

64371

UNITED STATES NAVAL
MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION
EIGHT
DEPLOYMENT COMPLETION
REPORT



HUE-PHU BAI RVN

FEBRUARY 1968 - OCTOBER 1968

U. S. NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION EIGHT
FPO San Francisco, California 96601

NMCB8/JMG:mr
5213
Ser: 1059
12 December 1968

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

Subj: NMCB EIGHT Deployment Completion Report; forwarding of

Ref: (a) COMCBPACINST 5213.1E
(b) COMCBPAC OPOD 37-67
(c) COMCBFACDET THAI OPOD 7-67
(d) COMCBPACDET RVN OPOD 6-67
(e) COMCBPAC OPOD 24-68

Encl: (1) Administrative Summary
(2) Equipment Status Summary
(3) Training Summary
(4) Intelligence Summary
(5) Labor Distribution Summary
(6) Construction Summary
(7) Construction Item Summary
(8) Progress and Performance Chart
(9) Civic Action Summary
(10) Logistical Summary
(11) Lessons Learned Summary

1. This completion report of U. S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion EIGHT's deployment to Phu Bai, Republic of Vietnam, during the period January 1968 through October 1968 is forwarded, as enclosures (1) through (11), in accordance with references (a) and (b).

2. Employment Status. In accordance with reference (b) U. S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion EIGHT was deployed to Camp Wilkinson, Gia Le Combat Base, Republic of Vietnam to perform construction support of U. S. Forces from January 1968 until October 1968. The following units were employed at other locations.

a. Detachments: None

b. Details:

(1) Detail INDIA composed of one officer and 65 enlisted personnel was employed at Camp Kinser, Okinawa, constructing berthing and messing facilities in accordance with reference (b).

(2) Detail ROMEO composed of one officer and 18 enlisted personnel was employed in Hue repairing railroad bridge #3 and constructing bridge #5

on the Northern Hue By-pass.

(3) Detail JULIET composed of 38 enlisted personnel was employed in Hue performing area wide road repairs and construction.

(4) Detail DELTA composed of 16 enlisted personnel was employed at Tan My constructing Col Co Road bridges.

(5) Detail ZULU composed of 14 enlisted personnel was employed at Tan My constructing the Hue to Phu Bai pipeline.

(6) Detail GYPSY was employed at Hue as a base unit in support of Details ROMEO, JULIET, DELTA and ZULU. These details were later combined to form Detail SIERRA composed of two officers and 128 enlisted personnel.

(7) Detail YANKEE composed of one officer and 76 enlisted personnel was employed on Col Co Island constructing POL facilities and cantonment in support of NSAD, Tan My.

(8) Detail TANGO composed of one officer and 30 enlisted personnel was employed in construction of the Tan My end of Col Co Road and port facilities at Tan My Port.

(9) Detail WHISKEY composed of one officer and 51 enlisted personnel was employed at Dong Ha constructing southeast asia huts at Quang Tri in support of the Minimum Essential Requirements program for the U. S. Army.

c. Seabee Team 0808: Deployed to Thailand in accordance with reference (c).

d. Seabee Team 0809: Deployed to Republic of Vietnam in accordance with reference (d).

3. Unit Movements.

a. On 6 January 1968 the first advance party consisting of three officers and 68 enlisted personnel departed CONUS via C-130 aircraft for deployment to the Republic of Vietnam.

b. On 17 January 1968 the second advance party consisting of one officer and 40 enlisted personnel departed CONUS via C-130 and C-118 aircraft to join the first advance party in the Republic of Vietnam.

c. From 29 January through 6 February 1968 the main body of NMCB EIGHT deployed to Camp Wilkinson, Gia Le Combat Base, Phu Bai, Republic of Vietnam by C-141 and C-124 aircraft.

d. On 31 January 1968 Detail INDIA consisting of one officer and 65 enlisted personnel deployed to Okinawa to perform construction in accordance with reference (b).

e. On 31 January 1968 Detail YANKEE traveled by air to Col Co Island for construction of POL facilities.

