

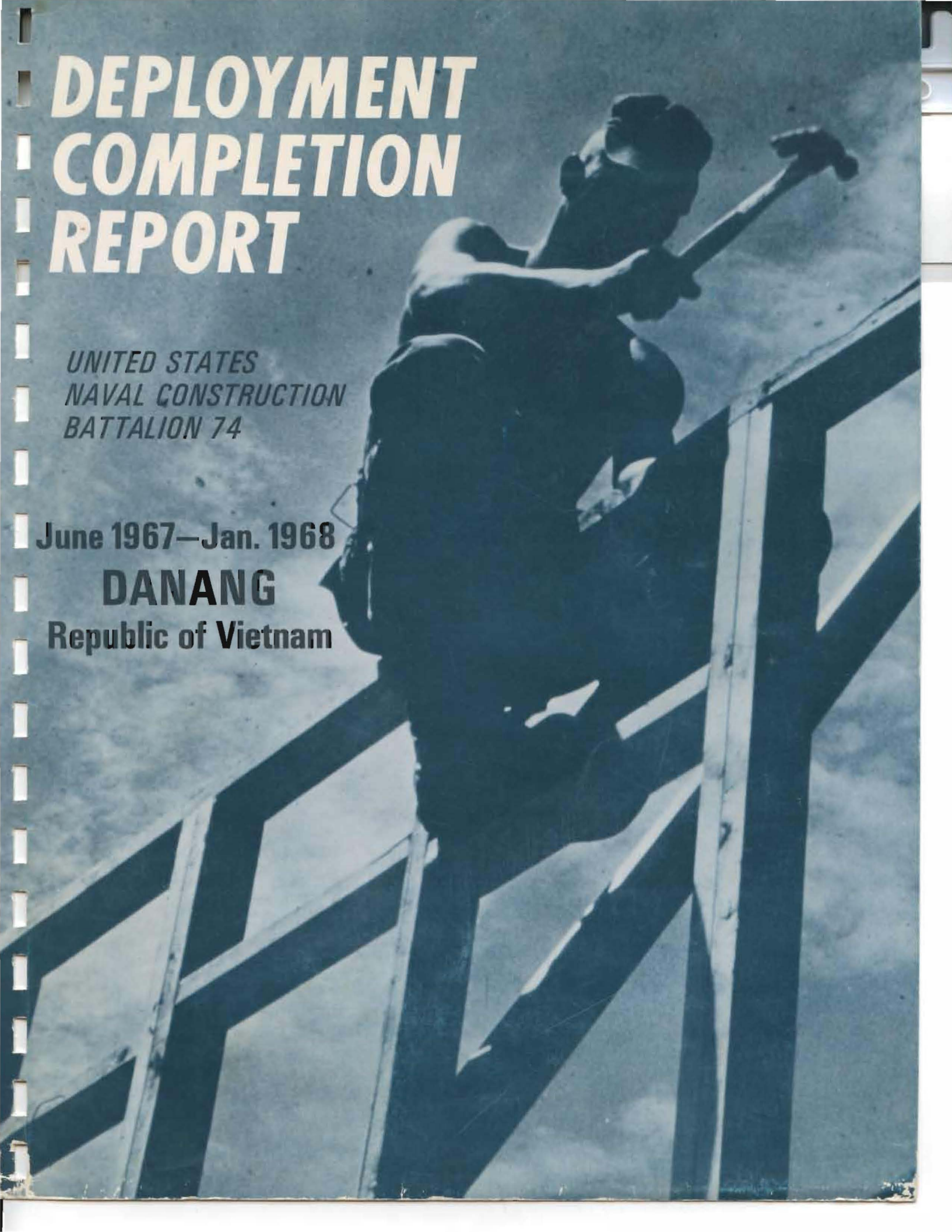
DEPLOYMENT COMPLETION REPORT

*UNITED STATES
NAVAL CONSTRUCTION
BATTALION 74*

June 1967—Jan. 1968

DANANG

Republic of Vietnam



DEPLOYMENT COMPLETION REPORT



U. S. NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION SEVENTY-FOUR
FLEET POST OFFICE
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 09501

MCB-74:10:fn
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Ser

From: Commanding Officer, U.S. Naval Mobile Construction
Battalion SEVENTY-FOUR
To: Commander Naval Construction Battalions, Pacific
Subj: NMCB SEVENTY-FOUR Deployment Completion Report
Ref: (a) COMCBPACINST 5213.1D
Encl: (1) Deployment Completion Report

1. Enclosure (1) summarizing the 5 June 1967 to 27
January 1968 deployment of NMCB SEVENTY-FOUR to the
Republic of Vietnam is submitted in accordance with
reference (a).


