re-called "excess" material into controlled common construction material stock; four ship off-loads; establishment of a thorough preventive maintanance program for our camp; humane relecation of 30 wild donkeys from the vest side of this island—where they were a hazard to aircraft and equipment—and a good deal more.

Your Scabee is coming home tired, proud, and certainly more experienced from his tour on Diego Carcia. He's great and he knows it. I'm proud of him and am grateful for the contribution he has made to make NHCB Sixty-Two the havealion it is today, and for the dedication to his country's effort to construct this strategically

important facility on Diego Garcia.

I have enjoyed communicating with you this deployment, and hope that my letters have helped being you closer to the Minutenen of NMCB Sixty-Two and the week they are doing. I am especially grateful for the loyal support you have given your Seehee throughout the deployment. I know it has been a long, hard one for you as well. Have a happy reunion of familles, God bless, and perhaps we'll meet in Gulfport in a few weeks.

Sincerely,

C. E. PROUGH TAIL Commanding Officer

CO'S PELTIER AWARD SPEACH

RADM ISELIN, COMMODORE TAYLOR, COMMODORE JONES, DISTINGUISHED VISITORS, FRIENDS AND FAMILIES OF NMCB-62.

THIS IS INDEED A PROUD MOMENT FOR ME, ACCEPTING THE SOCIETY OF AMERICAN MILITARY ENGINEERS PELTIER AWARD WHICH RECOGNIZES <u>OUR</u> BATTALION AS THE BEST IN THE NAVAL CONSTRUCTION FORCE. THIS AWARD IS NOT SOMETHING THAT WE CONSCIOUSLY SET OUT TO ACHIEVE. IT CAME AS A RESULT OF A DEDICATED EFFORT BY EVERY MINUTEMAN, DOING THE BEST JOB HE KNEW HOW, REGARDLESS OF THE TASK.

ATTITUDE WAS THE PRINCIPAL FACTOR. THAT IS: PRIDE IN PROFESSION-ALISM - WHETHER IT WAS IN THE SUPPORT FUNCTIONS OR IN CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT;

ATTENTION TO DETAILS, FOR "NO DETAIL IS TOO SMALL." ALSO, "NO TASK IS TOO SMALL, OR TOO BIG". AND, A STRONG DESIRE TO BE THE BEST AT EVERYTHING.

ACHIEVEMENT OF THIS DEGREE OF RECOGNITION TOOK:

RESPONSIVE, DEDICATED AND PROFESSIONAL OFFICERS PULLING TOGETHER; AN ORGANIZATION OF CHIEF PETTY OFFICERS WHO CANNOT BE BEAT, AND WERE A PART OF THE MANAGEMENT TEAM, SETTING AND MAINTAINING HIGH STANDARDS;

CONSCIENTIOUS AND DETERMINED PETTY OFFICERS WHO WERE EAGER TO ACCEPT THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES AND DID THE GRASS ROOTS LEADING, PLANNING, TRAINING AND WORK EXECUTION;

THE FINEST MEN IN THE COUNTRY TODAY, WITH A DETERMINATION TO MEET OR EXCEED GOALS, A DESIRE TO WORK PRODUCTIVELY AND AN EAGERNESS TO LEARN AND ADVANCE;

AND THE SUPPORT OF THE FAMILIES BEHIND ALL THE SEABEES IN NMCB SIXTY-TWO.

I'LL REVEAL ANOTHER BATTALION SECRET - I OF COURSE, RECEIVED MY
TRAINING FROM AN EXPERT IN THIS BUSINESS, ONE WHO WAS THE BATTALION'S
SECOND COMMANDING OFFICER AND BROUGHT THE HONOR OF THIS AWARD HOME
TWICE IN SUCCESSION, CAPT JOHN PAUL JONES, JR.

FRANKLY SPEAKING, THE COMPETITION HERE IN THE ATLANTIC, JUST TO BE PLACED IN CONTENTION FOR THIS AWARD, WAS AND CONTINUES TO BE EXTREMELY KEEN. CREDIT IS ALSO DUE THOSE ORGANIZATIONS WHO SUPPORTED AND TASKED US, NAMELY COMCBLANT, AND COMCBPAC, THE 20TH, 30TH AND 31ST NAVAL CONSTRUCTION REGIMENTS, THE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION CENTER HERE IN GULFPORT, AND THE NAVAL CONSTRUCTION TRAINING CENTER. MY SINCEREST APPRECIATION TO ALL OF THEM AND THEIR STAFFS.

ADM ISELIN, COMMODORE TAYLOR, COMMODORE JONES, AS YOU ARE SO WELL AWARE, THE OFFICERS AND MEN OF NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION SIXTY-TWO WORKED HARD FOR THIS AWARD AND THEY EARNED IT. ALL OF THEM KNOW AND SHARE WITH ME THE INTENSE PRIDE THAT COMES WITH BEING THE BEST AND ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO THE CHALLENGES THAT LIE AHEAD. WE PROUDLY ACCEPT THE PELTIER AWARD AND WILL CONTINUE TO STRIVE TO UPHOLD THE HIGH STANDARDS OF THE SEABEE'S WHICH IT EXEMPLIFIES.

COMMANDER OF TROOPS, "TAKE CHARGE AND CARRY OUT THE PLAN OF THE DAY".

COMMANDER CHARLES E. FEGLEY III, CEC, USN

Commander Fegley was commissioned an Ensign in the Civil Engineer Corps, U. S. Navy upon graduation from the Pennsylvania State University in 1957 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering.

Since entering active duty, he has served with the Public Works Department, U. S. Naval Security Group Activity, Kami Seya, Japan, 1957-1960; The Naval Nuclear Shore Power Program, 1960-1966; U. S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion SIXTY-TWO from 1967-1969, and in 1969, he received orders for duty as Officer-in-Charge of the Naval Nuclear Power Unit, Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

In 1972, he reported to the Chesapeake Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command for duty as Head, Facilities Management Department. Upon completion of that tour in 1974, he assumed duties as Resident Officer-in-Charge of Construction, Annapolis, Maryland. Commander Fegley assumed command of NMCB SIXTY-TWO on 22 May 1976.

While serving in the Nuclear Shore Power Program, he wintered over as Officer-in-Charge of the PM-3A Nuclear Power Plant, McMurdo Station, Antarctica in Deep Freeze 64. During his previous tour with NMCB SIXTY-TWO he served as Executive Officer, completing deployments at DaNang and Dong Ha, Republic of Vietnam.

Commander Fegley completed the Advance Nuclear Power School at New London, Connecticut in 1961 and obtained a Master of Science Degree in Civil Engineering (Construction) from Stanford University in 1967. He is a Registered Professional Engineer in the State of Virginia.

His decorations and awards include the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V", Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, Navy Unit Commendation Medal, Three Meritorious Unit Commendations, Army Meritorious Commendation, Antarctic Service Medal with bronze winterover device, and Vietnam Service Medal with six bronze stars. NMCB SIXTY-TWO received the Battle Efficiency "E" Award as the Best of Type in the Atlantic Fleet and the Peltier Award as outstanding battalion in the Naval Construction Force for the period 1 July 1976 to 30 September 1977.

Commander Fegley is married to the former Ruth Nissen of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. They have three daughters, Kimberly, Kristen and Cynthia.