- f. On 1 February 1968 Detail TANGO traveled by air to Tan My for construction of Col Co Road and port facilities at Tan My Port.
- g. On 26 February 1968 Detail ROMEO convoyed to Hue for construction of railroad bridge #3.
- h. On 2 March 1968 Detail JULIET convoyed to Hue Stadium for road repairs in Hue area.
- i. On 6 March 1968 Detail DELTA convoyed to Tan My for bridge construction on Col Co Road.
- j. On 6 March 1968 Detail ZULU convoyed to Hue Stadium for construction of POL pipeline from Hue to Phu Bai.
- k. On 8 March 1968 Detail GYPSY convoyed to Hue Stadium to provide security and support for other details working in the Hue area.
- l. On 9 March 1968 Detail DELTA, JULIET, ZULU and GYPSY combined to form Detail SIERRA at Hue Stadium.
- m. On 20 April 1968 Detail ROMEO joined Detail SIERRA at Hue Stadium.
- n. On 16 June 1968 Seabee Team 0808 departed Bangkok, Thailand via government aircraft for CONUS.
- o. On 20 June 1968 Detail SIERRA returned via convoy to Camp Wilkinson.
- p. On 14 and 16 July 1968 Detail INDIA traveled to Camp Wilkinson, Phu Bai, Republic of Vietnam from Okinawa after being relieved by NMCB THREE.
- q. On 16 August 1968 Seabee Team 0809 departed the Republic of Vietnam via government aircraft for CONUS.
- r. On 1 September 1968 an advance party of one officer and 19 enlisted personnel departed Vietnam via government aircraft for CONUS.
- s. On 3 and 4 September 1968 Detail WHISKEY composed of one officer and 51 enlisted personnel convoyed to Dong Ha for construction in support of the Minimum Essential Requirements program.
- t. On 4 September 1968 Detail TANGO returned to Camp Wilkinson via convoy.
- u. On 31 September 1968 Detail WHISKEY returned to Camp Wilkinson via convoy.
- v. On 8 October 1968 Detail YANKEE returned to Camp Wilkinson via convoy.
- w. On 10 through 12 October 1968 the main body of NMCB EIGHT returned to CONUS via commercial and government aircraft in accordance with reference (e).

4. Significant Events.

a. On 25 January 1968 a jeep carrying LCDR H. P. DAVIS, CEC, USN, LTJG W. G. GOODMAN, CEC, USNR, and BUCS L. FERRON, USN struck a mine on Route 546 near Hue resulting in total destruction of the vehicle and requiring medivac of the three passengers all of which were seriously wounded.

b. 0340, 31 January 1968 - 122mm rocket attack commenced on Gia Le Combat Base. Camp Wilkinson received four rounds, with the base receiving approximately 20-30 rounds. The alarm was sounded and NMCB THREE and NMCB EIGHT personnel went to their shelters for approximately 10 minutes. Thereafter the perimeter was fully manned. While the perimeter was manned, one rocket landed in an Alpha Company fighting trench resulting in one KIA and three WIA for NMCB THREE and four WIA for NMCB EIGHT. At approximately 0530, one round of 122mm rocket fire impacted in the Engineering/Drafting building and the Charlie Company Office, destroying both completely by fire. Seven other adjacent structures were damaged slightly.

c. 0330, 1 February 1968 Camp Wilkinson received four rounds believed to be dud rockets, later found to be friendly 105mm illumination canisters. The camp perimeter received small arms fire, returned same with negative results. At 1220 Camp Wilkinson received two rounds of 122mm rocket fire. One round landed near the messhall resulting in one NMCB THREE KIA and four NMCB EIGHT WIA. There was no damage to the camp.

d. 0830, 1 February 1968 CDR J. F. O'LEARY officially took command of Camp Wilkinson.

e. On 27 February 1968 Rear Admiral J. V. BARTLETT, Commander 3rd Naval Construction Brigade, visited Camp Wilkinson.

f. On the afternoon of 3 March 1968, NMCB EIGHT celebrated the Seabee Birthday. A small reception at the Officers Club was attended by commanders and other officers of nearby military units.