G. W. SCHLEY

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COM30thNCR	2	COMNAVFORV	1
COM31stNCR	2	COM3rdNCB REP SAIGON	1
COM32ndNCR	2	ALL CBMU's	1
CO NAVSCOLCONST	1	ALL NMCB's	1
CO NAVSCOL CEC OFF	1	OICC SAIGON	1
CO NCEL	1	CO CBCEN GULFPORT	1

NMCB SEVENTY-FOUR DEPLOYMENT COMPLETION REPORT
DA NANG, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM
JUNE 1967 THROUGH JANUARY 1968

Ref: (a) COMCBPAC OPOD 12-67

1. EMPLOYMENT STATUS.

During the period 5 June 1967 to 27 January 1968, U. S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion SEVENTY-FOUR was deployed to Camp Haskins, Da Nang, Republic of Vietnam as directed by reference (a). During this deployment other battalion units were employed at other locations as follows:

a. **Monkey Mountain Detail:** From 7 June 1967 to 26 July 1967, one officer and 30 to 57 enlisted men were employed in construction of a prototype MTDS facility for the First Marine Air Wing on Monkey Mountain, east of Da Nang.

b. **Hill 724 Detail:** From 26 July until late August 1967, one Chief Petty Officer and nine other enlisted men were detailed to Hill 724 north of Da Nang, upgrading the access road and constructing various facilities in support of the First LAAM battalion, First Marine Air Wing.

c. **Detail Tango:** From 3 August until 1 December 1967, one officer and 28 to 58 men were employed in reconstruction, repair and upgrading a 17 mile portion of QL-1 from Lang Co to Phu Loc. Four separate campsites were established as required during the life of this project; two at Cau Hai, and one each at Ham Phu Gia and Lang Co.

d. **Detail Uniform:** From 2 October until 13 November 1967, one officer and 23 enlisted men were employed at Duc Pho constructing POL storage facilities in support of the U. S. Army AMERICAL Division.

e. **Seabee Teams 7401 and 7402:** On leave and in training, CONUS, under COM20NCR, Gulfport, Mississippi from 31 December 1967 through the end of the battalion deployment.

f. Two other details, one of one officer and 60 men and one of one officer and 17 men were formed for employment at Khe Sanh and at Que Son respectively. Both projects were cancelled just prior to detail deployment however.

2. UNIT MOVEMENTS.

The following major battalion movements were accomplished in execution of reference (a).

a. **RVN Advance Party ONE:** On 5 May 1967, three officers and 57 enlisted personnel departed Gulfport, Mississippi for Da Nang, RVN by MAC C-141 aircraft.

b. **RVN Advance Party TWO:** On 19 May

1967, three officers and 57 enlisted men of the second advance party departed Gulfport, Mississippi for Da Nang, RVN on MAC C-141 aircraft.

c. **RVN Main Body Movement:** From 5 to 9 June 1967, the NMCB SEVENTY-FOUR main body consisting of 17 officers and 603 enlisted personnel moved from Gulfport, Mississippi to Da Nang, Vietnam, aboard MAC C-141 aircraft.

d. **CONUS Advance Party:** On 31 December 1967, four officers and 60 enlisted men, including Seabee Teams 7401 and 7402, departed Da Nang, Vietnam for Gulfport, Mississippi aboard C-141 aircraft.

e. **CONUS Main Body Movement:** From 23 to 28 January 1968, the main body of NMCB-74, consisting of 21 officers and 590 enlisted men transitioned from Da Nang, Vietnam to Gulfport, Mississippi aboard MAC C-141 aircraft.

3. SIGNIFICANT EVENTS.

19 June 1967—RADM W. M. HEAMAN, CEC, USN, COMCBPAC visited Camp Haskins.

25 June 1967—RADM P. L. LACY, Commander, Naval Supply Activity, Major General Robertson, Commanding General, First Marine Division, Brigadier General Herbold, Commanding General, Force Logistics Command and other officials from commands in the area were hosted by the officers of NMCB-74 at Camp Haskins.

