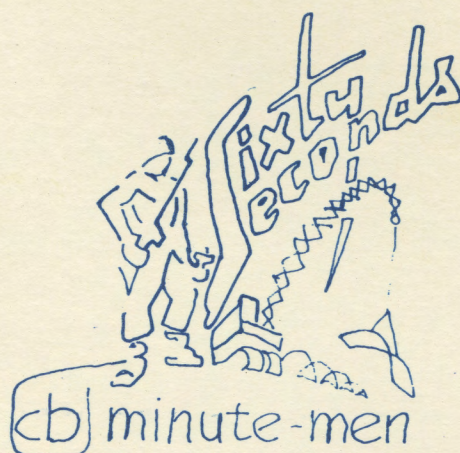


COMMISSIONING CEREMONY



UNITED STATES NAVAL MOBILE
CONSTRUCTION BATTALION
SIXTY-TWO

GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI

COMMISSIONING CEREMONY

UNITED STATES NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION

SIXTY - TWO

2 JULY 1966

1000 HOURS

Invocation	Lieutenant W. M. Gibson, CHC, USN Chaplain, Construction Battalion Center Gulfport, Mississippi
Introduction of Honored Guests	Commander N. L. Martinson, CEC, USN Commanding Officer, Twentieth Naval Construction Regiment
Remarks and Reading of Commissioning Orders	Rear Admiral H. A. Renken, USN Commander, Service Forces U. S. Atlantic Fleet
Presentation and Posting of Battalion Colors	Rear Admiral H. A. Renken, USN Commander, Service Forces U. S. Atlantic Fleet
Reading of Orders	Commander William J. Richeson, CEC, USN Commanding Officer, Mobile Construction Battalion Sixty-Two
Presentation of Unit Citation	Rear Admiral A. C. Husband, CEC, USN Commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command
Presentation of Awards	Captain S. R. Smith, CEC, USN Commander, Construction Battalions, U. S. Atlantic Fleet
Remarks	Honored Guests
Benediction	Lieutenant C. W. Erickson, CHC, USNR Chaplain, Mobile Construction Battalion Sixty-Two
Departure Honors	

Music by the Pensacola Naval Air Station Band
Chief Warrent Officer F. L. Emond, Band Master

HONORED GUESTS

Honorable Paul B. Johnson
Governor of the State of Mississippi

Honorable James O. Eastland
United States Senator for the State of Mississippi

Honorable William M. Colmer
Member of the United States House of Representatives
for the Fifth District, State of Mississippi

Honorable R. B. Meadows, Jr.
Mayor of the City of Gulfport

Major General R. W. Puryear, USAF
Commander, Keesler Technical Training Center

Rear Admiral H. A. Renken, USN
Commander, Service Forces, U. S. Atlantic Fleet

Rear Admiral J. S. Dorsey, USN
Commandant, Sixth Naval District

Rear Admiral P. N. Scarbonnet, USN
Commandant, Eighth Naval District

Rear Admiral A. C. Husband, CEC, USN
Commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command

Rear Admiral W. M. Enger, CEC, USN
Vice Commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command

Rear Admiral H. N. Wallin, CEC, USN
Deputy Commander for Facilities Engineering

Rear Admiral W. M. Heaman, CEC, USN
Commander, Naval Construction Battalions, U. S. Pacific Fleet

Rear Admiral K. R. Wheeler, SC, USN
Staff Fleet and Force Supply, Norfolk, Virginia

Rear Admiral L. C. Cox, CEC, USN
Director, Southwest Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command

Rear Admiral N. J. Drustup, CEC, USN
Director, Atlantic Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command

Rear Admiral R. R. Wooding, CEC, USN
Director, Pacific Division Southeast Asia
Naval Facilities Engineering Command

Captain S. R. Smith, CEC, USN
Commander, Construction Battalions, U. S. Atlantic Fleet

Lieutenant Commander R. Y. Taggart
Former Officer-in-Charge, 62nd Naval Construction Battalion

Lieutenant Commander S. J. Schuler, CEC-V(S), USNR
Former Officer-in-Charge, 62nd Naval Construction Battalion

HISTORY OF THE SIXTY-SECOND NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION

Mobile Construction Battalion 62 -- like MCBs 40 and 58 -- derived its numerical designation from a Naval Construction Battalion that gained World War II fame. The original NCB 62 was commissioned on December 30, 1942, at Davisville, Rhode Island. After two short months of training the Battalion left for its embarkation point, Port Hueneme, California. Lieutenant Commander Rudolph Y. Taggart was the outfit's Officer-in-charge.

On March 24 NCB 62 boarded the transport ship MATSONIA, bound for Pearl Harbor.

Until early September 1944 the Battalion stayed in Hawaii, constructing repair and servicing facilities for the Pearl Harbor Submarine Base, completing a dike at Loko Eo, building landing craft facilities at Waipio Point, and much more. Over two million yards of fill material were moved on the Loko Eo dike alone.

A small detachment from NCB 62 went to the Island of Angaur, in the West Carolines, to set up pontoon docks. These men became the first of the Battalion's Seabees to encounter the enemy when they were fired upon by Japanese snipers.

In September of 1944 the Battalion finished its work in Hawaii and underwent two weeks of jungle training at Sweetheart Valley, Oahu, in preparation for the big job ahead -- Iwo Jima. NCB 62 then moved to the Island of Maui for two months of amphibious, marine and weapons training.

The Iwo Jima task force left Saipan on February 16, 1945. The ships carrying NCB 62 all got safely through to beach their cargoes of men and machines despite kamikaze raids by the Japanese. The first shipload was ashore at 10 p.m. of D-Day (February 19) plus five. By 2 a.m. of D-Day plus seven, the whole Battalion was ashore.

The Japanese attacked with mortars that night.

The Battalion's job at Iwo Jima was to get three bombed-out Japanese airfields back into shape as quickly as possible. The Seabees did just that -- heavy equipment operators were at work on the first airfield, clearing off wrecked Japanese planes and filling bomb craters the first day the Battalion was on Iwo Jima.

The dozer drivers had to duck from snipers' bullets, fight off banzai attacks and jump for cover every time the Japanese mortars opened up on them. But work on the Number One airfield went on day and night. On D-Day plus 12, work was begun on the Number Two airfield.

The Seabees spent a total of five months improving Central Airfield. When they were finished, they had moved over three million yards of earth and were in possession of the longest airstrip -- 5225 feet -- in the western Pacific.

On V-J Day, August 14, 1945, NCB 62 was among 13 Construction Battalions and three Special Battalions awaiting assignment to Japan, where they were to aid Naval forces at various cities.

The 62nd Naval Construction Battalion was inactivated on September 15, 1945, at Yokosuka, Japan.



COMMANDING OFFICER

COMMANDER WILLIAM J. RICHESON, CEC, USN

Commander William J. Richeson was born in Atlanta, Georgia, on 27 January 1924. He took two years of pre-medical courses at Georgetown University before enlisting as a Naval Aviation Cadet in December 1942. In May 1944 he was commissioned as a Naval Aviator. He served with Bombing Squadron 95 until his separation in December 1945.

He then went back to college at the Catholic University of America, Washington, D. C., and was graduated in 1949 with a bachelor's degree in architectural engineering. From that time until his recall to active duty in November 1950, he was an associate architect with E. H. Glidden Jr., of Baltimore, Maryland.

Since 1950, Commander Richeson has served as Training Battalion Executive Officer, Port Hueneme, California; Assistant Planning and Design Officer, Area Public Works Office, Mariana Islands; and Assistant Public Works Officer, Naval Air Material Center, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

In 1956-57 he attended Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and received his Bachelor of Civil Engineering degree in August 1957.

Following graduation, he served as Public Works Officer at the Naval Auxiliary Air Station, Saufley Field, Pensacola, Florida; ROICC, Iwo Jima; Assistant Operations Officer and Operations Officer, Construction Battalions, U. S. Pacific Fleet; Public Works Officer, Naval Supply Depot, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania; and Assistant for Facilities Management, Facilities Engineering Command, Northwest Division, Seattle, Washington.

Commander Richeson is married to the former Rosemary Anne Kelso of Linthicum Heights, Maryland. They have seven children; Deborah, 14; Stephen, 12; Elizabeth, 10; Margaret, 9; Pamela, 8; Laura, 4; and William Jr., 1.

BATTALION OFFICERS

WILLIAMS, J. R.	LCDR	USN	Executive Officer
CRONIN, G. W.	LCDR	USN	Supply Officer
CHRISTENSON, C. E.	LT	USN	Operations Officer
SCHINN, T. A.	LT	USN	Dental Officer
ERICKSON, C. W.	LT	USNR	Chaplain
HALE, T. E.	LT	USN	"A" Company Commander
WOOD, W. L.	LT	USN	"B" Company Commander
SHACKLEFORD, R.	LT	USN	"C" Company Commander
HARDEN, A. W.	LTJG	USNR	"D" Company Commander
O'REILLY, J. M.	LTJG	USNR	"H" Company Commander
CARTER, A. L.	LTJG	USNR	Assistant "C" Company Commander
KELTY, T. M.	LTJG	USNR	Assistant "B" Company Commander
O'NEILL, C. P.	LTJG	USNR	Plans and Training Officer
STELLYES, C. G.	ENS	USNR	Plans & Training Officer (Acting)
McCALEB, B. H.	ENS	USNR	Assistant Operations Officer
WHITE, J. A.	ENS	USN	Assistant Supply Officer
ALLEMAND, L. J.	AWO-1	USN	Assistant "A" Company Commander