g. On 23 March 1968 CBPAC Chief of Staff, Captain Charles G. MILLER and CDR B. HACKENSON visited Camp Wilkinson.

h. On 28 March 1968 Camp Wilkinson received rocket rounds causing damages to berthing huts. One WIA required three weeks hospitalization.

i. On 6 April 1968 the Hue Stadium received mortar fire causing damage to ten vehicles, no injuries were sustained.

j. On 25 April 1968 RADM W. H. HEAMAN and RADM J. V. BARTLETT visited Camp Wilkinson and the NMCB EIGHT project sites.

k. On 21 May 1968 at 0035 Gia Le Combat Base was brought under rocket and ground attack. Camp Wilkinson received several B-40 rounds and small arms fire. There were no NMCB EIGHT casualties and only very minor damage to NMCB EIGHT equipment. Approximately 35 of the enemy were killed.

l. On 5 June 1968 a rifle grenade detonated near the cab of a NMCB EIGHT

TS-24 causing ear damage and facial wounds to the driver and damage to the hydraulic system of the TS-24. The driver was medivaced and the equipment deadlined.

m. On 8 June 1968 155mm round used as a command mine detonated on Col Co Road resulting in minor injuries to the driver and a wheel blown off the end dump he was driving.

n. On 27 June 1968 CAPT C. G. MILLER, COMCBPAC visited Camp Wilkinson, for a Management Inspection Visit.

o. 1120, 16 July 1968 Change of Command, CDR R. J. WESTBERG relieved CDR J. F. O'LEARY.

p. On 10 - 12 August 1968 various news agencies visited the NMCB EIGHT Camp interviewing BU3 Randy AGNEW, son of Governor S. AGNEW Republican Vice-Presidential candidate.

q. On 15 - 16 and 18 August 1968 a party from COMCBPAC of CDR WILSON, LCDR GILMORE, and LT HENLEY visited Camp Wilkinson to conduct a Management Inspection Visit.

r. 0100, 17 August 1968 an NMCB EIGHT crane located at a U. S. Army position along Col Co Road, received minor damage from enemy mortars during an attack on the Army position. There were no NMCB EIGHT casualties.

s. On 24 August 1968 Master Chief of the Navy MCGM D. W. BLACK visited Camp Wilkinson and NMCB EIGHT.

t. On 31 August 1968 NMCB ONE TWENTY ONE's advance party of eight officers and 92 enlisted personnel arrived at Camp Wilkinson.

u. On 4 - 6 September 1968 LT H. F. GOHRBAND, 31NCR, visited Camp Wilkinson and NMCB EIGHT to conduct the Annual Supply Inspection, (ASI).

v. On 5 September 1968 typhoon Beth passed over the Phu Bai - Gia Le area causing light damage to Camp Wilkinson.

w. On 8 September 1968 NMCB EIGHT completed the rescue of YFU-24 which was on the landlocked side of the Hue Causeway during the typhoon.

x. On 18 September 1968 Rear Admiral A. C. HUSBAND, Commander NAVFAC, visited Camp Wilkinson and toured various NMCB EIGHT construction sites.

y. On 21 September 1968 the NMCB EIGHT/NMCB ONE TWENTY ONE BEEP commenced.

z. On 2 October 1968 NMCB EIGHT participated in the ceremonial opening of Col Co Road by LTGEN R. E. CUSHMAN and LTGEN HANONG XUAN LAM/

aa. 1011, 11 October 1968 NMCB ONE TWENTY ONE relieved NMCB EIGHT at Camp Wilkinson.

bb. On 12 October 1968 NMCB EIGHT's main body completed a successful

return to CONUS.

5. Major Problems.

a. The enemies TET Offensive took place almost concurrently with the arrival of the battalion in-country. This severely deterred the construction effort during the early months. Much of the workload consisted of roadwork and associated vertical construction which was not accessible due to the tactical situation. In addition the large commitments for camp security due to the large perimeter and tactical situation reduced seriously the available manpower to pursue the work. Shortages of materials and fuel resulting from the offensive had long lasting effects on many projects. The situation was further aggravated by the total destruction of the Battalion Engineering building on 31 January with the loss of all drawings and records by fire.

b. The battalion recovered gradually from these effects, however, and was soon in full swing on the assigned workload as well as numerous repair projects in support of the recovery effort.

c. Typhoon Beth on 5 September 1968 again set back construction progress causing over two days of total lost time and inflicting considerable minor damage to construction in progress.



R. J. WESTBERG

(4) News releases were sent to many of the Navy oriented newspapers, regional civilian newspapers and hometown newspapers.

9. Decorations and Awards.

a. Decorations

(1) Bronze Star with Combat "V"

LCDR J. F. HARRIS, CHC, USN
LT J. D. WOLL, CEC, USN
EO2 C. E. HISER, USN
CN D. SMOCK, USN

(2) Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V"

CDR J. T. BURTON, CEC, USN
LCDR A. J. MEHRENS, SC, USN
LTJG L. C. DRAPEAU, CEC, USNR
UTC C. C. CAMPAT, USN
CE1 T. S. BARBA, USN

(3) Navy Achievement Medal

LT R. B. HAMER, CEC, USN
BUCS P. M. STENGER, USN with Combat "V"
BUC J. J. NIEMEYER, USN with Combat "V"
BU2 R. J. SAMPER, USN with Combat "V"
HM2 R. T. RIDDELL, USNR with Combat "V"
YN2 R. R. PATERNOSTER, USNR with Combat "V"
EQCM J. R. MCCULLY, USN
SKCS R. E. DIXON, USN
BUC R. R. DORE, USN
EOC J. R. FORTE, USN
UTCS L. M. IRWIN, USN
CMC K. L. WEGMAN, USN
EO2 C. E. HISER, USN
PN2 J. R. KEANE, USN
SK2 D. L. OVERBAY, USN
CM2 Z. J. WEIMER, USN
DKC L. G. PASS, USN
SN J. V. HASTRITER, USNR

(4) Purple Hearts

LCDR H. P. DAVIS, CEC, USN
LTJG W. G. GOODMAN, CEC, USNR
EOCS J. F. DANIELS, USN
BUCS L. J. FERRON, USN
BU1 H. R. TENNY, USN
SW2 F. E. DRAKE, USN
EA2 R. J. FERRY, USN
CS2 J. J. FITZPATRICK, USN
EO2 R. L. SMITH, USN

CM2 A. H. MALM, USN
EO2 L. E. HANSEL, USN
CM3 N. A. GRIFFITH, USN
CM3 R. W. KAZMAIR, USN
TN M. L. AMABA, USN
CMCN B. A. AYERS, USN

(5) Vietnamese Honor Medal, First Class

LCDR J. F. HARRIS, CHC, USN

(6) Vietnamese Gallantry Cross with Gold Star

CDR R. J. WESTBERG, CEC, USN

(7) Vietnamese Gallantry Cross with Silver Star

LCDR J. M. GREENWALD, CEC, USN
LT R. B. HAMER, CEC, USN
LT M. A. PERO, CEC, USN
LTJG G. A. METCALF, CEC, USNR
LTJG J. A. SCHROEDER, CEC, USNR

(8) Vietnamese Gallantry Cross with Bronze Star

LTJG L. C. DRAPEAU, CEC, USNR
CM1 J. L. GOODMAN, USN
EO1 W. H. SMITH, USN
BU2 R. J. SAMPER, USN
EO2 A. S. HOLLISTER, USN
HM2 J. C. POTTER, USN
SW2 M. D. CIBAK, USN
EA2 R. R. STEPHENS, USNR
BU3 R. E. MONKS, USN
EO3 J. T. HOOKER, USN
CN A. B. AKAGI, USN

b. Awards

MACV Certificates for Achievement, 123.

Letters of Commendation, 105.

Letters of Appreciation, 129.

Good Conduct, 3.

Expert Rifle/Pistol Medal, 45.

c. Congratulatory letters to the Command.

THIRTY-SECOND Naval Construction Regiment of 1 July 1968