1 August 1967—Captain R. C. Engram, CEC, USN, Commander 20NCR, Gulfport, Mississippi visited Camp Haskins.

28 September 1967—Rear Admiral Henry L. Miller, Chief of Information (CHINFO), accompanied by Rear Admiral J. V. Bartlett, Commander Third Naval Construction Brigade, visited NMCB-74 and toured ASP-2 under construction by NMCB-74.

1 October 1967—0645 Detail Tango received five (5) 82MM mortar rounds and automatic weapons fire. One Seabee WIA.

0730—Received 8 more mortar rounds, 200 rounds small arms fire and 200 rounds machine gun fire. A bridge was blown at coordinates AT 849002 and one pier of a bridge was blown at ZD 198010.

4 October 1967—Bridge blown on International Highway 1 north of Phu Loc. Because of this, the mine sweep team was unable to reach Phu Loc from the North. The main sweep team from the South hit a mine at Lang Co. No sweep capability available.

1900—Received mortar fire—5 Seabees WIA.

8 October 1967—0735 Enemy attempted to blow a bridge at coordinates ZD 136010.

10 October 1967—1000 Phu Loc Camp received 30 rounds mortar fire. Two small bridges blown between Lang Co and Phu Loc, eight trenches dug across Route 1, 4 feet wide by 2.5 feet deep.

Newly completed bridge at coordinates ZD 136010 blown—80% destroyed.

1400—Mortar attacks on work crews at four locations—one Seabee WIA. One stone culvert blown.

1820—Bridge crew received 18 rounds of mortar fire.

11 October 1967—1905 Bridge at coordinates ZD 152010 received 6 rounds 81MM mortar fire.

12 October 1967—Enemy attempted to destroy bridge bypass at coordinates ZD 136010.

13 October 1967—Small bridge blown at coordinates ZD 194010. Trenches dug on 10 October 1967 redug and enlarged.

21 October 1967—Received sniper fire at coordinates ZD 107017.

25 October 1967—Received ten rounds 82MM mortar fire at coordinates ZD 095007.

29 October 1967—Front end loader struck a mine while loading rock at coordinates Z4833005.

30 October 1967—Bridge blown at coordinates 3D098007.

7 November 1967—Seven trenches cut in National Highway One at coordinates ZD 164011, making this section of road impassable. One culvert and headwall blown on Route 1—100% destroyed. Marines ambushed Viet Cong demolition crew. Culvert blown at coordinates ZD 10182010, 25% destroyed.

8 November 1967—Received one round of 82MM mortar fire in new camp coordinates ZD 108009.

3 December 1967—First anniversary of the NMCB-74 recommissioning was celebrated. The festivities included sports competitions, a battalion bar-b-que, 2 USO shows, and a formal dining-in by the officers with guests from the COM3NCB/COM30NCR and adjacent commands. The entire day was holiday routine.

18 December 1967—Work commenced on project Beaver at 0630.

21 December 1967—RADM J. W. KELLY, Chief of Chaplains, visited Camp Haskins. At this time, NMCB-74 hosted a conference of all construction battalion Chaplains in Vietnam.

2 January 1968—A ceremony was held by the hamlet of Phouc Quang to honor and thank the NMCB-74 Civic Action Team for all its aid, with

Rear Admiral J. V. BARTLETT, Commander THIRD Naval Construction Brigade as the honored guest.

3 January 1968—Augment forces from other Da Nang battalions arrived in support of Project Beaver. Total augment forces by battalion were:

NMCB-7	8
NMCB-9	87
NMCB-58	136
NMCB-62	16
NMCB-128.....	53
<hr/>	
Total	300

12 January 1968—COUCH, J. R., SWF3 of NMCB-9 drowned while assigned to the Red Beach Logistics Support Complex (Project Beaver).

13 January 1968—A grenade was thrown into one of the Project Beaver security bunkers. The following casualties were sustained:

1 KIA—HODGES, H. G., CN, NMCB-9
1 WIA—STOCTKO, J. G., CN, NMCB-9

15 January 1968—The Red Beach Logistics Support Complex (Project Beaver) was completed and turned over to the U. S. Army, First Air Cavalry Division. Guest speakers at this ceremony were General C. W. ABRAMS, USA, Rear Admiral J. V. BARTLETT, CEC, USN, and Brigadier General R. L. IRBY, USA.

