

DEPLOYMENT COMPLETION REPORT

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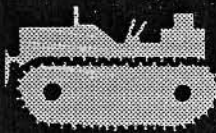
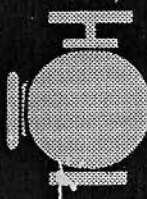


DECEMBER, 1966

CHU LAI,
REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

JULY, 1967

UNITED STATES NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION EIGHT



DEPLOYMENT COMPLETION REPORT

CHU LAI, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

December, 1966-July, 1967

UNITED STATES NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION EIGHT

U. S. NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION EIGHT
CARE OF FLEET POST OFFICE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA
96601

NMCB8/HPD:mr
5213/1
Ser 1464
30 September 1967

From: Commanding Officer, U. S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion EIGHT
To: Commander Naval Construction Battalions, Pacific

Subj: NMCB EIGHT Deployment Completion Report; forwarding of

Ref: (a) COMCBPAC INSTRUCTION 5213.1D
(b) COMCBPAC OPOD 22-66

Encl: (1) Deployment Completion Report

1. Enclosure (1), a summary of U. S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion EIGHT's deployment to Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam, during the period December 1966 through July 1967, is forwarded in accordance with reference (a).

2. Employment Status

a. In accordance with reference (b), U. S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion EIGHT was deployed to Rosemary Point, Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam to perform construction support of U. S. Forces from December 1966 through July 1967.

3. Unit Movements

a. 28 October thru 1 November 1966-The NMCB EIGHT Advance Party consisting of three officers and seventy-seven enlisted personnel, deployed by air from CBC Port Hueneme, California to Rosemary Point, Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam.

b. 1 December thru 10 December 1966-The NMCB EIGHT main body, consisting of 19 officers and 707 enlisted personnel deployed by air from CBC, Port Hueneme, California to Rosemary Point, Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam.

c. 12 January 1967-Seabee Team 0807 deployed from Port Hueneme, California to Diem Khanh, Republic of Vietnam.

d. 12 March 1967-Seabee Team 0805 returned to CONUS from Vietnam for leave before rejoining the Battalion.

e. 10 April 1967-Seabee Team 0808 departed for Port Hueneme, California for training and eventual deployment to Thailand.

f. 14 June 1967-NMCB EIGHT Advance Party departed for CONUS.

g. 26 June 1967-Seabee Team 0809 departed for Port Hueneme, California for training and eventual deployment to the Republic of Vietnam.

h. 3-6 August 1967-The NMCB EIGHT Main Body, consisting of 20 officers and 664 enlisted personnel deployed by eight C-141's from Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam to CBC Port Hueneme, California.

4. Significant Events

a. 13 December 1966-Four NMCB EIGHT personnel were wounded in an enemy mining and booby trap incident approximately 10 miles south of Chu Lai on Route #1. All subsequently were awarded the Purple Heart.

b. 1 January 1967-NMCB EIGHT rendered emergency assistance to the USS MAHNOMEN COUNTY LST 912 when she ran aground near the NMCB EIGHT Camp.

c. 11 January 1967-Five NMCB EIGHT personnel were wounded in an enemy mining incident approximately 12 miles south of Chu Lai on a road leading from Rte. #1 to the 2/7 Marines Echo Company area. All were subsequently awarded the Purple Heart.

d. 29 January 1967-Brigadier General W. A. STILES, Commander Task Force X-Ray and Rear Admiral A. C. HUSBAND, Commander NAVFACENGCOM dedicated the Nuoc Mon Bridge built by NMCB EIGHT on Route #1. Rear Admiral P. E. SEUFER, Commander Third Naval Construction Brigade and Commodore A. R. MARSCHALL, Commander THIRTIETH Naval Construction Regiment were present for the dedication.

e. January 1967-A record 25 inches of rainfall was received during the month of January. Normal rainfall for January is 5.5 inches.

f. 6 February 1967-UTP2 James O. MILLER was mortally wounded at the NMCB EIGHT detachment site at Tam Ky when an 82mm mortar round exploded about five feet outside his berthing hut. MILLER died several hours later after being evacuated to a hospital in Chu Lai.

g. 5 March 1967-NMCB EIGHT celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the Civil Engineer Corps and 25th Anniversary of the Seabees. Brigadier General W. A. STILES was made an Honorary Seabee.

h. 2 April 1967-Commander J. F. O'LEARY relieved Commander P. A. PHELPS as Commanding Officer, U. S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion EIGHT during change of command ceremonies at the NMCB EIGHT campsite.

i. 14 May 1967-A Viet Cong unit attacked the NMCB EIGHT Camp using 82mm mortars and 57mm recoilless rifles. Six Seabees were wounded, one mortally. BUR3 Michael D. ESTOK died of wounds about two hours after the attack. All were subsequently awarded Purple Hearts.

j. 29 June 1967-NMCB SIX Advance Party arrived at Chu Lai.

k. 9 July 1967-At a dedication ceremony the NMCB EIGHT campsite was named in honor of UTP2 James O. MILLER who was mortally wounded on 6 February 1967.

5. Major Problems

a. Material shortages and long lead times adversely affected construction progress throughout the deployment but in general the situation was typical and no more severe than that experienced by other Battalions. An exaggerated case, however was the absence of electrical and plumbing materials for the Naval Support Activity Detachment enlisted barracks. This project was constructed by NMCB THREE, and, due to the material shortages, stayed active throughout the entire deployment. The problem was solved to a large degree by sending an NMCB EIGHT expeditor to OKINAWA to purchase missing items, action which is outside the responsibility of an NMCB.

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b. Another typical problem of primary significance was the shortage of and long lead time required for equipment repair parts, especially for heavy construction equipment. Many items critical to construction were deadlined for prolonged periods of time. A significant measure of success in combating this problem was achieved by sending an SKC and a CMC to CBC Port Hueneme, California to procure and expedite needed parts. The direct result of this effort was ten pieces of equipment off deadline in a short time, and 389 priority 2 requisitions filled, or 88% of those involved.

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c. Well drilling efforts of the Battalion were plagued with difficulties throughout the deployment. Unavailability of sand screen, slotted casing and drilling mud caused delays in the initial stages of each well development. A constant maintenance problem was ever-present with one of the drilling rigs assigned to NMCB EIGHT. Although the preferred method of drilling in Chu Lai is percussion type, tools for the second rig, which had been adapted for such drilling were unavailable. Also several experienced well drilling personnel were transferred early in the deployment resulting in an insufficiency in drilling talent.

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d. The responsibility for improving and upgrading Route #1 from Chu Lai to Quang Ngai, a distance of about 25 miles, was assigned to NMCB EIGHT. Road improvements during the monsoon season proved to be nearly impossible. All efforts were made to keep the road passable with repairs being concentrated in those areas that threatened to wash out. The Battalion was not properly equipped to do major road work of the type assigned. Due to heavy Battalion equipment requirements during the first five months of the deployment the road received only token attention. Upon a June decision to accelerate the pace on Route #1 construction, all large earth-moving units including that equipment procured from RMK were utilized. The rate of construction accelerated from slightly more than one-half mile per month to better than two miles per month.