4. MAJOR PROBLEMS.

a. **Rock Shortage**—Insufficient quantities of road run rock and all sizes of finish run rock was one of the primary construction problems encountered throughout NMCB-74's first deployment. Rock shortages resulted in several delays of major projects including ammo storage and hard stand storage areas.

b. "Ready-mixed" concrete availability, although affected by insufficient rock supply, was a critical area in itself. Lack of concrete was further aggravated by the poor quality of delivered material. Unsure delivery times of concrete from batch plants caused great difficulty in scheduling work crews for job assignments.

c. **Shortage of Materials.** Many of the projects under the control of NMCB-74 required procurement of specific materials. Long lead time required for procurement of materials, such as pumps, electrical distribution components, and specialty items resulted in considerable delay in some of the major projects. To put this in proper perspective, however, it must be noted that a great portion of the NMCB-74 workload was formed of Milcon and special project funded line items, which were, by definition, more sophisticated than the ABFC structures in use elsewhere.

d. **Changing plans and priorities.** Priority of construction projects was a fluid thing. A fixed

priority was an unheard of entity with the exception of Project Beaver. "Hot" projects were replaced by "hotter" ones, resulting in a breakdown of all attempts to establish priorities. The final outcome resulting was a great many projects at partial stages of completion, all of which were too low in the priority scheme to permit resumption of work.

e. **Lack of manpower.** During the deployment, NMCB-74 always maintained a sizeable backlog of work, both horizontal and vertical. Had the manpower been available, the battalion would have been able to greatly increase output of completed constructions. A minimum of 125 indigenous laborers or an additional 200 military personnel could have been fully utilized with equipment and tool resources on hand, with no significant increase of overhead support functions required.

5. **FACTORS OF SUCCESS.**

a. In June 1967, NMCB-74 deployed with 37%

of its enlisted personnel having been obtained through the Directly Procured Petty Officer program. The result of this situation can only be termed as outstanding. The talent and construction pride brought into the battalion by the DPPO, in all cases directly contributed to the highly successful completion of NMCB-74's first deployment.

b. At the time NMCB-74 was recommissioned, the battalion had been in the process of reforming for approximately 4 months. Therefore, on the date of commissioning, all battalion organization had been established leaving training and equipment to be tackled on a full time basis. This greatly contributed to the overall readiness capability of the battalion on deployment day.

c. Military training received at Gulfport, Mississippi prior to deployment, proved most adequate to the occasion and undoubtedly contributed significantly in enabling the battalion to complete the deployment without the loss of a single life.

complete tape recording library, consisting of 125 reels of selections and a duplicating lab operated by Special Services personnel. Personnel could buy blank tapes at the Regional Exchange and have any of the available selections recorded for his own use.

e. A recreation hut was in operation during the deployment which in addition to a thirty-two foot slot car track, contained a weight lifting room and boxing room complete with speed bag and body bag.

f. A well stocked Hobby Shop provided merchandise for sale from the Orient and CONUS in large quantities. Additionally available were recreational gear which included various games, archery equipment, swimming gear, Vietnamese basket boats, horseshoe gear, and badminton.

g. Large groups regularly attended evening movie showings and programs of frequent live entertainment, with groups from Australia, Canada, the United States, Philippines and Korea.

h. When personnel were promoted, Special Services provided free collar devices and to the men of Detail Tango, a free battalion lighter with the name and dates of the detachment.

i. Throughout the deployment, a continual review of Special Services was made for the purpose of improving and upgrading programs and facilities and as a result, the program was a formidable tool for effective morale building.

10. PROMOTIONS.

LCDR to CDR	1	E-5 to E-6	21
LTJG to LT	1	E-4 to E-5	48
ENS to LTJG	8	E-3 to E-4	107
E-7 to E-8	1	E-2 to E-3	30
E-6 to E-7	5	E-1 to E-2	3

During the deployment, NMCB-74 used a review board system for all field advancements and time in rate waiver applicants. The board normally consisted of four members, both commissioned and enlisted. Each candidate was interviewed with either his company commander or division officer and from this interview, and the man's past performance, his qualifications for the desired advancement rate were determined. This action was taken recognizing the existing need of insuring that the capability of the senior Seabee rates was not degraded through uncontrolled advancement either immediately or in the foreseeable future.

11. INDIVIDUAL AWARDS AND UNIT RECOGNITION.

a. The following individual awards were presented during the deployment, with such presentations being made at battalion functions wherever possible to insure fullest possible recognition for individual achievements:

LEGION OF MERIT

CDR G. W. SCHLEY, CEC, USN

NAVY AND MARINE CORPS MEDAL

SWC DOUGLAS R. LOMBARD, USN
 PN2 WILLIAM S. FOSTER, USN
 CEP3 JAMES MICHAEL CUMMINGS, USN

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

LCDR EUGENE WILLIAM THOMAS, CEC, USN
 LT WILLIAM B. GROVER, CEC, USN

JOINT SERVICE COMMENDATION MEDAL

CUCM SIMON P. GREY, USN

NAVY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL WITH COMBAT "V"

LTJG WILLIAM G. O'BRIEN, USNR
 LTJG CHARLES R. CARY, USNR
 LTJG STEPHEN L. MYRICK, CEC, USN
 BUCS LEWIS D. RUMPH, JR., USN
 BUCS DEWEY D. RAY, USN
 SWC CLAUDE W. EVANS, USN
 EOC CHARLES H. McCORMICK, USN
 EOC ODICE E. OAKS, USN
 CMC ROGER E. DAUGHERTY, USN
 BUC WARREN O. HAYNES, USNR
 SW1 CHRISTOPHER E. MEEKS, USN
 EA1 JAMES E. ALLEN, USN
 BU1 THOMAS (NMN) TOLLEY, USN
 BU1 JAMES V. GUNN, USN
 BU2 WILLIAM T. MacQUARRIE, USN
 EO3 NICHOLAS J. MAURICE, JR., USN

NAVY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

LTJG GORDON D. SPENCE, JR., CEC, USN
 LTJG STEPHEN L. MYRICK, CEC, USN
 CSCS WILLIAM W. STEWART, USN
 EOCS NEIL J. THAGGARD, USN
 BUC TERRANCE R. SILVERS, USN
 MRC JOE A. FINGER, USN
 EOC EVERN B. POWELL, USN
 PNC GARY S. CRAWFORD, USN
 EOC CLARENCE M. BRYANT, USN
 UT1 RICHARD G. QUINN, USN
 CE2 JOHN R. HADLEY, USN
 PC2 ELISEO (NMN) ASENIO, USN
 PH2 RICHARD D. ELEY, USN
 HM2 ALFRED EUGENE LAWSON, USN
 SW2 GRAHAM E. BLACK, USN
 HM3 DARREL W. MENAUGH, USN

PURPLE HEART

EON2 RONALD J. SMITH, USN
 BUL2 LAWRENCE C. SMITH, USN
 SWE2 JAMES L. MASSENGILL, USN
 RM2 KENNETH (NMN) MURPHY, USN
 EON2 JAMES E. CREAL, USN
 RM3 TERRENCE J. GARSKE, USN
 EOH3 EDWIN L. O'BRYANT, USN
 EOH3 TIRON E. ATKINSON, USN
 BUL3 MICHAEL P. HRECHKO, USN
 CMH3 WILLIAM M. O'BRIEN, USN
 EOH3 JAMES M. McCLAIN, USN

BUHCN LESLIE D. HEATH, USN
BUHCN RICHARD V. HAUSSAR, USN
CN WILLIAM G. COCHRAN, USN
EONCN JIMMY DALE NAPIER, USN
CM1 CHARLES E. LEWIS, USN
CN THOMAS J. CAUFIELD, USN

NAVY UNIT COMMENDATION

J. M. PENNINGTON, USN
J. V. FERGUS, USN
H. E. PHILLIPS, USN
R. H. HENSLEY, USN

Purple Heart Medal: 19
Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal: 2

American Campaign Medal: 1
World War II Victory Medal: 2
Anarctic Service Medal: 1
National Defense Service Medal: 11
Good Conduct Award: 20
Expert Rifle Medal: 41
Expert Pistol Medal: 6

No award citations for this deployment period has been received at the time of the battalion's redeployment to CONUS.

b. The following unit recognition was received by the battalion during the eight month deployment period to the Republic of Vietnam:

