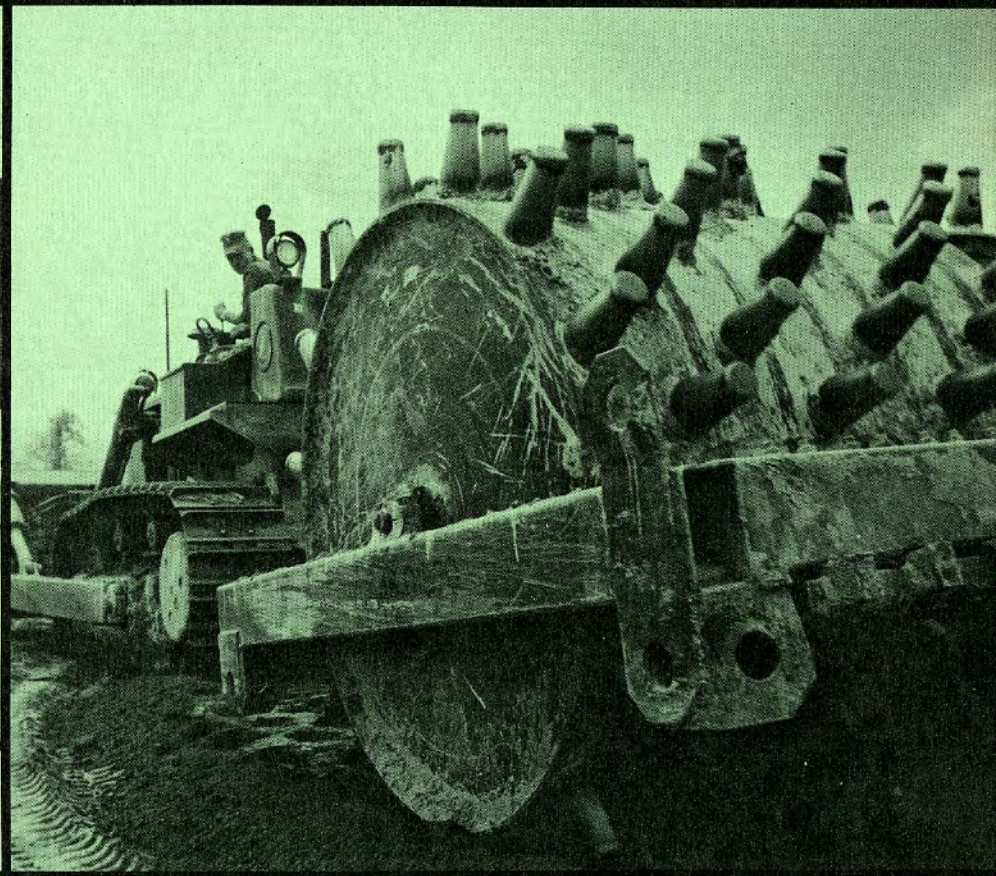


# COMCMBPAC REPORTS



The Seabees In Southeast Asia



# 1968

# "A MOTHER'S PRAYER"

A Mother's Prayer, for her Son,  
Who's over there, with a job to be done.  
In Vietnam, a land of unrest;  
Of people poor, a land of oppressed.  
The loneliness I ofttimes feel  
When he's not here to share a meal.  
Tears dim my eyes, my heart is sad.  
We miss him so, our lad.  
We didn't raise our son to fight,  
But his country called, his heart is right.  
He joined the ranks of a million strong  
To fight the Commies, the Viet Cong.  
Though they fight on distant land,  
We must give them a helping hand.  
Back them strong, show them we care.  
This isn't much to do our share.  
These young men have given the most,  
And some have given all.  
On foreign battlefield they fall,  
In answer to their Country's call.  
How long could America stand  
With Vietnam's oppression in her land?  
This is the Commies aim,  
To bring our America to shame.  
Marchers and protesters have done well,  
As far as I'm concerned, they can go to Hell.  
We're proud of our SEABEE Son, and we will always be.  
He's a small part in keeping America free.  
So America rise, and stand together; keep the bell of freedom ringing.  
Turn aside from those that would still our voices, our freedom of singing.  
Cease your vigilance never.  
Do keep our Flag, the Red, White, and Blue, Stars and Stripes forever.



MRS. CHRISTINA MARGETICH

In accordance with SECNAVINST 5600.16,  
this book has been reviewed and  
approved for publication.

*W M Heaman*

Rear Admiral W. M. HEAMAN  
Civil Engineer Corps, U. S. Navy

During February of 1968 the Headquarters of the Pacific Fleet Seabees received a letter from the mother of a Seabee serving in Vietnam. It was a simple, handwritten letter that started out by saying, "Dear Sir: I got a phone call from Vietnam this morning from my son. I had sent him this poem....."

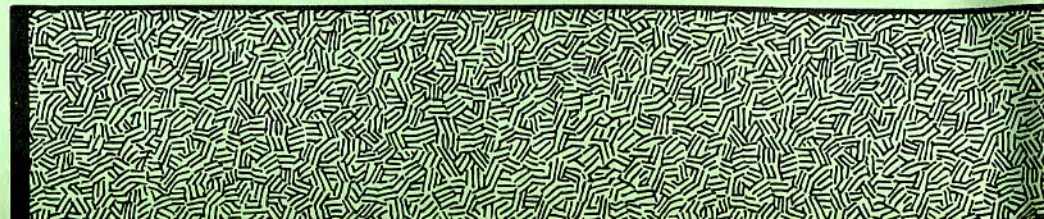
Since that first note from Mrs. Christina Margetich of Creve Coeur, Ill., a lot of things have happened. Her poem has been recorded by Western singing star Bobby Mack; she has been named "Mother of the Year" and honorary member of the 99th Seabees Association of "Fighting Seabee" fame; she is an honorary member of the Pacific Fleet Seabees; and, whenever she is around a group of Seabees they "treat me just like a Queen! It's wonderful!" to quote Mrs. Margetich.

This edition of COMCBPAC REPORTS is dedicated to all the mothers of our Seabees, and especially to Mrs. Christina Margetich, who has contributed so much to the Seabees' living legend. Her poem, which is reproduced here with her permission, was preceded by the following note:

*This poem is dedicated to our Son Tommy and to our young men and women serving in Vietnam. May God bless each and everyone.*

*Mrs. Christina Margetich* \*

\* Facsimile





# IN MEMORIAM

## NMCB 1

LTJG A. D. MOSCRIP, JR.  
BUC W. W. MCGINN

## NMCB 5

BU2 J. W. BORDERS  
CE2 J. P. HARTLAGE  
CN E. E. NEVINS

## NMCB 9

BU3 G. R. DeSHURLEY  
BU3 A. L. MAIR  
BU3 J. F. PEEK  
EOCN H. G. HODGES  
BUCN M. E. HOEDEL  
BUCN J. R. RETZLOFF  
CMCN J. F. GALATI

## NMCB 128

LTJG M. D. HOLLINGSWORTH  
BU1 P. T. HALLMAN

## NMCB 3

EOCN L. N. STANGEL  
SN R. L. BLEVINS

## NMCB 6

EO1 H. C. COUSINEAU

## NMCB 58

BU2 G. P. HELSLEY

## CBMU 301

BU1 C. O. SPILLMAN  
SW2 E. C. ADAMS

ii



## NMCB 7

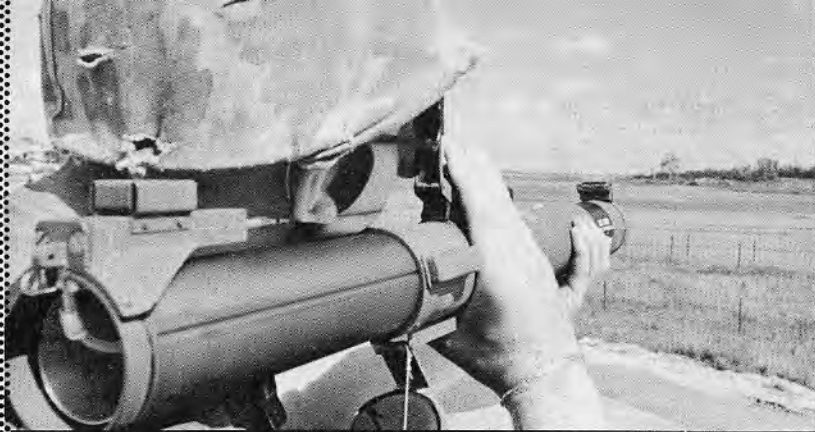
CM3 R. M. SPROUT  
CMCN R. L. DAVIS  
LTCN J. P. VAN DUSEN  
SN R. H. SCHOENER

## NMCB 62

EO3 A. F. MOORE  
BU3 A. L. ADAMS  
BUCN D. J. BERMINGHAM  
CN D. A. FLESKES



"Greater love hath no man than this,  
that a man lay down his life for his friends."  
JOHN: 15:13 (KJV)



**DOCTRINE:** The U. S. Pacific Fleet Naval Mobile Construction Battalions are units of the Naval operating forces. In wartime, they will provide military and construction support to Navy, Marine Corps and other allied forces.

**MISSION:** To maintain a state of operational readiness in order to provide rapid and effective construction support to these forces. To be prepared to

conduct defense operations when required by the circumstances of the deployed situation. To be prepared to conduct disaster control operations including emergency public works operating functions as directed.

**MOTTO:** "Constrimus, batuimus!"  
"We build, we fight!"

**TRADITION:** Since Guadalcanal in





1942 it has been Seabees "Can Do!"

**WHY SEABEES?** Immediate availability anywhere in the world! ..... Collateral peacetime benefits: Return on investment less expensive to the customer! ..... Disaster recovery and emergency public works functions! ..... Available for defense when such a force is needed! ..... Special programs such as the Seabee Teams!

..... SEABEES SERVE THE WORLD! .....



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COMCBPAC REPORTS is prepared annually by the Public Affairs Office, Commander Naval Construction Battalions, U. S. Pacific Fleet (FPO San Francisco 96610). This booklet was printed at the Navy Publications and Printing Service Office, Pearl Harbor, using appropriated funds.

RADM W. M. Heaman, CEC, USN  
COMMANDER

LCDR J. L. Henley, CEC, USN  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

JOC T. A. Johnston, USN  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS CHIEF

OFFICIAL U. S. NAVY PHOTOGRAPHS  
By Navy Photographers and Journalists

# Foreword



This is the third in a series of reports that covers the activities of the U.S. Navy's fighting-building Seabees in the Republic of Vietnam. The first booklet covered the events from the arrival of the first Seabee battalion on the shores of Chu Lai on 7 May 1965 to the last day of 1966. COMCBPAC REPORTS 1967 carried the reader through the 12 months of that year while in your hands now is a booklet that will give you a brief but all encompassing report on our activities during 1968. As you thumb through the pages of this booklet you will notice that a number of Atlantic Fleet units are also spotlighted.

Since our involvement in the Republic of Vietnam in early 1965, the Pacific and Atlantic Fleet Seabees have pooled our resources in order to provide timely and much needed combat construction support to American and Allied troops serving in that war-torn land.

As this booklet goes to press there are currently twenty-one Naval Mobile Construction Battalions in active service, two of which are from the Naval Reserve. NMCB's 12 and 22 were called to active duty during this past year to augment our active duty forces in the Republic of Vietnam. Each Seabee battalion has seen at least one tour in Vietnam. Many of these battalions are completing their fourth eight-month tour to the northern I Corps of the Republic.

The in-country Seabee force level reached a peak of over 10,000 men in three headquarters, twelve battalions, two Construction Battalion Maintenance Units, a Detachment and fifteen Seabee Teams during mid-1968. As the year closes this number has decreased to about 8,000 men employed with the Naval Construction Force throughout the Republic of Vietnam. As for the units, there are currently ten battalions deployed to the I Corps, with the headquarters, maintenance units and the detachment and Teams remaining the same.

I would like to call the readers attention to a special edition of the REPORTS series that is currently being distributed. Entitled "Helping Others Help Themselves" it is the entire story of the concept, establishment and deployment of Seabee Teams throughout the world. Within its 142 pages



the reader will discover a new kind of Seabee who has been fighting a war on poverty and ignorance in some of the world's most underdeveloped areas. I highly recommend this special edition of the REPORTS series to those of you interested in the Navy's own "Peace Corps."

A portion of this booklet that I have personally promoted is that of the Seabee as an artist. A selection of artistic prints and block cuts from the officers and men serving with the Seabees in Vietnam is represented. Through this small presentation of Seabee Art, I sincerely hope to see a much larger section in next year's COMCBPAC REPORTS. We have the photographs and the text, now I am collecting our art works in order that they may become an important part of the Seabees' "living legend."

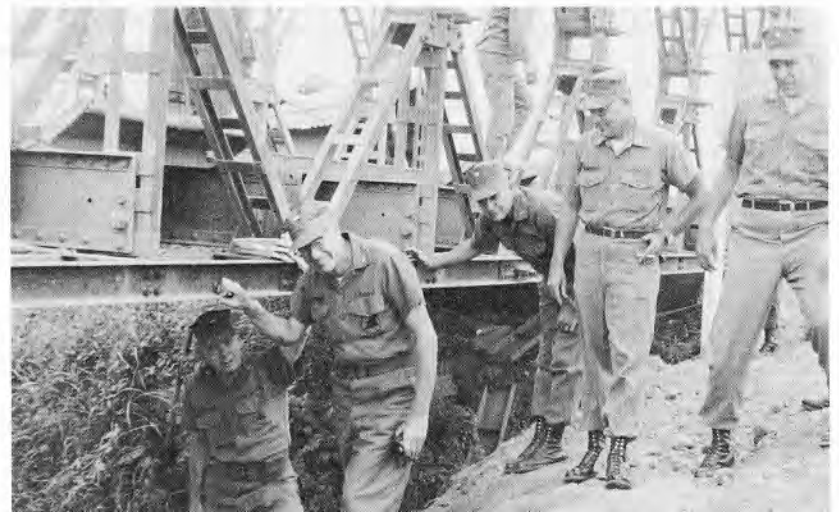
As you pass through the pages of COMCBPAC REPORTS 1968, you will travel some of the most contested roadways in the Republic of Vietnam. You will see Seabee accomplishments within a stones throw of the Demilitarized Zone that separates the two Vietnams. You will travel south through Danang and Chu Lai, then out of the I Corps into the sprawling Mekong Delta where Seabee Teams have been operating since January of 1963. Overall, when you put this booklet down, I am certain you will understand why the Seabees are often referred to as part of a "living legend." It is their "Can Do" spirit and a twenty-six year old tradition of "doing the difficult immediately and taking a little longer on the impossible" that drives these sailors in green to accomplish almost super-human tasks.

WILLIAM M. HEAMAN  
Rear Admiral  
Civil Engineer Corps  
United States Navy

Pearl Harbor  
Hawaii



# COMCBPAC ON THE MOVE



# 1968 IN REVIEW

1	Republic of Vietnam (RVN)	3	Okinawa (OKI)	○	Fiscal Year 1968
2	Kingdom of Thailand (THAI)	4	United States	○	Fiscal Year 1969
		5	Change of Commands		

*This is a chronology of major events and accomplishments of the Seabees in South-east Asia and world-wide during the year 1968. For quick reference purposes the legend is located in the above title.*

## JANUARY

① As the New Year dawned the following Seabee headquarters and units were employed in the Republic of Vietnam:

① The THIRD Naval Construction Brigade and the THIRTIETH Naval Construction Regiment were headquartered at Camp Haskins, Red Beach, Danang. Operating under the Brigade and Regiment chain of command were seven Naval Mobile Construction Battalions: NMCB 6 at Camp Miller, Chu Lai; NMCB 40 at Camp Shields, Chu Lai; NMCB 7 at Camp Adenir, Danang East; NMCB 128 at Camp Faulkner, Danang East; NMCB 9 at Camp Hoover, Danang Main; NMCB 58 at Camp Haskins North, Red Beach, Danang; and, NMCB 74 at Camp Haskins South, Red Beach, Danang. During the month, NMCB's 7 and 74 were relieved by NMCB's 53 and 62, respectively.

① Headquartered north of the Hai Van Pass at Camp Wilkinson, Phu Bai-Gia Le were the five-month old THIRTY-SECOND Naval Construction Regiment and four battalions: NMCB 121 at Camp Campbell, Hue-Phu Bai; NMCB 3 at Camp Wilkinson, Phu Bai-Gia Le; NMCB 10 at Quang Tri; and, NMCB 5 at Camp Barnes, Dong Ha.

① Two Construction Battalion Maintenance Units were on permanent employment in-country with CBMU 301 operating from

Dong Ha providing base and airfield maintenance support while CBMU 302 was at Cam Ranh Bay providing base maintenance support to naval units operating in that and the Delta areas.

① Twenty-seven details from seven NMCB's and the two CBMU's were employed at various locations in the Republic.

① The Seabees completed 65 projects in RVN during the month. Major projects included 25 rigid frame buildings for the Naval Support Activity, Danang Public Works complex; the III Marine Amphibious Force Prisoner of War compound; Quang Tri airfield upgrading and improvements; and, a cantonment for the U. S. Army's Second Engineering Battalion at Quang Ngai.

① In Saigon were the office of the THIRD Naval Construction Brigade Representative and COMCBPAC Detachment-Republic of Vietnam, the Seabee Team headquarters. Under the control of the Detachment were ten Seabee Teams, Teams 0602 and 5801 having just arrived in-country the first of January. The Teams' sponsor remained the United States Agency for International Development while they deployed in support of Civil Operations and Revolutionary Development Support (CORDS) projects. Team locations: 0511 at Go Dau Ha; 0601 at Thu Doc; 0602 at Phuoc Le; 0701 at Phan Rang; 0702 at Tan An; 0809 at Can Tho; 1011 at Vinh Long; 1110 at Long Xuyen; 4001 at Lai Thieu; and, 5801 at Chau Doc.

② In the Kingdom of Thailand the Seabee Team headquarters, COMCBPAC Detachment Thailand, was located in Bangkok while

three Seabee Teams were employed in support of the Royal Thai Border Patrol Police program under United States Operations Mission (USOM) sponsorship. Seabee Team 0512 had just completed a move from Ban Khok Mamuang to Phum Saron while Teams 0808 and 0911 remained at Bung Kan and Chiang Kham, respectively.

② Also in Thailand was NMCB 10's Detachment TANGO which completed its U-Tapao deployment in support of U. S. Naval air units during the first week of January 1968. The Detachment was disestablished upon its return to NMCB 10 at Quang Tri, RVN during the second week of January.

③ As the year opened there was also Seabee construction activity at Camp Kinser on Okinawa where COMCBPAC Detachment-Okinawa is located. NMCB 10's Detail ZULU, consisting of 79 Seabees, was employed at the Seabee Camp as a rear echelon party to accomplish work necessary to close out or complete projects assigned to NMCB 10 while stationed there as the Pacific Fleet Alert Construction Battalion in September of 1967.

④ At Port Hueneme, California the THIRTY-FIRST Naval Construction Regiment had three Pacific battalions under its operational control while the units underwent pre-deployment training: NMCB's 4, 8 and 11. Homeported COMCBLANT units included NMCB's 1 and 71 at Davisville, Rhode Island and NMCB 133 at Gulfport, Mississippi. After being relieved in-country NMCB 7 returned to Davisville and NMCB 74 returned to Gulfport. Also, all three Seabee Centers had a number of Sea-



bee Teams assigned which were undergoing extensive training prior to deploying to Southeast Asia.

## FEBRUARY

① The in-country NMCB total increased to 12 deployed battalions when NMCB 4 arrived at Camp Haskins North and set up a temporary camp in NMCB 58's just vacated portion of the large Haskins complex. The majority of NMCB 58's Seabees had redeployed to Hoi An where the battalion began the huge task of building an 8,000-man cantonment for the Republic of Korea Second Marine Brigade in record time. NMCB 4 sent a large detail of Seabees north to begin construction of a new Seabee Camp at Camp Evans, north of the old Imperial Capital of Hue.

① NMCB 3 was relieved by NMCB 8 at Camp Wilkinson, Phu Bai-Gia Le.

① Thirty-five details from ten NMCB's and the two CBMU's were employed at various locations in RVN.

① The Seabees completed 155 projects in RVN during the month of February. Some of the major projects included a cantonment for the 1st Marine Air Wing; the III AMTRAC Maintenance Facility; more covered storage for the Force Logistics Command; and, the Camp Haskins permanent power distribution system.

⑤ CDR J. A. Wright, CEC, USN, relieved CDR D. N. Shockey, CEC, USN, as Commanding Officer of NMCB 9.

⑤ CDR C. R. Whipple, CEC, USN, relieved CDR R. L. Foley, CEC, USN as Commanding Officer of NMCB 3.

⑤ CDR T. J. Mitchell, CEC, USN, relieved CDR P. R. Gates, CEC, USN, as Com-

manding Officer of NMCB 1.

① Seabee Team 0701 was relieved on site at Phan Rang by Team 6201.

① Seabee Team 0702 was relieved on site at Tan An by Team 13301.

① Seabee Teams 5802 and 4002 arrived in-country and established new camp sites at Soc Trang and Go Cong, respectively, thus increasing to 12 the total Teams in-country.

③ NMCB 8's Detail INDIA relieved NMCB 10's Detail ZULU at Camp Kinser, Okinawa.

## MARCH

① During the last days of March and the first days of April, NMCB 121 was relieved by NMCB 133 at Camp Campbell, Hue-Phu Bai.

① Forty-two details from 11 NMCB's and the two CBMU's were employed at various locations in RVN.

① The Seabees completed 98 projects during the month in RVN. Major projects included the Quang Tri pipeline; the Americal Division ammunition pads and sand berms; the First Marine Division hospital; the Sa Dec Bachelor Enlisted Quarters; and, 50 sentry towers for the 7th Marines.

① The first Ammi Pontoon Bridge, constructed by NMCB 53, became operational in RVN on 30 March.

⑤ CAPT J. R. Fisher, CEC, USN, relieved CAPT C. W. Turner, CEC, USN, as Commander of the 30TH NCR.

① Seabee Team 7101 arrived in-country and deployed to My Tho. Establishment of this new Team site brought the total to

13 Teams in RVN.

④ Reserve NMCB's 12 and 22 were called to active duty by order of the President. They were the first Naval Construction units from the Reserve Force to be returned to active service since World War II. Gulfport was designated homeport for both Reserve battalions.

## APRIL

① NMCB 6 was relieved by NMCB 71 at Camp Miller, Chu Lai. The Seabees of SIX waved farewell to the Pacific Theater for the last time as their next deployment would be as the Atlantic Fleet Alert Construction Battalion in Puerto Rico.

① Forty-one details from 11 NMCB's and the two CBMU's were employed at various locations in RVN.

① The Seabees completed 131 projects in RVN during the month. Major projects included ten four-room quonsets for the Marine Air Wing tactical air crew quarters at Chu Lai; the C7A and C123 aircraft landing strip at Ca Lu; 15,000 square yards of matting layed at Tan My for a temporary LST facility; the Army Port Facility complex at Hai Lang; another 42 quonsets for air crew quarters at the 1st Marine Air Wing; and, NMCB 9 had completed initial preparations and began quarry and crusher operations at Hill 494, better known as the Phu Loc Quarry.

① On the morning of April 9, 1968 NMCB 9's rock quarry and crusher facility at Phu Loc was formally dedicated as Seabee Camp DeShurley in honor of a mortar crew leader, BUL3 G. R. DeShurley, and his five shipmates who were killed on the morning of March 31 while defending the site during an enemy attack.

④ NMCB 10 was awarded the Society of American Military Engineers' 1967 Peltier Award for the battalion's outstanding record of construction accomplishments in Southeast Asia.

⑤ CDR R. B. Wilson, CEC, USN, relieved CDR E. J. Williams, CEC, USN, as Commanding Officer of NMCB 5.

① Seabee Team 0511 was relieved on site at Go Dau Ha by Team 0408.

① Seabee Team 1011 was relieved on site at Vinh Long by Team 0409.

① Seabee Team 0912 deployed to Xuan Loc, a new Team site, thus becoming the fourteenth Team in-country.

#### MAY

① NMCB 10 was relieved by NMCB 11 at Quang Tri.

① Thirty-six details from nine NMCB's and the two CBMU's were employed at various locations in the Republic.

① The Seabees completed 102 projects during the month in RVN. Major projects included the rock off-loading facility at Dong Ha; 15 two-story barracks for Marine Air Group 36; the Danang Ammo Supply Point Two; four POL tanks at Marble Mountain Air Facility; and, a firemain system for the Dong Tam Detachment of Naval Support Activity, Saigon.

⑤ CDR C. J. Mathews, CEC, USN, relieved CDR W. W. DeGroot III, CEC, USN, as Commanding Officer of NMCB 58.

② Seabee Team 0512 was relieved on site at Phum Saron, Thailand by Team 1012.

#### JUNE

① NMCB 9 was relieved by NMCB 1 at Camp Hoover, Danang Main.

① NMCB 40 was relieved by NMCB 74 at Camp Shields, Chu Lai.

① NMCB 4 redeployed from Camp Haskins North to the just completed Seabee Camp at Camp Evans.

① NMCB 58 completed the Republic of Korea 8,000-man Marine cantonment at Hoi An and returned to its permanent Camp Haskins North deployment site.

① Forty-two details from nine NMCB's and the two CBMU's were employed at various locations in RVN.

① Seabees completed 111 projects during the month of June. Major projects included a 500-man galley for the 11th Motor Transport Battalion; an additional 18 miles of 8-inch fuel lines from Utah Beach to Quang Tri and from Hai Lang to Camp Evans; a small cantonment at the Cam Lo rock crusher site; the Marine Air Wing officer's cantonment at Quang Tri; a 400-bed hospital and operating facility at Chu Lai; and, a cantonment at Black Rock Bay.

⑤ CDR W. E. Burdick, CEC, USN, relieved LCDR H. A. Holmes, CEC, USN, as Commanding Officer of CBMU 301.

⑤ LCDR Allen N. Olsen, CEC, USN, relieved LCDR A. S. Poole, Jr., CEC, USN, as Officer in Charge, COMCBPAC Detachment-RVN.

① Seabee Team 0601 was relieved on site at Thu Doc by Team 7401.

① Seabee Team 4001 was relieved on

site at Lai Thieu by Team 7402.

① Seabee Team 0602 was relieved on site at Phuoc Le by Team 13302.

② Seabee Team 0911 was relieved on site at Chiang Kham by Team 1112.

② Seabee Team 0808 was relieved on site at Bung Kan by Team 1111. Immediately after relief was accomplished, Team 1111 traveled by train far to the south in the Thai panhandle and established a new camp at Thong Song.

#### JULY

① NMCB 128 was relieved by NMCB 3 at Camp Faulkner, Danang East.



Seabees worked throughout many a night in 1968 to make emergency runway repairs.

① NMCB 5 was relieved by NMCB 7 at Camp Barnes, Dong Ha.

① Fifty-five details from ten NMCB's and the two CBMU's were employed at various locations in Vietnam.

① The Seabees completed 72 projects in RVN during the month. Major projects were additional cantonments and cantonment upgrading as part of the Minimum Essential Requirements (MER) program. This program was designed to get our troops out of tents and off the muddy ground and into fairly dry living quarters before the monsoon season struck the I Corps. In July the battalions completed over 800 living huts, four two-story barracks, 100 burn-out type latrines, half that many shower facilities, six 500-man and one 200-man galleys, plus a number of smaller mess-halls, galleys and other living and sanitary facilities.

① The 566-foot Ammi Bridge at Nam Hoa, the second and longest of its type to be built in RVN, was completed by a detail from NMCB 53.

① NMCB 4's camp at the Camp Evans Combat base, 16 miles northwest of Hue, was dedicated as Camp Haines in honor of EOC John C. Haines, killed when the vehicle he was in hit an enemy mine in 1967.

⑤ CAPT W. H. Sturman, CEC, USN, relieved CAPT G. A. Goetzke, CEC, USN, as COM 3RD NCB Representative, Saigon.

⑤ CDR F. H. Lewis, Jr., CEC, USN, relieved CDR E. H. Marsh II, CEC, USN, as Commanding Officer of NMCB 133.

⑤ CDR R. J. Westberg, CEC, USN, relieved CDR J. F. O'Leary, CEC, USN, as Commanding Officer of NMCB 8.

⑤ CDR J. P. Jones, Jr., CEC, USN, re-

lieved CDR W. J. Richeson, CEC, USN, as Commanding Officer of NMCB 62.

① Twelve Seabees reported for duty at CBMU 302 on July 4, two days late. Their aircraft had been forced down on a small island near Japan by Russian jets. The crew and passengers were detained 48 hours before the U. S. military chartered aircraft was released by the Russians. The incident occurred because the Russians claimed the aircraft had violated Soviet air space.

① Seabee Team 5801 was relieved on site at Chau Doc by Team 0101.



*Well drilling was carried out on an around the clock basis to help relieve the water shortage in the I Corps.*

① Seabee Team 0102 deployed to Phu Vinh, a new Team site, thus becoming the fifteenth Seabee Team to be employed in the Republic of Vietnam.

② Seabee Team 1012 redeployed from Phum Saron to Det Udom in Thailand.

③ NMCB 8's Detail INDIA returned to its parent battalion after being relieved at Camp Kinser, Okinawa by NMCB 3's complete CHARLIE company, operating as a Seabee Detail.

#### AUGUST

① NMCB 22, called to active duty with RMCB 12 by Presidential Order in March of this year, relieved NMCB 58 at Camp Haskins North, Red Beach, Danang.

① Forty-four details from nine NMCB's and the two CBMU's were employed at various locations in RVN during the month.

① Seabees completed 94 projects in RVN during August. Major projects included a 500-man galley for the 3RD Military Police Battalion and two 500-man galleys for the THIRD Marine Division; facilities for KILO and INDIA Batteries of the 11th Marines; 64,000 square yards of M8A1 matting placed for the 200th Assault Support Helo Company; a 70-man camp at Vandergrift Combat Base; a bridge at the Tra Bong Special Forces Camp; and, numerous living huts and sanitary facilities under the MER program which was in full swing by this time.

① The Secretary of the Navy announced the award of the Navy Unit Commendation to the THIRTIETH Naval Construction Regiment and attached NMCB's for the period of September 1, 1966 through July 31, 1967.

④ NMCB 74 was selected as 1968 "Best of Type" from the Atlantic Fleet Naval

Construction Force.

① The 780-foot timber bridge at An Lo, constructed by NMCB 4, was officially opened to traffic.

⑤ CAPT A. W. Walton, Jr., CEC, USN, relieved CAPT J. M. Hill, Jr., CEC, USN, as Commander of the 32ND NCR.

⑤ CDR J. C. Rickels, CEC, USN, relieved CDR L. D. Lawson, CEC, USN, as Commanding Officer of NMCB 7.

⑤ CDR W. H. Anderson, CEC, USN, relieved CDR R. D. Coughlin, CEC, USN, as Commanding Officer of NMCB 71.

① Seabee Team 0809 was relieved on site at Can Tho by Team 0311.

① Seabee Team 1110 was relieved on site at Long Xuyen by Team 0310.

① Seabee Team 5802 was relieved on site at Soc Trang by Team 0703.

① Seabee Team 4002 was relieved on site at Go Cong by Team 0704.

② Seabee Team 1112 redeployed from Chiang Kham to a temporary camp site at Huai Mo Khang, located to the north and closer to the Burma-Laos border of Thailand.

## SEPTEMBER

① NMCB 12, the Reserve NMCB called to active duty with NMCB 22, relieved NMCB 53 at Camp Adenir, Danang East.

① Twenty-five details from ten NMCB's and the two CBMU's were employed at various locations in the Republic.

① The Seabees completed 111 projects

in RVN during the month. Major projects included a parking apron, taxiway and warm-up area at Phu Bai Airfield; a 500-man galley for the Army's General Support Group at Quang Tri; and, numerous living huts and sanitary facilities under the MER program which was nearing completion. MER provided berthing for 35,000 men plus the necessary cantonment facilities such as galleys, latrines and showers.

① NMCB 11 dedicated the Seabee Camp at Quang Tri as Camp Rhodes in honor of NMCB 121's LT John J. Rhodes, CEC, USN, killed in action near Hue-Phu Bai in 1967.

⑤ LCDR H. W. Filbry, CEC, USN, relieved LCDR M. H. Harper, CEC, USN, as



Seabees laid asphalt on highways in the I Corps at night to avoid heavy traffic congestion in the daytime hours.

Commanding Officer of CBMU 302.

② Seabee Team 1112 redeployed from the temporary camp at Huai Mo Khang to a permanent BPP camp site at Ban Phraya Phan.

## OCTOBER

① The total NMCB's employed in-country dropped from 12 to ten with NMCB's 62 and 71 departing RVN without on-site reliefs.

① NMCB 71's Camp Miller at Chu Lai was officially closed as a Seabee Camp as was NMCB 3's Camp Faulkner at Danang East when that battalion redeployed to Camp Haskins South, Red Beach, Danang to take over NMCB 62's vacated camp.

① NMCB 8 was relieved by NMCB 121 at Camp Wilkinson, Phu Bai-Gia Le.

① NMCB 4 was relieved by NMCB 10 at Camp Haines, Camp Evans area.

① Twenty-three details from six NMCB's and the two CBMU's were employed at various locations in RVN.

① The Seabees completed 53 projects in RVN during October. Major projects included a parking facility for the 487th Aviation Company; three 500-man and two 250-man galleys at Quang Tri; an infiltration gallery at the Naval Support Activity complex at Camp Horn; and, a 12-inch pipeline from Phu Bai to the Song Ta Track River.

⑤ CDR J. A. DeMidio, CEC, USN, relieved CDR G. W. Schley as Commanding Officer of NMCB 74.

① Seabee Team 6201 was relieved on site at Phan Rang by Team 0603.

① Seabee Team 13301 was relieved on site at Tan An by Team 0604.

## NOVEMBER

- ① Twenty-three details from eight NMCB's and the two CBMU's were employed at various locations in RVN.
- ① The Seabees completed 73 projects in RVN during November. Major projects included roads and drainage systems for Danang's Ammo Supply Point One; a temporary water system for Dong Ha; an additional ammo supply point for Force Logistic Support Group ALFA at Phu Bai; and, repaired and upgraded all bridges and culverts on Route One from Phu Bai to Can Hai.
- ① Seabee Team 0310 redeployed from Long Xuyen to Bac Lieu in Vietnam.
- ① Seabee Team 0912 was relieved on site at Xuan Loc by Team 1013.
- ① Seabee Team 7101 was relieved on site at My Tho by Team 12102.
- ② Seabee Team 1012 departed Det Udom for Bangkok where it was relieved by Team 1014. Seabee Team 1014 then redeployed to Sattahip, Thailand in support of the Royal Thai Marines, thus reducing the number of Teams supporting the Thai Border Patrol Police Program to two.
- ③ The advance party from NMCB 9 deployed to Camp Kinser, Okinawa to relieve NMCB 3's CHARLIE Company.

## DECEMBER

- ① NMCB 133 was relieved by NMCB 40 at Camp Campbell, Hue-Phu Bai.
- ① Thirty-six details from nine NMCB's and the two CBMU's were employed at vari-

ous locations in the Republic.

- ① Seabees completed 68 projects during the month of December. Major projects included electrical distribution systems for the 3RD MP Cantonment and the LAAM-POW area at Chu Lai; 18 reefer units added to the NSA Danang complex; helicopter pads for Camp Red Devil, the 37th ARRS and the 1ST Medical Battalion; 14,190 square feet of revetment covers for MAG 16; and, a security system of fencing, gatehouses, watch towers and administration facilities at ASP-1 in Danang.
- ① NMCB 3 completed the upgrading of An Hoa airstrip for the 1st Marine Air Wing in a record five days. The task included removing the old airfield matting, preparing a new soil-cement base for the new matting and then laying the matting. While the facility was "closed" Marine helicopters conducted over 400 flight operations including the movement of one entire Marine battalion.
- ⑤ LCDR W. F. Frazier, CEC, USN, relieved LCDR A. N. Olsen, CEC, USN, as Officer in Charge, COMCBPAC Detachment-Republic of Vietnam.
- ① Seabee Team 0408 was relieved on site at Go Dau Ha by Team 0913.
- ① Seabee Team 7401 was relieved on site at Thu Doc by Team 12801.
- ① Seabee Team 7402 was relieved on site at Lai Thieu by Team 12802.
- ① Seabee Team 0409 departed Vinh Long for Saigon where it was relieved by Team 0513. Team 0513 remained in Saigon past the New Year rebuilding the COMCBPAC DET-RVN warehouse which had been destroyed by fire. The Team was scheduled to open

a new site at Ben Tri in January 1969.

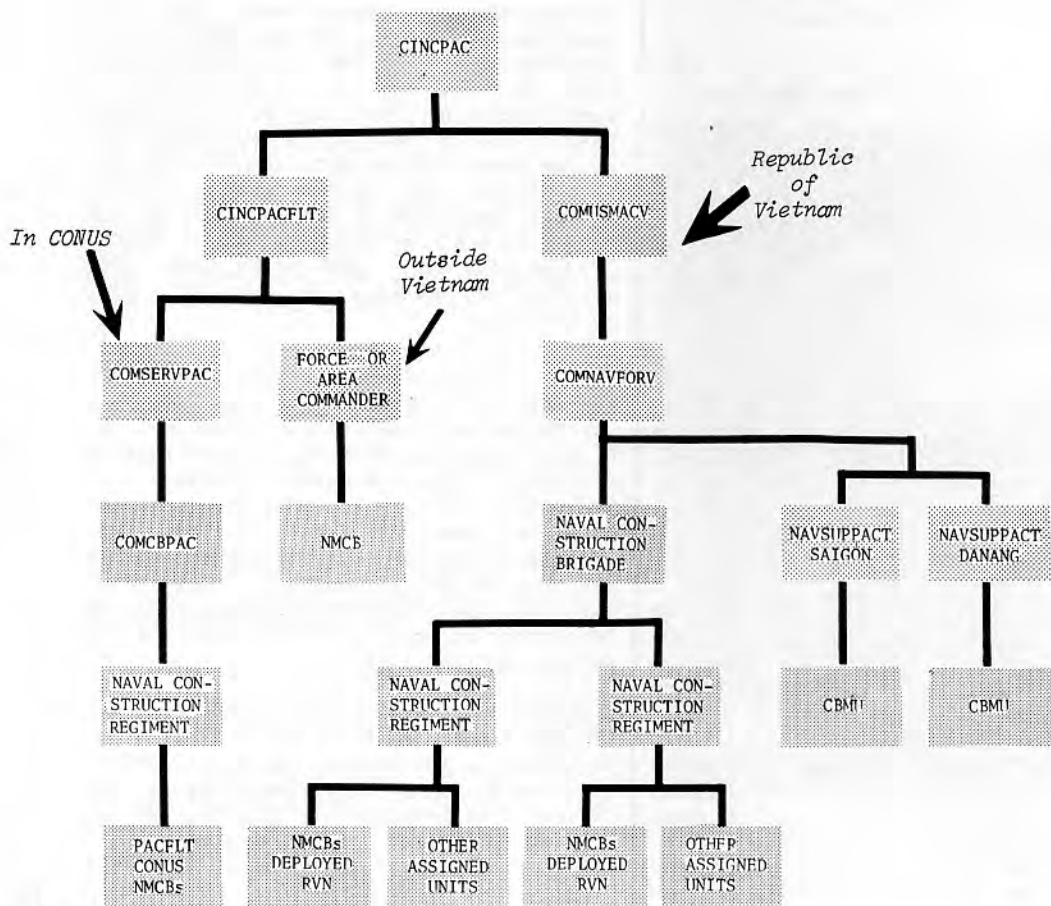
- ③ NMCB 9 deployed to Camp Kinser on Okinawa to serve as the Pacific Fleet Alert Construction Battalion.
- ① On December 31, 1968 the mobile Seabee units were located at the following locations: In Vietnam: NMCB 1 at Camp Hoover, Danang Main; NMCB 3 at Camp Haskins South; NMCB 7 at Camp Barnes, Dong Ha; NMCB 10 at Camp Haines, north of Hue; NMCB 11 at Camp Rhodes, Quang Tri; NMCB 12 at Camp Adenir, Danang East; NMCB 22 at Camp Haskins North, Danang; NMCB 40 at Camp Campbell, Hue-Phu Bai; NMCB 74 at Camp Shields, Chu Lai; and, NMCB 121 at Camp Wilkinson, Phu Bai-Gia Le. Seabee Teams: 0101 at Chau Doc (Chau Phu); 0102 at Phu Binh; 0310 at Bac Lieu; 0311 at Can Tho; 0513 at Tan Son Nhut (Saigon); 0603 at Phan Rang; 0604 at Tan An; 0703 at Soc Trang; 0704 at Go Cong; 0913 at Go Dau Ha; 1013 at Xuan Loc; 12101 at My Tho; 12102 at Phuoc Le; 12801 at Thu Doc; and, 12802 at Lai Thieu.

- ② In Thailand Seabee Team 1014 was at Sattahip in support of the Royal Thai Marines while Team 1112 was still at Ban Phraya Phan near the Burma-Laos border of Thailand. Team 111 closed up shop at Thong Song and by the end of the month was in Bangkok awaiting transportation. This left only 1112 deployed in support of the BPP program in that country. The phase-out from the Thai BPP program would be completed in February 1969 with the departure of Team 1112.

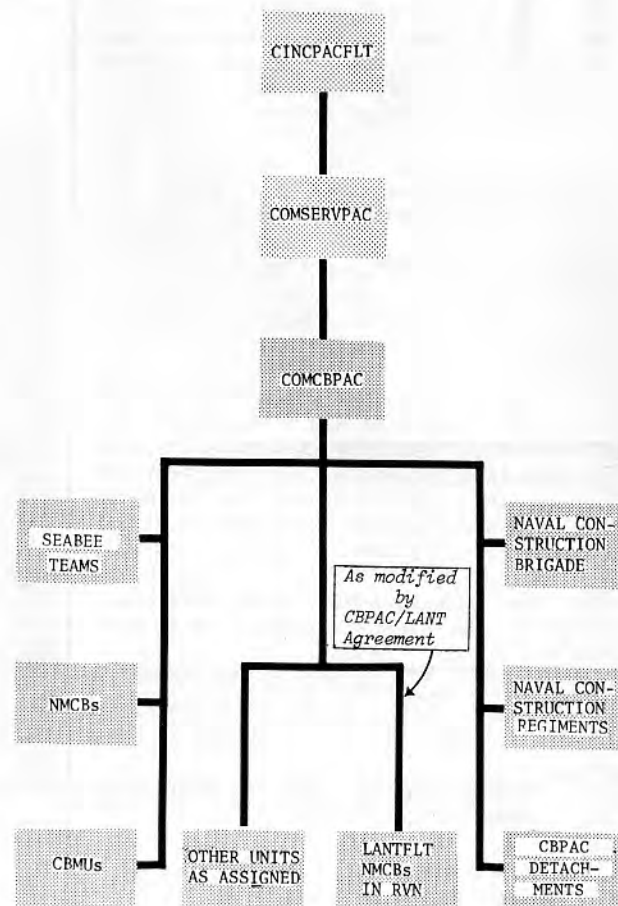
- ③④ In Okinawa NMCB 9 remained employed at Camp Kinser as the Pacific Fleet Alert Construction Battalion. Homeported NMCB's included 4, 5 and 8 at Port Hueneme; 53, 58 and 71 at Davisville; and, 62, 128 and 133 at Gulfport. NMCB 6 remained in Puerto Rico as the Atlantic Fleet Alert Construction Battalion.

# COMMAND RELATIONSHIPS

## OPERATIONAL CONTROL

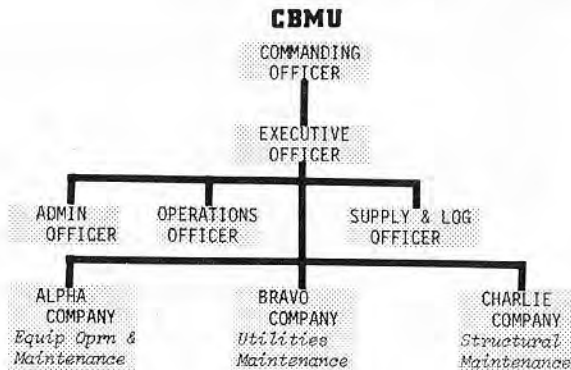
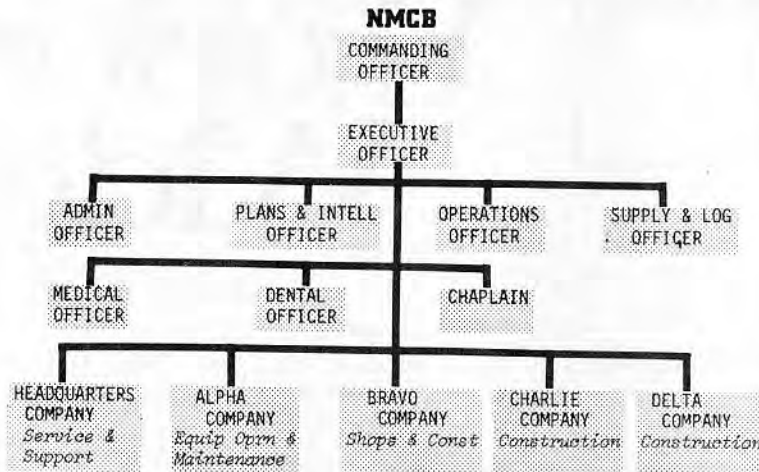


## ADMIN, TROOP AND TECHNICAL CONTROL



# THE NMCB & CBMU

# 1968 SITREP



## Personnel

DECEMBER 1968

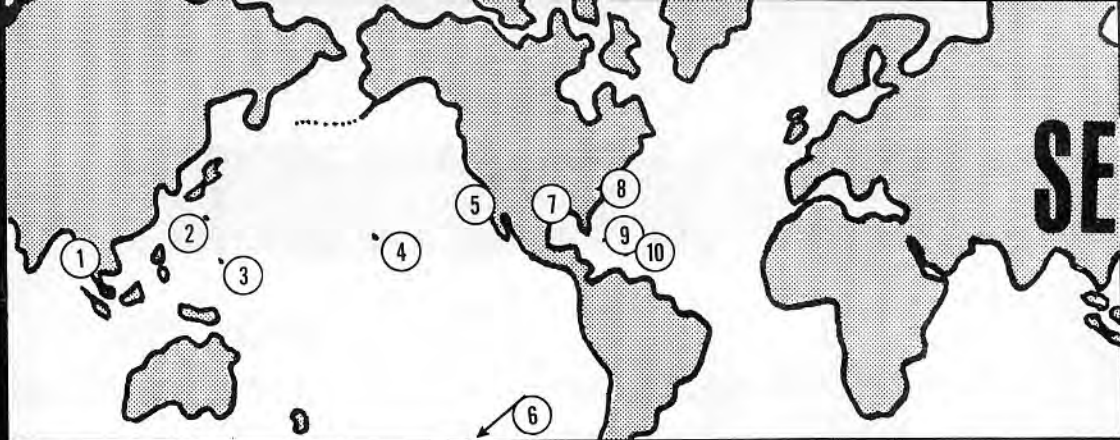
CBPAC OFFICERS .....	290
CBLANT OFFICERS IN VIETNAM .....	160
CBPAC ENLISTED PERSONNEL .....	7,400
CBLANT ENLISTED IN VIETNAM .....	4,600
Total .....	<u>12,450</u>

## Materiel

USN EQUIPMENT	
Pieces .....	8,760
Value .....	\$106,278,000
NMCB P25 ALLOWANCE (Less USN Equipment)	
Value .....	\$ 17,888,000
SEABEE CAMPS	
Value .....	\$ 4,514,000
USN Equipment, NMCB P25 and Camps	
Total .....	<u>\$128,680,000</u>

## Operating Expenditures

Navy Operations and Maintenance Expenditures for the twelve month period ending 12-31-68 .....	\$ 23,000,000
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# SEABEE Units and Headquarters

# World-Wide\*

## ① SOUTHEAST ASIA

### REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

THIRD NCB, Danang  
 THIRD NCB Representative, Saigon  
 THIRTIETH NCR, Danang  
 THIRTY-SECOND NCR, Phu Bai-Gia Le  
 Ten employed NMCB's  
 Two employed CBMU's  
 COMCBPAC Detachment-RVN, Saigon  
 Fifteen employed Seabee Teams

### KINGDOM OF THAILAND

COMCBPAC Detachment-THAI, Bangkok  
 Two employed Seabee Teams

## ② OKINAWA

### CAMP KINSER

COMCBPAC Detachment-OKI  
 One employed NMCB as Pacific  
 Fleet Alert Construction  
 Battalion

## ③ GUAM

### APRA HARBOR

Construction Battalion Center,  
 Port Hueneme, Western Pacific  
 Branch, Guam

## ④ HAWAII

### PEARL HARBOR

Headquarters, COMCBPAC

## ⑤ CALIFORNIA

### PORT HUENEME

Construction Battalion Center  
 THIRTY-FIRST NCR  
 Homeport for seven Pacific Fleet  
 NMCB's

### SAN DIEGO - CORONADO.

Amphibious Construction Battalion  
 ONE

## ⑥ ANTARCTICA

### OPERATION DEEP FREEZE

Seabee winter & summer support

## ⑦ MISSISSIPPI

### GULFPORT

Construction Battalion Center  
 TWENTIETH NCR  
 Homeport for seven Atlantic Fleet  
 NMCB's including the two active  
 duty Reserve NMCB's

## ⑧ EAST COAST

### DAVISVILLE, RHODE ISLAND

Headquarters, COMCBLANT  
 Construction Battalion Center  
 TWENTY-FIRST NCR  
 Construction Battalion Unit 201  
 (Antarctic Support)  
 Homeport for seven Atlantic  
 Fleet NMCB's

## WASHINGTON, D. C.

Headquarters, Naval Facilities  
 Engineering Command  
 Naval Support Unit State Depart-  
 ment (Seabees serving world-wide  
 in Embassies and Consulates)

## NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

Amphibious Construction Battalion  
 TWO

## ⑨ PUERTO RICO

### ROOSEVELT ROADS

One employed NMCB as Atlantic  
 Fleet Alert Construction  
 Battalion.

## ⑩ VIRGIN ISLANDS

### SAINT JOHN'S

Detachment of Seabees from ACB 2  
 employed in support of TEKITE, an  
 underwater construction and  
 habitat program

\* As of December 31, 1968



# The Pacific Naval Construction Force

During 1968 Commander, Naval Construction Battalions, U. S. Pacific Fleet's units, augmented as in the past few years by COMCBLANT units, continued to provide vital and urgently needed combat construction support to American, Free World and Vietnamese military and operational support units in the whole of the Republic of Vietnam. The major Pacific Naval Construction Force efforts remained centered in the Republic's I Corps area, the five northernmost Provinces.

The in-country Seabee headquarters remained at the same locations with the THIRD Naval Construction Brigade and the THIRTIETH Naval Construction Regiment at Camp Haskins, Red Beach, Danang; the THIRTY-SECOND Naval Construction Regiment at Camp Wilkinson, Phu Bai-Gia Le in the northern portion of the I Corps; and, in Saigon the THIRD Naval Construction Brigade Representative's Office and the Seabee Team headquarters, COMCBPAC Detachment-Republic of Vietnam. For a brief summary of battalion, maintenance unit and Seabee Team locations in-country, refer to the chronology at the first of this booklet.

The Pacific Naval Construction Force was also active in three other areas. In Thailand the Seabee Team program continued under the operational control of COMCBPAC Detachment-Thailand and on Okinawa, construction continued on the upgrading of Camp Kinser to a permanent Seabee Base. Also at this last location was COMCBPAC Detachment-Okinawa. On the other side of the Pacific, in California, the THIRTY-FIRST Naval Construction Regiment continued to provide homeport training to the various Pacific Fleet battalions and Seabee Teams.

On the following pages the reader will find a complete indepth look at each headquarters, detachment and unit that participated in the accomplishment of the COMCBPAC mission during this past year. Included are those COMCBLANT units that operated in the Pacific theater during 1968.

DONG HA

QUANG TRI

CAMP EVANS

PHU BAI - GIA LE

HUE - PHU BAI

DANANG

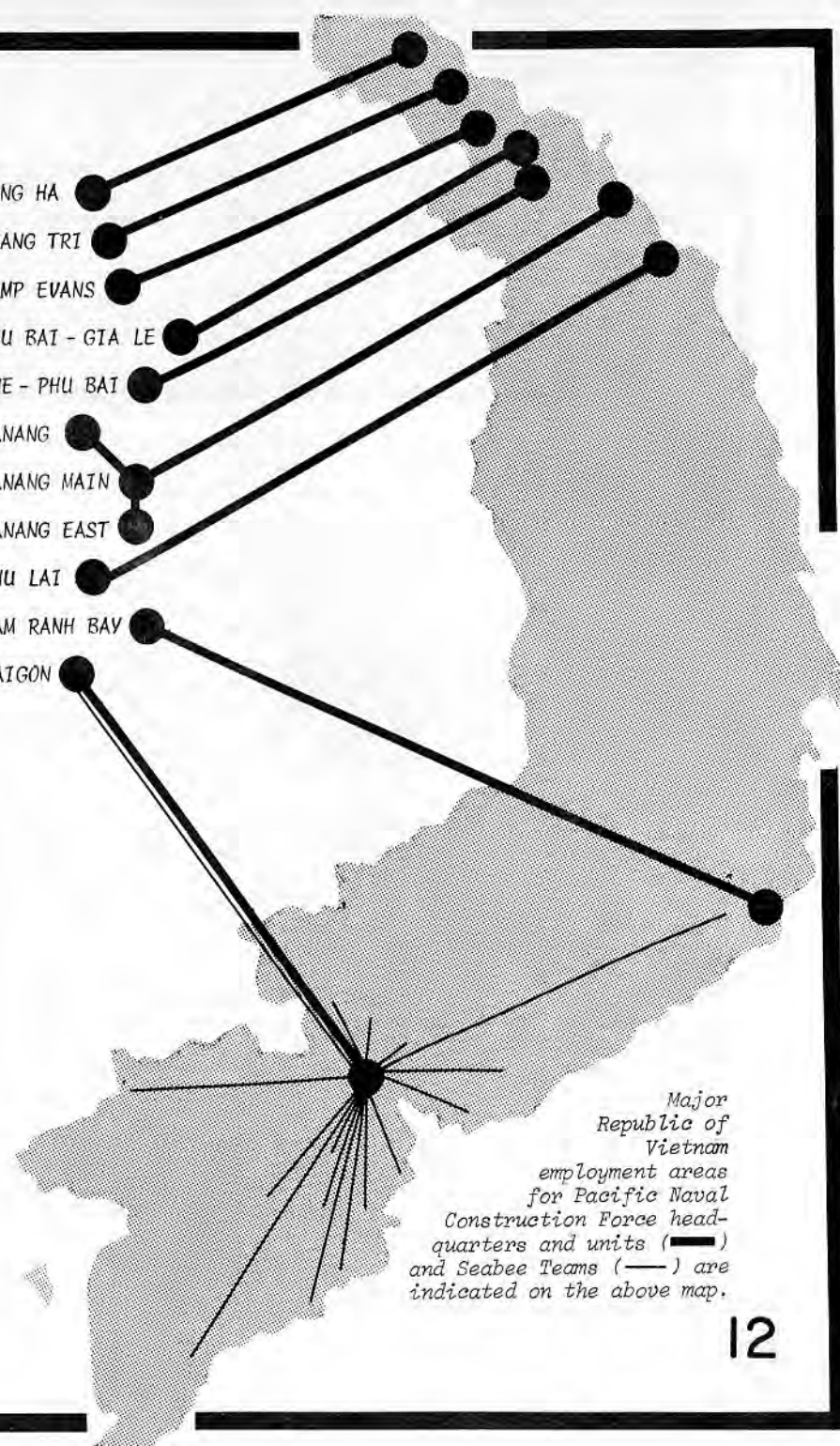
DANANG MAIN

DANANG EAST

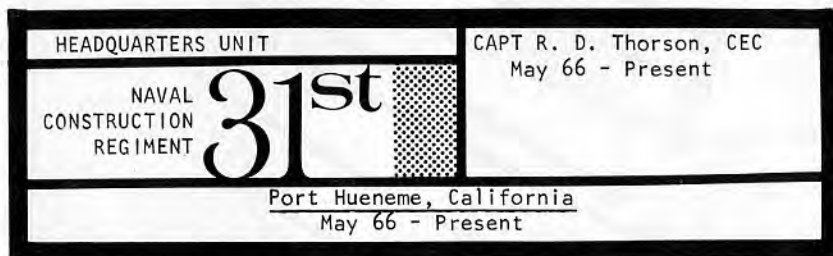
CHU LAI

CAM RANH BAY

SAIGON



Major  
Republic of  
Vietnam  
employment areas  
for Pacific Naval  
Construction Force head-  
quarters and units (■)  
and Seabee Teams (—) are  
indicated on the above map.



In California the THIRTY-FIRST Naval Construction Regiment continued to expand its support to the Port Hueneme-based Naval Mobile Construction Battalions and to the Pacific Naval Construction Force.

The Regiment's primary mission of coordinating the training of Pacific Fleet Seabee units provides some very interesting statistics. During the year over 20,700 men received military training at Port Hueneme. This training included everything from classroom studies in leadership, Code of Conduct and map reading to qualification and/or familiarization firing of all NMCB weapons, field exercises in tactical movements and communications training. Battalion personnel along spent more than 178,400 mandays in this phase of the Regiment's training program.

Other training coordinated by the Regiment included special instruction designed to increase the individual skill proficiency of each man in his rating while crew training provided groups of Seabees specialized instruction to ensure crew proficiency on Vietnam-type construction projects. This intensive training was backed by special disaster recovery and on-the-job training programs designed to provide the units with disaster recovery capabilities and also provide practical application of skills taught in the classrooms. Formal training coordinated by the Regiment was carried out at the Port Hueneme Naval School Command and included advanced and/or specialized training to Seabees in their specific ratings.

Rounding out the 31ST NCR's training program was the special four months of instruction provided 17 different Seabee Teams. To train Seabee Teams and key battalion personnel in the language of the country they will deploy to, the Regiment opened a specialized \$100,000 facility for this training which is currently limited to the Vietnamese and Thai languages. Each graduate of the three-week course has an average working vocabulary of 500-plus words specifically oriented to the military



*The construction of fire breaks, roads and right-of-ways provides the Seabee equipment operator with excellent on-the-job training while his battalion is homeported at Port Hueneme.*



*Seabee Team 0913 (above) erects a tripod as part of the rigging phase of their training.*



*NMCB NINE (left) participated in an embarkation exercise during homeport training. Here heavy equipment is moved from the bow of an LST across a landing ramp and onto the beach.*

*An actual rock crusher installation at Port Hueneme provides the Seabees with on-the-job experience that will be valuable while deployed to Vietnam. This crusher is just one of many project sites located in the Port Hueneme area.*



*Homeport training is also a time for experimenting with new products. Here an Ammi-Tower is utilized for the first time by a Seabee crew.*

construction skills. An additional \$80,000 facility was opened during the year which provides Team students with the best possible facility and equipment for this highly specialized course.

Besides training, the Regiment received and transferred 9,259 Seabee personnel to and from deployed units. In another highly successful area, the Regiment's Military Affiliated Amateur Radio Service facility completed 12,932 phone patches, transmitted 2,191 messages and received another 667 messages from servicemen in Vietnam. This MARS station was awarded a certificate of extraordinary performance by the Commanding General of the III Marine Amphibious Force for services provided the Seabees, Marines and their families.

Another important function is the management of the CBPAC equipment program. The total inventory of construction, automotive and materials handling equipment rose from 8,050 to 8,760 pieces during this past year. The Regiment received 3,252 new items of equipment and shipped 2,761 of these to Southeast Asia. Another 491 pieces of Seabee equipment were overhauled at five separate overhaul facilities in the Pacific area under the coordination of the THIRTY-FIRST NCR.

The Regiment's Supply Division shipped over 586,000 pounds of priority air freight to the Naval Construction Force units in 1968. Additionally, 17 battalions from the Atlantic and Pacific Fleets under went the Regiment's Supply Overhaul Availability Program (SOAP) during 1968. Under this program the various units were able to repair and/or restock their organic allowances, thus providing unbroken employments because of a major breakdown of construction equipment.

HEADQUARTERS UNIT	
NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BRIGADE	3rd
<u>Danang</u> Aug 67 - Present	<u>Saigon</u> Jun 66 - Aug 67

RADM J. V. Bartlett, CEC  
Aug 67 - Present  
CAPT A. R. Marschall, CEC  
Jun 67 - Aug 67 (Acting)  
RADM P. E. Seuffer, CEC  
Dec 66 - Jun 67  
RADM R. R. Wooding, CEC  
Jun 66 - Dec 66

During 1968, Navy construction directed by the THIRD Naval Construction Brigade under command of Rear Admiral James V. Bartlett was particularly notable due to its broad scope and importance in supporting the efforts of the Free World Forces in the Republic of Vietnam.

The enemy ushered in the New Year by launching its largest offensive to date during the "TET" holiday season. During the early months of 1968, the Seabees devoted a great deal of time to repairing widespread mortar, rocket and mine damage caused by the enemy during their offensive.

During the siege of Hue, the Seabees completed emergency repairs on the railroad bridge spanning the Perfume River permitting southern access to Hue by means other than a tactical ferry. This job, completed under the constant threat of hostile fire, was a significant break in enabling the allies to retake and restore the Imperial City.

Route 1 suffered extensive damage during TET. Continuous, highly accelerated enemy activity rendered many sections of road inaccessible to repair crews. Moving in wherever possible repair units dispatched by the THIRD NCB, filled in ditches, replaced culverts and constructed by-passes around destroyed bridges and culverts.

The early months of 1968 saw a marked increase in the I Corps force level with a high influx of Army troops. Requirements for the support of the First Cavalry Division (Air Mobile), the 101st Airborne Division, and other Army units placed heavy demands on the THIRD NCB. Seabees placed 260,000 square meters of M8A1 matting in completing a helicopter repair facility for the First Air Cav at Red Beach, Danang. Responding immediately to the requirement for hardened operational, camp, and security facilities, the Seabees assisted in digging in units at Phu Bai, Gia Le and Camp Evans.

A continuing major task in the I Corps was the upgrading of national highway systems (Routes 1 and 9) and various other roads which comprise the most vital logistic chain of support for the fighting forces in Vietnam. Of particular importance was the Col Co Road extending east from Hue eight miles to the new Tan My port facility on the coast. The Brigade directed the upgrading of approximately 65 miles of road which included some 73 bridges, that were constructed and in some cases re-built as a result of rough weather and enemy sabotage.

The Brigade managed the massive and demanding program of supplying much needed rock for the road upgrade program throughout northern I Corps. During the year Seabees established rock crushers at Ca Lu, Cam Lo, Nam Hoa, a double crusher site at Vinh Dai, and a triple crusher site at Phu Loc. Large quantities of quarry and crushing equipment and detachments from units all over I Corps were involved in producing hundreds of thousands of tons of crushed rock from quarries and river run sources. The import and scope of this effort alone in terms of personnel involved, hours of work, pieces of equipment and hauling and shipping was monumental.

During the year Seabees made significant contributions in support of combat operations. Following the break in northern I Corps weather in late March, the Seabees moved nine miles east of Khe Sanh to complete Landing Zone Stud including a C-123 airstrip.

Landing Zone Stud was of the greatest tactical importance and was built on a crash basis. Major General John J. Tolson, Commanding General, First Air Cav congratulated the Seabees for their exceptional work on Landing Zone Stud, a crucial factor in the drive to relieve Khe Sanh.

Small detachments of Seabees were called upon several times to assist in supporting allied operations as in the allied sweep of the Ashau Valley when Seabees moved in with air transportable construction equipment called "Tinker Toys" to establish landing zones, fire support bases and logistic staging areas.

One entire Seabee Battalion demonstrated its mobility when it deployed to Hoi An to begin work on the largest single project undertaken by a Seabee battalion in Vietnam. What had been a sandy, tree-covered wasteland just five months prior to the Seabees' arrival became an 8000-man cantonment for Republic of Korea 2nd Marine Brigade personnel.

In an effort to guarantee protection for fighting forces throughout I Corps Seabees prefabricated fighting bunkers that were designed, tested and produced by the hundreds under the

direction of the THIRD NCB.

To provide the POL needed to support the Marine, Air Force and Army aviation units and ground forces, the THIRD NCB embarked on the expansion of the POL system, a network running throughout the northern I Corps. This program involved the assembling of nearly 61 miles of line, fuel tanks with a collective capacity of nearly 300,000 barrels and pumping stations to supply the northern I Corps' major combat bases.

Throughout the year Seabees developed new and expanded existing ammunition supply points, a task of enormous proportions. These ASPs were located at critical positions in Chu Lai, Da-nang, Phu Bai, Camp Evans, Quang Tri and Dong Ha. Each one of these facilities represents thousands of construction mandays and, in one case, required the movement of over two million cubic yards of earth. Because of the urgent need for ASPs in I Corps, the Brigade exerted an all out construction effort on a round-the-clock basis.

A tremendous effort was exerted in resurfacing airfields necessitated by heavy operations and violent weather. In July, Seabees working a 24-hour day resurfaced the entire Phu Bai airstrip with AM2 matting in only 51 hours. The 60x5600-foot airstrip remained in use by the military for all but 12 hours during the resurfacing. Soil cementing and matting of the 60x2900-foot Camp Evans runway demonstrated the Seabees' speed and efficiency under strong leadership.

In a joint service effort to provide Danang with protection from rocket attacks and ground infiltration, Seabees joined the U. S. Marines and the Vietnamese in building the Danang Barrier. The Seabees and Marine Engineers led the way by bulldozing a strip through heavy tree lines and rough terrain as Marines and Vietnamese troops followed stringing walls of barbed, concertina wire. Sentry towers were prefabricated in Seabee camps and flown to the Barrier by Army Flying Cranes to be set in place for the Marines.

Aside from the construction support of the Free World Forces, the THIRD NCB dispatched a detachment of Seabees to Gia Dinh province in Saigon to construct housing for 675 refugee families made homeless by TET and May enemy offensives.

The year 1968 was one during which the THIRD NCB continually demonstrated its responsiveness to the demands and challenges of construction support for the Free World Forces in the Republic of Vietnam.

Through the THIRTIETH and the THIRTY-SECOND Naval Construction Regiments, the Brigade exercises operational control over all Naval Mobile Construction Battalions in Vietnam from both the Pacific and Atlantic Fleets, and over the Seabee Teams through the COMCBPAC Detachment, Republic of Vietnam, in Saigon.

Besides directing the Seabee construction program in country, Admiral Bartlett acts as principal advisor to the Commander, U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam in all construction matters.

At ceremonies celebrating the first anniversary of the Brigade's relocation to Danang, Admiral Bartlett said, "We have done much in the past year but there is a lot that remains to be done. Let us not rest on our laurels, although we have accomplished a good deal; but let us continue with the same high spirit and professionalism, with renewed enthusiasm and vigor, until our job is really done!"

HEADQUARTERS SUB-UNIT	CAPT W. H. Sturman, CEC Jul 68 - Present
THIRD: NCB REPRESENTATIVE SAIGON	<b>3rd 3REP</b> CAPT G. A. Goetzke, CEC Aug 67 - Jul 68
Saigon Aug 67 - Present	

The Commander THIRD Naval Construction Brigade Representative, Saigon serves as an integral part of the Seabee organization in the Republic of Vietnam, even though its multiple functions rarely make the headlines. The small but effective office is currently run by Captain William H. Sturman, CEC, USN, who is Rear Admiral Bartlett's representative at the headquarters level in the Capital City area.

Located at the center of Saigon's Government and business district, the representative and his staff coordinate Seabee interests with Commander, U. S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, Commander, Naval Forces, Vietnam, the Officer in Charge of Construction, the Commanding General, U. S. Army in Vietnam, and other Saigon based commands and government organizations and agencies.

HEADQUARTERS	CAPT J. R. Fisher, CEC Mar 68 - Present
NAVAL CONSTRUCTION REGIMENT	CAPT C. W. Turner, CEC Aug 67 - Mar 68
	CAPT A. R. Marschall Sep 66 - Aug 67
	CAPT N. R. Anderson, CEC Jan 66 - Sep 66
	CAPT H. F. Liberty, CEC May 65 - Jan 66
	Danang May 65 - Present

The THIRTIETH Naval Construction Regiment currently exercises operational control over the Naval Mobile Construction Battalions and details located south of the Hai Van Pass, which is just north of its Danang headquarters. There are currently five NMCBs under the Regiment's operational control: One at Danang Main, two at Danang, one at Danang East and one at Chu Lai.

With the Viet Cong's TET Offensive, THIRTIETH NCR units not only were faced with making urgent repairs to battle damaged facilities, but also actively participating in the defense of several installations, such as the Province Headquarters at Tam Ky where an NMCB-6 detail of 55 men under LTJG G. N. Weisner, CEC, USN, was credited with 46 confirmed enemy killed during the successful defense of the Headquarters.

Some of the highlights during the year included the completion of the 566-foot Ammi Bridge at Nam Hoa, built by a detail of Seabees from NMCB-53. Opened to traffic across the Perfume River on 16 July, this was the second and longest Ammi bridge yet built in the Republic.

In late August, four 50-man details from Regiment units were sent to the northern I Corps to assist in the construction of Minimum Essential Requirements cantonment facilities. During the next ten weeks these details constructed over 600 SEA huts, 50 messhalls, 175 strongback tent frames and associated sanitary facilities and showers to protect the troops from the approaching monsoon rains. At the end of August, over 1000 Seabees from Regiment units were on details assisting the THIRTY SECOND NCR north of Hai Van Pass.



*Seabees from NMCB-3 prepare the concrete ramps at the Danang harbor Bridge Ramp project. In the two photographs below, Seabees participate in the MER program in the northern I Corps where prefabricated construction is the word of the day. In the bottom photograph, Seabees erect the prefabricated SEA huts at a new MER cantonment somewhere north of Hue City.*



The year 1968 was one of dynamic change and opportunity for the THIRTY SECOND Naval Construction Regiment. Recommissioned in August 1967 to exercise operational control of Naval Construction Forces north of the Hai Van Pass, the regimental staff had just reached authorized strength and four NMCBs were reporting for operational control when the year began.

Simultaneously with the growth of the Regiment the enemy was effecting massive infiltration into the Regiment's area of operations. This undesirable buildup in the northern I Corps set in motion events that would change the face of this area more in one year than it had been changed since the construction of the Imperial Capital City at Hue. The Free World force buildup to counter the enemy threat was swift and massive. It also required engineering support of a greater magnitude than was present north of Hai Van Pass.

Early in January the entire THIRD Marine Division moved north from Phu Bai to Dong Ha to bolster the Demilitarized Zone defense force. The Army First Air Cavalry Division arrived on 18 January and was temporarily dug in at Gia Le pending expansion of Camp Evans, its planned combat base north of Hue. The move of the THIRD MARDIV, including most of its combat engineers, north and the move of combat units of the First AIRCAV to Camp Evans was nearing completion when the enemy struck with their TET Offensive. This temporarily halted further moves as the whole area in the northern portion of the Republic became a violent battlefield. Thus it was that the Seabees as the only substantial engineer force available between the Hai Van Pass and Quang Tri became primarily combat engineers for the duration of the enemy offensive.

The most important task in this role was to reopen the lines of communication. Seabees followed assault troops first into Hue and then up and down National Route One and other key roads repairing bridges, filling craters and slit trenches, and removing rubble to re-establish the flow of fire power and vital supplies.

At the same time the enemy introduced the wide spread use of the 122mm rocket. This created an immediate requirement for extensive reveting to protect valuable equipment and strengthening of personnel shelters. NMCB-4 was deployed to the Republic early to help meet this added workload. Upon its arrival in Danang, most of the battalions horizontal capability was redeployed north to help meet the urgent requirements placed on the THIRTY SECOND Naval Construction Regiment.

Delayed by the TET Offensive, the planned upgrade of lines of

HEADQUARTERS		CAPT A. W. Walton, Jr., CEC Aug 68 - Present
NAVAL CONSTRUCTION REGIMENT		CAPT J. M. Hill, Jr., CEC Aug 67 - Aug 68
32nd		CDR R. C. Foley, CEC 1 Aug - 26 Aug 67 (Acting)
Phu Bai-Gia Le Aug 67 - Present		

communications was now of paramount importance. Better roads were needed to meet the logistic requirements of the thousands of fighting troops now present or moving into the two northern provinces of the Republic of Vietnam. The Seabees of the Regiment's assigned units charged into this multi-battalion effort with a fury born of the frustration of TET. Bulldozers cut out right-of-ways before refugees could return and rebuild along the narrow roadways that were to be raised, widened, and paved to speed endless convoys to supply three and one-half divisions of American fighting men now operating in this area.

As soon as the roads and ports were opened the 101ST Airborne Division completed its move to Thua Thien Province and Army Engineer units arrived to relieve the Seabees of many support duties. By May all of NMCB-4 had moved north and the five battalion in the Regiment were further augmented by details from the THIRTIETH NCR so that a total of over 4000 Seabees were present north of the Hai Van Pass.

In early August the decision was made to immediately improve the living and sanitary conditions for the troops in the northern I Corps. A very ambitious program was undertaken with an all hands, 24 hour per day, evolution that resulted in the completion of over 5000 living facilities to shelter the fighting troops from the coming monsoons. The program "to get the troops out of the mud" has ingratiated Seabees to a whole new generation of GI's and the highway program will be a permanent monument to the Seabees helping to shape the economic future of the Republic of Vietnam.

As this booklet goes to press there are five NMCBs currently under the operational control of the Regiment. These units are located at Dong Ha, Quang Tri, Camp Evans Combat Base, Gia Le, and Hue-Phu Bai. Seabee details from both these units and from south of the Hai Van Pass are working on projects throughout the northern portion of the Republic.

COMCBLANT UNIT		CDR T. J. Mitchell, CEC Feb 68 - Present
NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION	1	CDR P. R. Gates, CEC Jun 66 - Feb 68
		CDR R. T. Hardy, CEC Feb 65 - Jun 66
VIETNAM DEPLOYMENTS		
Jun 68 - Present		Danang
		Apr 67 - Dec 67
		Mar 66 - Nov 66

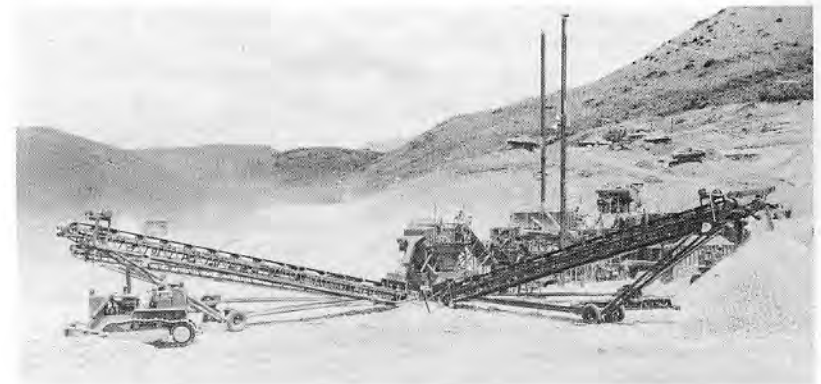


Above is a reveted helo pad built to house CH-54 "Flying Cranes" for the 478th Aviation Company of the U. S. Army.

Seabees (top left) from NMCB 1 use a railway spur they helped build to transport equipment. About 50 of the unit's Seabees spent three months in rural Vietnam repairing and rebuilding three badly damaged bridges in the Vietnamese National Railway System.

Below left the Seabees experiment with "instant roads" of fiberglass matting to provide easy access through mud and sand for heavy equipment on its way to the job site.

Phu Loc (below) quarry operations was one of the biggest detail jobs for NMCB 1 during its Danang deployment. The important end product of crushed rock is used primarily in the road upgrade program in northern I Corps. Phu Loc is the largest quarry-crusher facility operated by the Seabees in the Republic and is located just north of Hai Van Pass.







*This is a bird's eye view of Camp Haskins South, home of NMCB 3 during its 1968 Vietnam deployment.*

*The "Golden Gate Bridge" south of Danang (top right) is repaired quickly by the "bridge builders" of NMCB 3. The bridge had been seriously damaged by a floating enemy mine.*

*Seabees toil under a hot sun to upgrade the strategic An Hoa airstrip south of Danang in the photograph below. Old steel matting was first removed and then a new and more durable AM2 matting installed over a huge plastic membrane. The job was completed in a record five and one-half days.*

*The first plane to land on the new An Hoa airstrip was a C-123, just five days after the strip had been closed to all fixed-wing aircraft operations. During the construction of the new airstrip, the Marines continued helo operations with over 450 missions being logged, and one complete battalion being moved to the battlefield.*



COMCBPAC UNIT		CDR C. R. Whipple, CEC Feb 68 - Present
NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION	<b>3</b>	CDR R. C. Foley, CEC Feb 66 - Feb 68
		CDR J. D. Rumble, CEC May 64 - Feb 66
VIETNAM DEPLOYMENTS		
<u>Danang</u> Oct 68 - Present		<u>Phu Bai-Gia Le</u> May 67 - Feb 68
<u>Danang East</u> Jul 68 - Oct 68		<u>Chu Lai</u> Mar 66 - Dec 66
	<u>Danang</u> Jun 65 - Sep 65	



COMCBPAC UNIT		CDR R. M. Fluss, CEC Apr 67 - Present
NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION	<b>4</b>	CDR W. A. Walls, CEC Jun 65 - Apr 67
VIETNAM DEPLOYMENTS		
Camp Evans Combat Base		Danang
Jun 68 - Oct 68		Feb 68 - Jun 68 Feb 67 - Oct 67
		Chu Lai
		Dec 65 - Aug 66



*This is an aerial view of NMCB 4's Camp Haines' administrative and berthing areas on the edge of the huge Camp Evans Combat Base north of Hue.*



*The Bridge 5 rock off-loading facility (upper left) is located on the Perfume River east of Hue City. Cranes off-load rock barges and then load dump trucks with the rock for transport to the Hue By-Pass and Route One construction sites.*



*This is the completed airstrip (lower left) with turn-arounds and parking apron at Camp Evans. The 2900-foot runway meets all specifications of a class 11 C-130 airfield.*

*The completed 780-foot An Lo Bridge (below) is a vital link to combat forces in the I Corps. The bridge it replaced is in the foreground of the photograph.*





NMCEB 5's Delta Company crew (above) pours concrete into forms on the "Teapot" job site.

A big project at Dong Ha was the precasting of Parapet Bunkers for use along the DMZ and other important defensive positions. The photograph on the upper left shows a few of the 845 concrete bunkers prefabricated by NMCEB 5 while at Dong Ha.

This 500-man galley was built at Quang Tri for the 3RD Marines. Back at Dong Ha the Seabees also built 250 strongback huts for Army and Marine commands and a bakery for the Marine Force Logistics Support Group.

COMCBPAC UNIT		CDR R. B. Wilson, CEC Apr 68 - Present
NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION	<b>5</b>	CDR E. J. Williams, CEC Aug 66 - Apr 68
		CDR W. F. Russell, CEC Apr 64 - Aug 66
VIETNAM DEPLOYMENTS		
<u>Dong Ha</u> Dec 67 - Jul 68		<u>Danang East</u> Oct 66 - Jun 67
<u>Danang</u> Sep 65 - May 66		



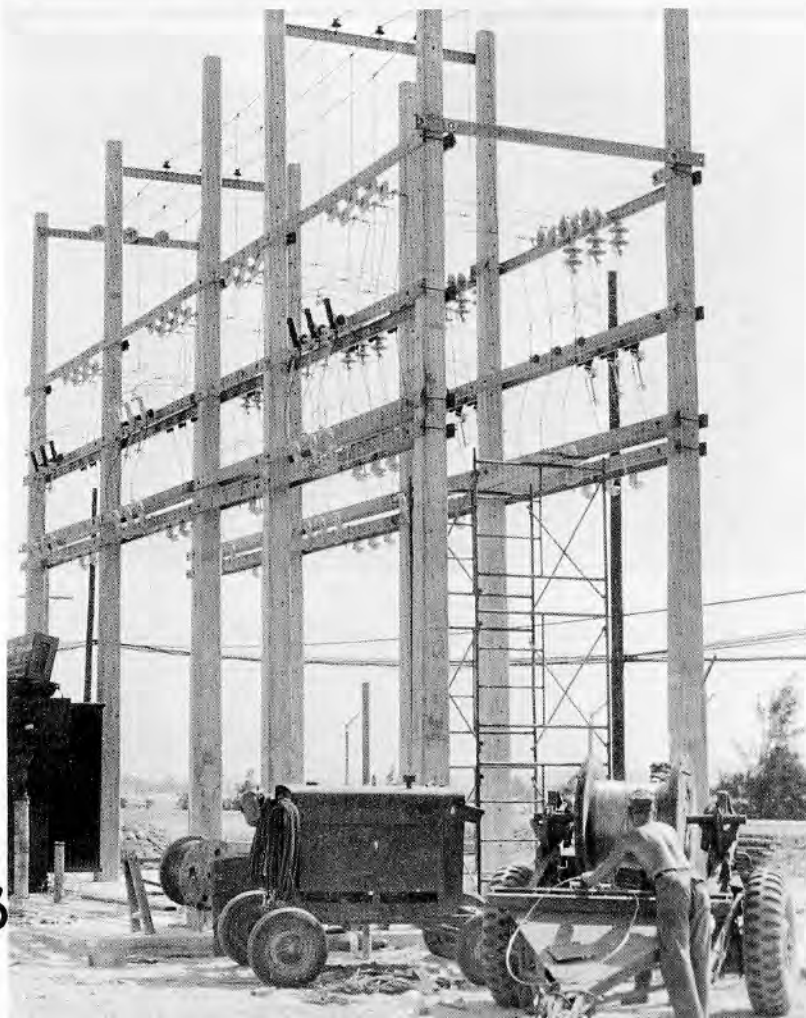
COMCBLANT UNIT		CDR R. D. Keegan, CEC Feb 67 - Present
NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION	<b>6</b>	CDR J. C. Day, CEC Jul 66 - Feb 67
		CDR H. A. Tombari, CEC Mar 65 - Jul 66
VIETNAM DEPLOYMENTS		
Chu Lai Aug 67 - Apr 68		Danang East May 66 - Feb 67



*NMCB 6 repaired and constructed 13 Ammunition Supply Points (above) for the Army's Americal Division during its Chu Lai deployment.*

*The maze of concrete and wire on the right is the heart of the Chu Lai Electrical Distribution System built by NMCB 6. Power lines radiating from this central power station now provides electricity for the entire Chu Lai Combat Base complex.*

*Seabees from NMCB 6 (below) work on the installation of an open storage pad for the Army's Americal Division at Chu Lai. During 1968, the battalion completed a Class II and a Class IV open storage complex -- a project worth more than \$500,000.*





The Dong Ha Ammunition Supply Point (above) was completely cleared of unexploded ordnance and rebuilt by NMCB 7. The ASP had incurred extensive damage from explosions caused by incoming enemy artillery a few months before.

Completion of the huge POL Farm at Quang Tri (right) was a major accomplishment during SEVEN's Dong Ha deployment. Over one-quarter million bolts were hand-tightened during the erection of the two and one-half million gallon capacity fuel farm.

The Vinh Dai rock crusher facility (below), completed by the Seabees of NMCB 7, now supplies rock for roads from Ca Lu to Quang Tri.



COMCBLANT UNIT		CDR J. C. Rickels, CEC Aug 68 - Present
NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION	<b>7</b>	CDR L. D. Lawson, CEC Feb 67 - Aug 68
		CDR J. T. Acuff, CEC Apr 65 - Feb 67
VIETNAM DEPLOYMENTS		
<u>Dong Ha</u> Jul 68 - Present		<u>Danang East</u> Jun 67 - Jan 68
<u>Hue-Phu Bai</u> Apr 66 - Dec 66		



COMCBPAC UNIT		CDR R. J. Westberg, CEC Jul 68 - Present
NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION	<b>8</b>	CDR J. F. O'Leary, CEC Apr 67 - Jul 68
		CDR P. A. Phelps, CEC Aug 65 - Apr 67
VIETNAM DEPLOYMENTS		
Phu Bai-Gia Le Feb 68 - Oct 68		Chu Lai Dec 66 - Aug 67
Danang Sep 65 - Jun 66		



*Col Co Road (above) snakes its way across water-filled rice paddies. This road was a major EIGHT project with NMCB 133 paving the final product.*

*The completed NSA Detachment cantonment (above left) was one of NMCB 8's more ambitious vertical construction projects next to the First Marine Division hospital (below left) at Phu Bai south of Gia Le.*

*NMCB 8's Camp Wilkinson nestles amid the vast complex of Gia Le Combat Base in the photograph below. The Seabee camp housed the THIRTY SECOND Naval Construction Regiment in addition to NMCB 8.*





*Camp Hoover, Danang Main, (above) was base camp for NMCB 9's third consecutive deployment to the Republic of Vietnam. It was from this location that a detail deployed to Phu Loc to construct and develop the Seabees largest quarry-crusher site in the Republic at Phu Loc, north of Hai Van Pass.*

*A CH-54 "Sky Crane" (right) places a 10-ton observation tower near Marble Mountain. The tower and a prefabricated sentry box were lifted from a staging point at Camp Hoover.*

*NINE's paving crew place the first lift of asphalt on Route 541 located in the Danang complex of bases, hamlets and a city in the photograph below.*



COMCBPAC UNIT		CDR J. A. Wright, CEC Feb 68 - Present
NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION	<b>9</b>	CDR D. N. Shockey, CEC Dec 66 - Feb 68 CDR R. E. Anderson, CEC Oct 64 - Dec 66
VIETNAM DEPLOYMENTS		
Danang Oct 67 - Jun 68 Aug 66 - Apr 67		Danang East Jul 65 - Feb 66



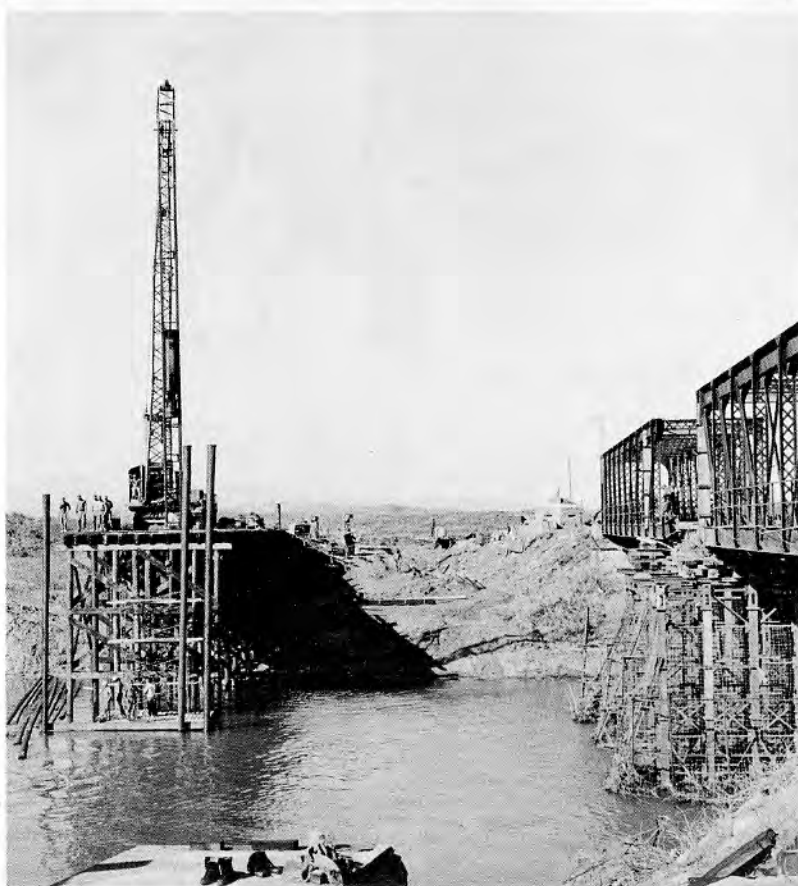
COMCBPAC UNIT		CDR D. A. Bartley, CEC May 67 - Present
NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION	<b>10</b>	CDR T. C. Williams, CEC Aug 65 - May 67
		CDR W. H. Bannister, CEC Sep 63 - Aug 65
VIETNAM DEPLOYMENTS		
<u>Camp Evans Combat Base</u>	<u>Phu Bai-Gia Le</u>	
Oct 68 - Present	Sep 67 - Nov 67	
<u>Quang Tri</u>	<u>Danang</u>	
Nov 67 - May 68	Jun 66 - Jan 67	
	<u>Chu Lai</u>	
	May 65 - Dec 65	



*The "Men of TEN" work through the night (above) repairing the Camp Evans runway.*

*Bridge 14 (left), five miles north of Camp Haines on National Route One, is being constructed by Seabees from NMCB 10. The bridge was completed in a short 30 days and replaced an old French tressel bridge that dated back to 1914.*

*Another of NMCB 10's projects was the construction of the Bridge Five Ramp. The ramp will enable LCU craft to bring much needed supplies further north on the riverways to American combat troops in the northern I Corps.*







Cantonments were the "order" of the day during NMCB 11's Quang Tri deployment. Above is ELEVEN's camp while below center is a new cantonment being built under the MER Program.

To the right Seabees erect prefabricated SEA huts for the Seabee camp shown at the top of this page. Below right is the completed cantonments for the 9th Marines.

Horizontal construction included the upgrading of Route One between Quang Tri and Dong Ha (below), a POL line and open storage areas in the Quang Tri complex of new bases.



COMCBPAC UNIT		CDR W. K. Hartell, CEC Jul 67 - Present
NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION	<b>11</b>	CDR W. L. Wilson, CEC May 66 - Jul 67
		CDR W. W. Barron, CEC May 64 - May 66
VIETNAM DEPLOYMENTS		
Quang Tri May 68 - Present		Dong Ha Apr 67 - Dec 67
		Danang East Feb 66 - Oct 66



COMCBLANT/RESERVE UNITS		NMCB 12
NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALIONS		CDR J. J. Lee, CEC, USNR
<b>12 &amp; 22</b>		NMCB 22
		CDR R. L. Dunlap, CEC, USNR
VIETNAM DEPLOYMENTS		
Danang East - NMCB 12 Sep 68 - Present		Danang - NMCB 22 Aug 68 - Present



*Seabee Naval Reserve Units were first established at the close of World War II. Their function was to be ready for possible mobilization in the event of war or a national emergency.*

*Reserve NMCB's 12 and 22 answered this call in the Spring of 1968 when they were ordered to active duty by the President of the United States. These units were the first Reserve Seabee battalions to be called to active duty in the Seabees' short history. The reason for the call-up was evidenced by a serious need for Naval Construction Forces in the Republic of Vietnam. Both units made Gulfport, Mississippi their homeports and were ready for deployment to the war zone in record time.*

*In the Republic these Naval Reservists displayed proudly the legendary "Can Do" spirit of the Seabees. Assigned tasks were immediately undertaken and before one project was finished they were asking for more work. These Seabee Reservists referred to themselves as "professionals" because of their average age of 38 vice the average 23 years of their active duty counterparts. Using their many years of practical experience, skills, judgement, maturity and insight, the Seabees of these two units have added another page to the "Can Do" history of the Seabees world-wide.*

*In the photograph above, Seabees from NMCB 12 place asphalt paving on priority road projects around the clock in the Danang area. Likewise, Seabees from NMCB 22 often worked seven days a week providing construction support to American and allied combat forces. In the photograph on the left, a huge "Sky Crane" sets a 50-foot sentry tower in place for NMCB 22 on a project for the Republic of Korea Marines near Hoi An.*





While upgrading the Second Surgical Hospital at Chu Lai, the Seabees hardly had time to remove their tools before the wards were occupied. Shown here is the just completed intensive care ward built by NMCB 40.

On the upper right Seabees use a rolling machine to straighten a damaged plate at the POL farm where they installed three new POL storage tanks during their deployment.

Over one-million cubic yards of Chu Lai sand were moved by NMCB 40 in building the Ammo Supply Point (lower right).

A concrete crew places a tracked vehicle path along the water front of the Chu Lai Cargo Handling Facility (below).



COMCBLANT UNIT

NAVAL  
MOBILE  
CONSTRUCTION  
BATTALION

40

CDR W. F. Daniel, Jr., CEC  
Oct 67 - Present  
CDR B. L. Saravia, CEC  
Feb 66 - Oct 67

VIETNAM DEPLOYMENTS

Hue-Phu Bai  
Dec 68 - Present

Chu Lai  
Oct 67 - Jun 68  
Aug 66 - Apr 67



COMCBLANT UNIT		CDR R. A. Bowers, CEC Jun 67 - Present	
NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION	<b>53</b>		
VIETNAM DEPLOYMENT			
Danang East Jan 68 - Sep 68			



*NMCB 53's deployment to the Republic of Vietnam during 1968 was its first since recommissioning. Another first took place when the battalion was task with the installation of the first two Ammi Pontoon Bridges in Southeast Asia. In the photograph on the left, Seabees install the first Ammi bridge on Route 1C. The second bridge was built over the Perfume River on National Route 547 near Hue City.*

*THIRD Marine Amphibious Force enlisted mens barracks are being constructed in Danang in the photograph above while in the photo below, Seabees make repairs to the NSA Hospital Urology Building near Danang.*





Seabees place a tabloid of Korean characters (above) which reads, "The Ageless Tortoise - 1600 o'clock 26 March 1968 - and the Powerful Dragon", signifying long life, strength and endurance, at a Korean-style cornerstone laying ceremony near Hoi An. The Seabees of NMCB 58 constructed a complete cantonment for an 8000-man Brigade of Republic of Korea Marines during the battalion's 1968 deployment. The headquarters area of the completed Korean cantonment can be seen in the photograph below.

With the aid of a crane, one side of a 35-foot wooden water tower (right) is hoisted into the air. Thirteen of these tower projects were erected by Seabees from NMCB 58 for the Korean Marines, with each tower supporting a 500-barrel water tank. In connection with the Korean cantonment at Hoi An, the Seabees also installed over four miles of water pipe as part of the camp's utilities system.



COMCBLANT UNIT		CDR C. J. Mathews, CEC May 68 - Present
NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION	<b>58</b>	CDR W. W. DeGroot III, CEC Mar 66 - May 68
VIETNAM DEPLOYMENTS		
<u>Danang</u> Jun 68 - Aug 68		<u>Hoi An</u> Feb 68 - Jun 68
<u>Danang</u> Dec 67 - Feb 68 Nov 66 - Jun 67		



COMCBLANT UNIT		CDR J. P. Jones, Jr., CEC Jul 68 - Present
NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION	<b>62</b>	CDR W. J. Richeson, CEC Jun 66 - Jul 68
VIETNAM DEPLOYMENTS		
<u>Danang</u> Jan 68 - Oct 68		<u>Hue-Phu Bai</u> Dec 66 - Aug 67



*Above is ASP 2, one of NMCB 62's major projects while on its second deployment to the Republic of Vietnam. Over half a mountain was moved in order to construct this ammo supply area.*

*A Seabee (left) operates a hydromulching machine at ASP 2 near Danang. The machine seeds large areas with mulch, grass seed and fertilizer to prevent soil erosion.*

*Another big project for NMCB 62 was the construction of the Marine Force Logistics Command Maintenance Facility near Red Beach, Danang. The photograph below shows the project just thirty days after the Seabees began working.*





*NMCB 71's Camp Miller at Chu Lai (above) was one of the first Seabee Camps closed in Vietnam.*

*While at Chu Lai the Seabees installed a compass calibration pad (right) which is shown in use by a F-4 Phantom jet fighter.*

*Away from Chu Lai Seabee details from the battalion operated at numerous remote locations including the operation of the Phu Loc Quarry north of Hai Van Pass.*



COMCBLANT UNIT		CDR W. H. Anderson, CEC Aug 68 - Present
NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION	<b>71</b>	CDR R. D. Coughlin, CEC Oct 66 - Aug 68
VIETNAM DEPLOYMENTS		
Chu Lai		
Apr 68 - Oct 68		
Apr 67 - Oct 67		



COMCBLANT UNIT		CDR J. A. DeMidio, CEC Oct 68 - Present
NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION	<b>74</b>	CDR G. W. Schley, CEC Dec 66 - Oct 68
VIETNAM DEPLOYMENTS		
<u>Chu Lai</u> Jun 68 - Present		<u>Danang</u> Jun 67 - Jan 68



*Project Beaver, one of the highest priority projects in I Corps at the first of 1968, was assigned to NMCB 74. The job was to build a 64-acre helicopter repair facility in only 28 short days. Working around the clock the Seabees completed the job on schedule. Assisting in the project were equipment operators from NMCB 7 and 128. Today it stands as the largest helicopter facility in Southeast Asia.*

*Other projects included the Hill 12 cantonment at Quang Tri (shown below). In just sixty days Seabees from NMCB 74 converted a wilderness area into this sizeable military cantonment. Another project was also accomplished during the latter part of 1968 while the battalion was on its second Vietnam tour. This was a multi-story para-loft for the Marine AEI Group 13 at Chu Lai shown on the left of this page.*







*Seabees from NMCB 121 spread oil on the road bed to firm up the surface of National Route One in the photograph above.*

*On the right, Seabees make repairs to the Hue Causeway during the monsoon season while in the photograph below, other members of the battalion install a POL pumping station at the Tan My POL Farm on Coleo Island northeast of Hue City.*



COMCBLANT UNIT		CDR B. E. Stultz, CEC Feb 67 - Present	
NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION		<b>121</b>	
VIETNAM DEPLOYMENTS			
Phu Bai-Gia Le Oct 68 - Present		Hue-Phu Bai Aug 67 - Mar 68	



COMCBLANT UNIT	CDR D. W. Wittschiebe, CEC Apr 67 - Present
NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION	<b>128</b>
VIETNAM DEPLOYMENT	
Danang East Oct 67 - Jul 68	



*NMCB 128 made Camp Faulkner, Danang East (above) its home from October 1967 until July 1968. A few months after the battalion departed Vietnam the Camp was decommissioned by NMCB 3.*



*This 100-bed hospital (upper left) was built by NMCB 128's Seabees in a record eight days. Another high priority project (lower left) was the upgrading and repairs at MAG 16's runway which remained open to air traffic during the upgrading period.*

*Charlie Company personnel (below) work on the construction of the Bachelor Officer Quarters at the 212th Aviation Battalion near Danang.*

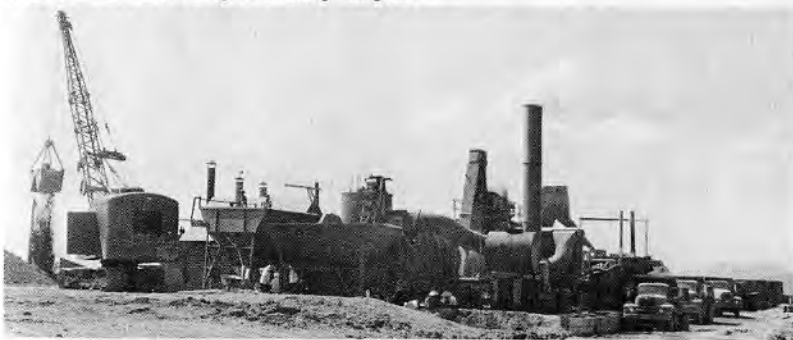




NMCB 133's asphalt spreader applies asphalt to the Col Co Road (above). The Seabees surfaced the roadbed prepared earlier by NMCB's 3 and 8 as denoted by the sign on the spreader.

Nine miles long, through hostile territory, across swamps and mountains, the Song Ta Trach pipeline was a real challenge for the battalion's BRAVO Company. The 12-inch line terminated at the Song Ta Trach River west of Hue. Today the line carries raw water from the river to the Dong Da treatment plant at Phu Bai.

The two photographs below depict other projects assigned the battalion. In the first photo Seabees operate the 80-ton per hour asphalt plant which they also assembled from three separate plants using "imagineering" and "Seabeeized" parts. In the photo at the bottom Seabees build one of 16 250-man messhalls for the U. S. Army at Camp Eagle.



COMCBLANT UNIT		CDR F. H. Lewis, Jr., CEC Jul 68 - Present
NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION	<b>133</b>	CDR E. H. Marsh II, CEC Aug 66 - Jul 68
VIETNAM DEPLOYMENTS		
<u>Hue-Phu Bai</u> Mar 68 - Dec 68		<u>Danang East</u> Feb 67 - Oct 67



COMCBPAC UNIT		<b>301</b>	CDR W. E. Burdick, CEC Jun 68 - Present LCDR H. A. Holmes, CEC Apr 67 - Jun 68
CONSTRUCTION BATTALION MAINTENANCE UNIT			Dong Ha Jun 67 - Present



*Khe Sanh runway (above) is being upgraded and rebuilt by Seabee Detail BRAVO from CBMU 301 during the days just prior to the enemy siege. The Detail remained at Khe Sanh during the enemy offensive to continue runway and base repairs which were many.*

*To the right is an aerial view of CBMU 301's Camp Spillman at Dong Ha.*



*Seabees from Detail ALFA at An Hoa carry a power line pole fabricated by welding used ammunition cannisters end to end. Back at Dong Ha (bottom), Seabee "muscle power" is used to relocate a quonset hut.*





*CBMU 302 continued to provide maintenance support to the units operating in the Cam Ranh Bay and Delta areas. As the year progressed, the Seabee unit began a number of new construction projects including eight ammo storage pad shelters. During and after shots of the construction of one such pad is shown in the top and bottom photographs.*

*Maintenance projects included filling in washed out portions of the only road (right) that links the U. S. Naval Communication Station with the Naval Support Facility at Cam Ranh Bay. It took over 5000 cubic yards of material to complete this job.*



COMCBPAC UNIT	LCDR H. W. Filbry, CEC Sep 68 - Present
CONSTRUCTION BATTALION MAINTENANCE UNIT	<b>302</b>
Cam Ranh Bay Sep 67 - Present	



# CIVIC ACTION



As in past years the Seabee headquarters, battalions and maintenance units continued a very effective and vigorous civic action program around the various deployment sites with assistance being provided an average of 39 villages and hamlets monthly throughout 1968.

Building projects completed included the construction of 14 additional classrooms at existing Vietnamese schools; seven new school houses; five new medical and maternity facilities to service the Vietnamese; 37 culverts and bridges; upgradings of farm to market and village roads; and, various other projects which included the placement of 12 new water wells and the upgrading of existing fresh water wells. Also, a number of Vietnamese hospitals were repaired and/or expanded while orphanage buildings were enlarged to handle the ever increasing numbers of orphans caused by the TET enemy offensive. During the year the Seabees also built and re-built churches and temples for those villages and hamlets that had none because of the tempo of the war in their areas.

Medical and dental assistance was impressive again this year

with a total of 74,300 Vietnamese being treated for medical problems and another 4,900 villagers being assisted by the battalions' dental personnel. A high total of 230 surgery cases were handled during the 12 month period while 41 nurses aides were trained or continued on-the-job training at the various Seabee Camp dispensaries.

As usual the commodities distributed were impressive. For construction purposes 1,110,500 pounds of hydrated cement, 925,000 board feet of scrap lumber, 53,000 pounds of scrap roofing tin, and 75,000 pounds of miscellaneous scrap materials were provided the villagers and hamlet dwellers in the I Corps during the year. Clothing and food ranked high on the list of items distributed with 37,000 pounds of clothing and over 58 tons of food stuffs reaching the needy Vietnamese through village and hamlet visits. Also distributed during these "house calls" were 63,200 bars of soap, 3,000 pounds of toys, and 1,720 pounds of non-prescription medical supplies and health aids.





A Seabee dozes (above) an access road amidst the battle-marked buildings at Saigon's Gia Dinh Sector. The road leads to houses being built by the Seabees for refugees made homeless by enemy attacks during the TET and May enemy offensives. A Seabee dentist treats a Vietnamese villager during a village visit in the photograph below.



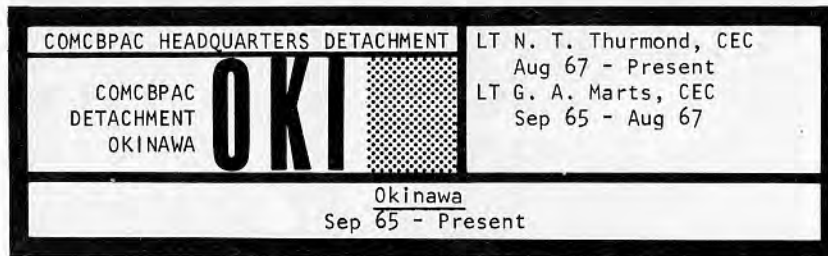
A small bridge built in the Vinh Loc District of Thua Thien.

Rounding out the year was the deliveries to the schools which netted the Vietnamese educational system another 13,000 pounds of much needed school supplies consisting of everything from pencils and paper to blackboards and books.

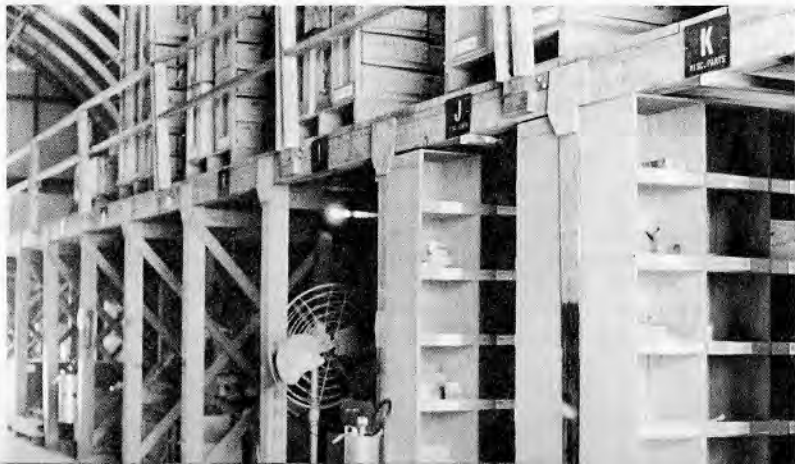
With education in mind, classes were held in the English language at many of these schools. With an average attendance of 39 Vietnamese, the Seabees provided 672 language classes during the year, each lasting an average of one and one-half hours. Besides providing language classes the Seabees also instituted on-the-job training classes for hundreds of refugees and local villagers in the vocations of refrigeration and air conditioning repair, the building and construction trades, and bus and equipment operation and maintenance.

A total of 13,400,000\$ piastres from the battalions' Civic Action and Chapel Funds and personal contributions were spent on orphanages, religious organizations and individual students. This last category received the lion's share with 7,000,000\$ going to aid needy students in their pursuit of a half-way decent education in a war-torn country.

As can be seen by this all too brief summary, the Seabees in Southeast Asia were a very industrious and aggressive group of sailors during 1968 in their efforts to help the Vietnamese help themselves during the Seabees' limited off-duty time.



COMCBPAC Detachment Okinawa continued in its role as expediter of emergency repair parts for in-country units and also as overseer of the CBPAC equipment overhaul functions on Okinawa. In the above photograph are some of the Detachment's warehouses while below is a view of the parts storage bins that line the walls of these warehouses. Emergency repair parts for in-country Seabee equipment are often shipped by the fastest means available on the same day received. Millions of dollars of repair parts are handled by the Detachment each year.

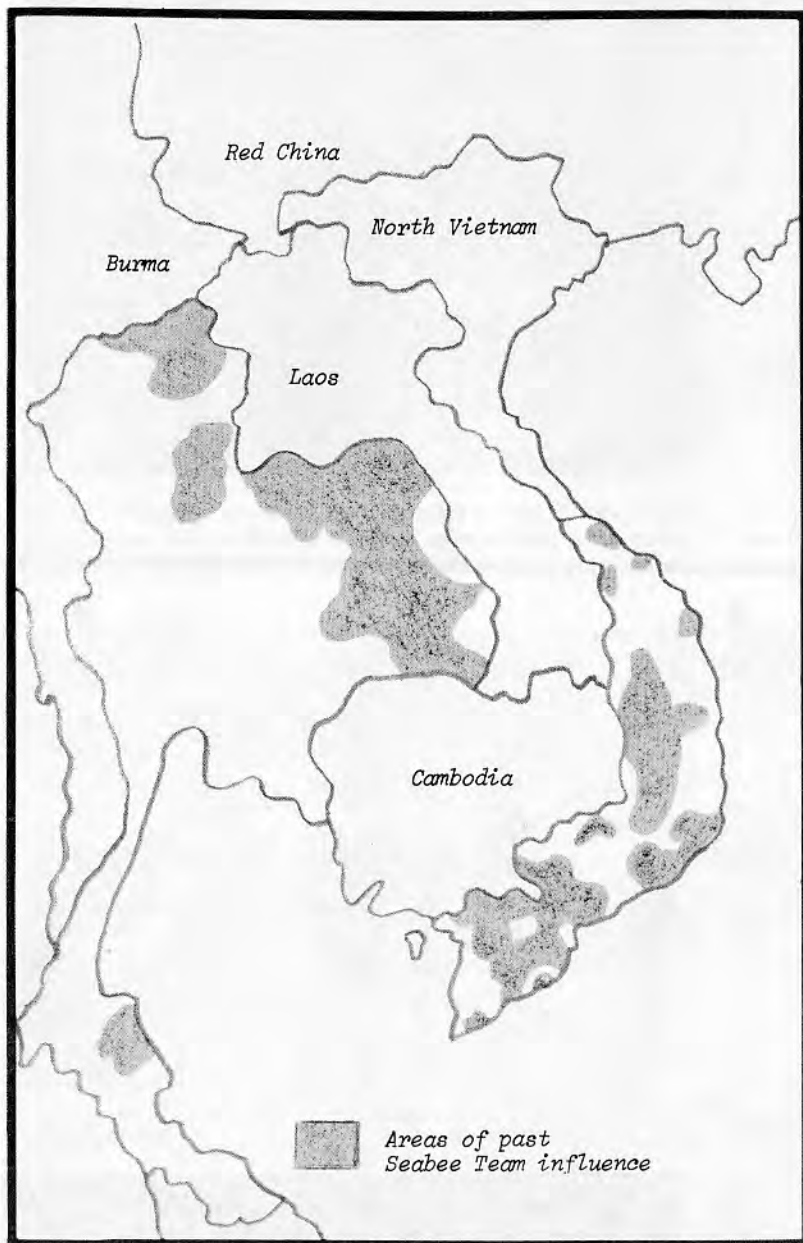


By the close of 1968 COMCBPAC Detachment Thailand had begun the phase out of the Seabee Teams from the Border Patrol Police Program. One Team was already redeployed to Satahup in support of the Royal Thai Marines under MACTHAI sponsorship, thus beginning a new Team program of assistance in that country, the third such program in five and a half years. A complete run-down of the world-wide Seabee Team efforts can be found in the recently published booklet, "Seabee Teams, Helping Others Help Themselves," available on request from COMCBPAC (Code CB14).

On their own with very little Seabee supervision, Thai BPP install a bridge at Chiang Kham.







COMCBPAC HEADQUARTERS DETACHMENT	
COMCBPAC DETACHMENT REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM	<b>RVN</b>
Saigon Sep 63 - Present	
LCDR W. F. Frazier, CEC Dec 68 - Present LCDR A. N. Olsen, CEC Jun 68 - Dec 68 LCDR A. S. Poole, Jr., CEC Aug 67 - Jun 68 LCDR T. N. Tate, CEC Jul 66 - Aug 67 LCDR D. B. Wile, CEC Jun 65 - Jul 66 LCDR J. R. Wear, CEC Sep 64 - Jun 65 LCDR J. A. Wright, CEC Sep 63 - Sep 64	

The Seabee Team program, under the operational control of COMCBPAC Detachment-Republic of Vietnam in Saigon, grew from eight to 15 employed Seabee Teams during the year. Likewise, the Detachment's headquarters and supply yard had to be expanded in order to provide the logistic support required by this increased number of Teams. Below is a photograph of the Detachment's new headquarters and supply yard. The headquarters office spaces are located in the building in the upper left of the photograph.



# SEABEE TEAMS

## Vietnam & Thailand

The Navy's 13-man Seabee Teams have been operating in Southeast Asia since early 1963 building bridges, hospitals, schools, civic centers, roads, dams and housing. These same Teams have also provided training to thousands of Vietnamese and Thais in basic and advanced construction methods including equipment operation and maintenance, well drilling and digging, and modern carpentry. Also provided has been medical assistance by the Team corpsmen to thousands of these rural villagers.

During 1968 the Team program in the Republic of Vietnam continued under United States Agency for International Development (USAID) sponsorship with an expansion of the program. Working on Civil Operations and Revolutionary Development Support (CORDS) coordinated projects, the initial eight Teams expanded to 15 Teams employed in-country by mid-1968.

In the Kingdom of Thailand the Seabee Team support of the Thai Border Patrol Police program (BPP) under United States Operations Mission (USOM) sponsorship began to phase out and a new program was instituted in support of the Royal Thai Marines under the sponsorship of the U.S. Military Assistance Command, Thailand (MACTHAI). At the close of the year only one Team remained in the BPP program and Team 1014 was operating with the Royal Thai Marines building a new camp at Rayong.

Teams that were employed in Southeast Asia during 1968 are listed below. (\* - RVN deployment; \*\* - RVN deployed as of 31 December; # - THAI deployment; and, ## - THAI deployed as of 31 December.)

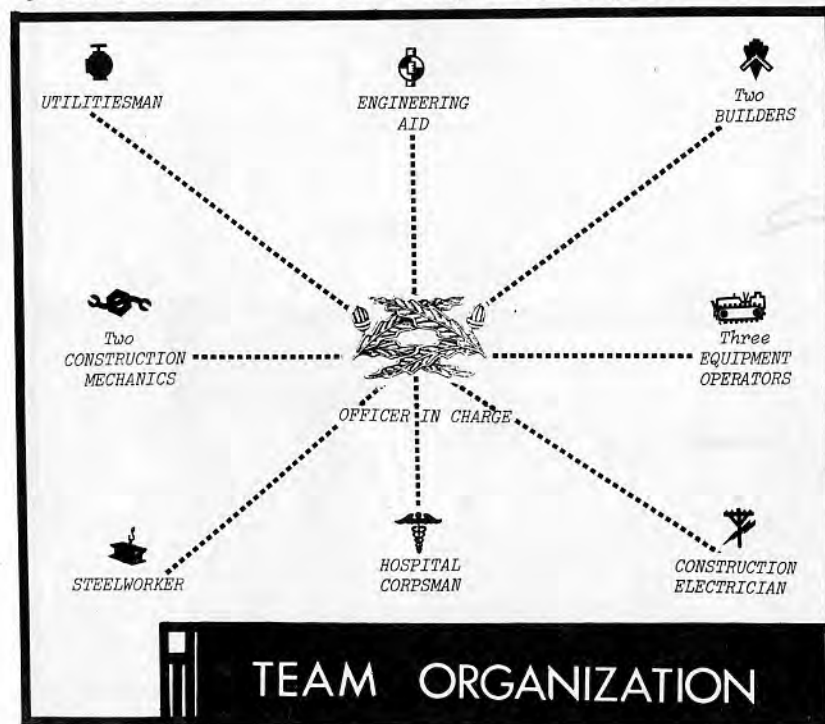
NMCB 1	NMCB 3	NMCB 4	NMCB 5	NMCB 6	NMCB 7	NMCB 8	NMCB 9
0101**	0310**	0408*	0511*	0601*	0701*	0808#	0911#
0102**	0311**	0409*	0512#	0602*	0702*	0809*	0912*
			0513**	0603**	0703**		0913**
				0604**	0704**		

NMCB 10	NMCB 11	NMCB 40	NMCB 53	NMCB 58	NMCB 62	NMCB 71
1011*	1110*	4001*	No	5801*	6201*	7101*
1012#	1111#	4002*	Teams	5802*		
1013**	1112##		Deployed			
1014##			In 1968.			

NMCB 74	NMCB 121	NMCB 128	NMCB 133
7401*	12101**	12801**	13301*
7402*	12102**	12802**	13302*



A Seabee from Team 0311 instructs a Vietnamese trainee how to operate a dozer near the Team's camp at Can Tho, RVN.





*EO1 C. R. Webb from Seabee Team 0912 spreads fill for the Hoang Dieu Street project at Xuan Loc City above. In the photograph below, Seabees from 7101 constructed this 280-foot cable suspension bridge at Phu My Village across the Ba Bao Canal for pedestrian traffic.*



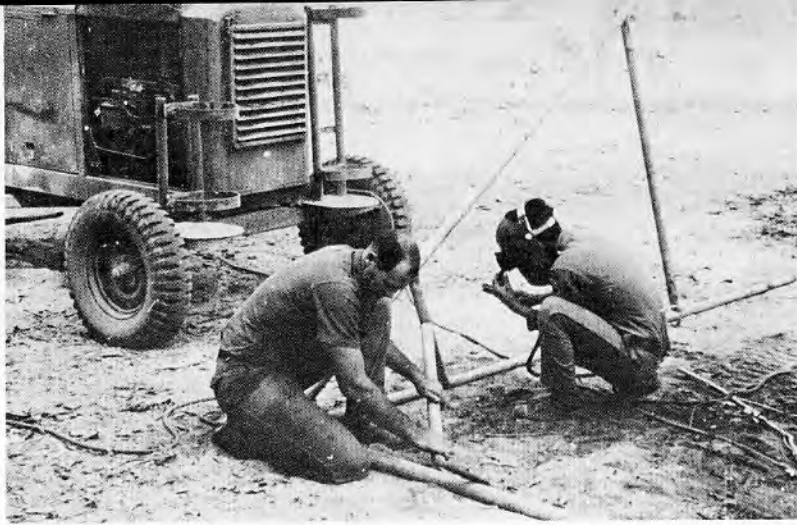
*The Le Loi Marketplace (above) goes up at Xuan Loc City in Long Khanh Province under the supervision of BU2 I. W. Thomas. On the job training (below) is conducted by CM1 Norbert Falkenstein of Seabee Team 4002. This engine and generator was later installed at the Dong Toi Village electrification project by the Seabee and his trainees from Go Cong Village.*





*A steelworker trainee (above) puts his Seabee training to work on a water tank while Seabees (below) from Team 0408 install a merry-go-round they built during their spare time. In the photograph on the left, fresh potable water is minutes away for the Montagnard villagers as EO2 Christensen of Team 0701 adds the finishing touches to his "homemade" drilling rig at Dien Khan near the coastal city of Nha Trang.*





SW3 K. E. Hanggi of Team 0512 (above) and his Border Patrol Police counterpart work on swings to be used at a school in Phum Saron, Thailand. On the right, SW1 L. D. Robertson of Team 0808 sets casings under water for a well at Bung Kan in northeastern Thailand while HM2 J. Erickson (below) instructs his BPP counterpart in proper diagnosis during a village sick call near Phum Saron.



# SEABEE HEROES

## awards and decorations

### THE UNITS THE MEN

#### PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

Seabee Details from CBMU 301 and NMCB's 5, 10 and 53 that served in support of the Marines at the siege of Khe Sanh during the period January 20 - April 1, 1968

#### NAVY UNIT COMMENDATION

CBMU 302 for the period August 18 of 1967 - January 1, 1968 as supporting unit of NSA Saigon

30TH NCR and attached Seabee units (NMCB's 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 40, 58, 62, 71, 74 and 133) for the period September 1, 1966 - July 31, 1967

NMCB 10 for the periods May 7 - December 7, 1965 & May 17, 1966 - December 2, 1966

Seabee Team 1104 for the Dong Xoai action June 9 - 11, 1965

#### MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION

Seabee Team 1108 for the period April 12 - September 18, 1967

#### FLEET AND CONSTRUCTION FORCE AWARDS

NMCB 5, "Best of Type", U. S. Pacific Fleet for Fiscal Year 1968

NMCB 74, "Best of Type", U. S. Atlantic Fleet for Fiscal Year 1968

NMCB 5, "Peltier Award" for 1968

#### INDIVIDUAL U. S. AWARDS AND MEDALS

	1968	Total '63-8
Medal of Honor (#)	1	1
Silver Star	1	5
Legion of Merit w/Combat "V"	4	10
Legion of Merit	3	5
Navy and Marine Corps Medal	4	7
Bronze Star w/Combat "V"	40	73
Bronze Star	4	10
Joint Service Commendation Medal	2	3
Navy Commendation Medal w/Combat "V"	141	261
Navy Commendation Medal	38	167
Army Commendation Medal	3	12
Air Force Commendation Medal	—	1
Secretary of the Navy Commendation for Achievement Ribbon w/Combat "V"	—	79
Secretary of the Navy Commendation for Achievement Ribbon	—	41
Navy Achievement Medal w/Combat "V" (****)	230	250
Navy Achievement Medal (****)	59	80
Purple Heart (*****)	189	476
Presidential Unit Citation	**	**
Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon	**	**
Meritorious Unit Commendation Ribbon	**	**
Military Assistance Command, Vietnam Certificate of Achievement	463	591

Commander in Chief U. S. Pacific Fleet Letter of Commendation	41	56
FIRST Marine Division Certificate of Commendation	1	1
Vietnam Service Medal	***	***
Vietnamese Campaign Medal	***	***

#### VIETNAMESE AWARDS TO INDIVIDUAL SEABEES

Chuong My Medal, First Class	1	1
National Order of Vietnam, Fifth Class	1	1
Order of Gallantry w/Palm	—	2
Gallantry Cross w/Palm	2	2
Gallantry Cross w/Gold Star	1	1
Gallantry Cross w/Silver Star	12	13
Gallantry Cross w/Bronze Star	23	23
Star of Honor	3	3
Medal of Honor, First Class	6	12
Medal of Honor, Second Class	13	15
Military Merit Medal	—	2
Technical Service Medal, Second Class	3	3

(#) Awarded posthumously to CMA3 Marvin G. Shields for his heroic actions during the siege at Dong Xoai.

(\*) Killed in action during 1968.

(\*\*) Awarded to personnel serving with cited unit during award period. See unit awards listing.

(\*\*\*) Awarded to all Seabees serving in the Republic of Vietnam.

(\*\*\*\*) Awarded after July 1967 in lieu of the Secretary of the Navy Commendation for Achievement Ribbon.

(\*\*\*\*\*) Since June 1965 a total of 57 Seabees, including three Civil Engineer Corps officers, have been killed in action in the Republic of Vietnam. See listing for names and units.

# THE HEROES

## NMCB 1

BUC W. W. McGinn\*  
 LTJG A. D. Moscrip, Jr., CEC\*  
 CN B. W. Starkey  
 SWE3 J. K. Williams, Jr.

## NMCB 3

SN R. L. Blevins\*  
 YN2 D. C. Coker  
 EOCN L. N. Stangel\*  
 EON3 N. G. Waltz  
 CM1 J. W. Wilkinson  
 EON3 L. L. Williams

## NMCB 4

EOC J. C. Haines  
 BUL3 C. A. Hubbard  
 CMH3 R. E. Kasper  
 CET3 L. R. Riddle

## NMCB 5

BU2 J. W. Borders\*  
 CE2 J. P. Hartlage\*  
 BUHCN R. E. Huestis  
 CN E. E. Nevins\*  
 BUR2 W. D. Thompson, Jr.

## NMCB 6

E01 H. C. Cousineau\*

## NMCB 7

CMCN R. L. Davis\*  
 SN R. H. Schoener\*  
 CM3 R. M. Sprout\*  
 UTCN J. P. Van Dusen\*

## NMCB 8

BUR3 M. D. Estok  
 UTP2 J. O. Miller

## NMCB 9

SD3 R. P. Adenir  
 BU3 G. R. DeShurley\*  
 CMCN J. F. Galati\*  
 BUL2 D. D. Haskins  
 BUCN M. E. Hodel\*  
 EOCN H. G. Hodges\*  
 BU3 A. L. Mair\*  
 BU3 J. F. Peek\*  
 BUCN J. R. Retzloff\*

## NMCB 11

EOCS D. J. Barnes  
 BURCN A. J. Grasso  
 BUR2 J. L. Newman  
 BURCN J. D. Patterson  
 BUHCN R. J. Wager

## SEABEE TEAM 1104

SW2 W. C. Hoover  
 CMA3 M. G. Shields

## NMCB 58

BU2 G. P. Helsley\*

## NMCB 62

BU3 A. L. Adams\*  
 BUCN D. J. Bermingham\*  
 BURCN M. E. Boon  
 EON3 F. E. Camden  
 CN D. A. Fleskes\*  
 EO3 A. F. Moore\*

## NMCB 121

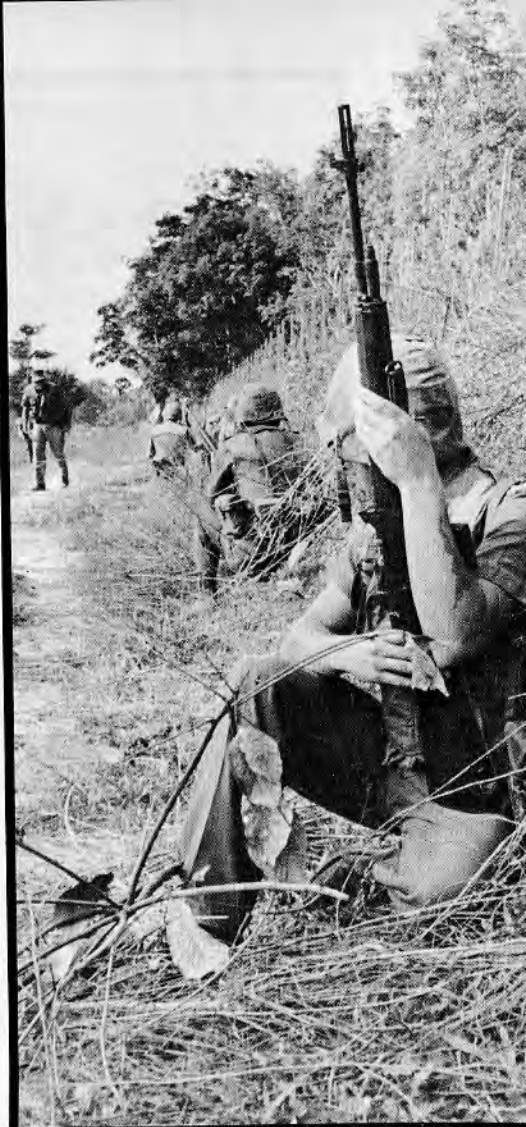
SWC G. J. Dibble  
 BUR3 J. R. Morvay  
 LT J. J. Rhodes, CEC

## NMCB 128

BU1 P. T. Hallman\*  
 LTJG M. D. Hollingsworth, CEC\*  
 EON3 K. A. McEnany

## CBMU 301

SW2 E. C. Adams\*  
 BU1 C. O. Spillman\*



# seabee

# ART

featuring  
VERKAMP  
GALLEN  
TABE  
ROACH  
HENLEY  
STEARNS  
CARRAUTERS

In the first phase of an expanding search for works of art depicting the efforts of the Seabees, COMCBPAC has become the collection point and sponsor of various Seabee Art Exhibits. The first collection of art, shown on this and the following pages, was scheduled for showing at the 1969 Seabee Ball in Hawaii, the Eighth Armed Forces Art Festival in Honolulu, at the Naval Facilities Engineering Command headquarters in Washington, D. C., the Seabee Museum at Port Hueneme, California and then return in late 1969 for entry into a gala Seabee Art Exhibit in early 1970 in Hawaii.

The entire program has been designed to provide the Seabees with not only a written and photographic history, but also an artistic rendering of the various deployment sites, Seabee activities, the surrounding environs, homeport activities, and generally, just about everything that could be recorded using artists' brushes, pens and charcoal. The entire selection of Seabee art will be a special feature in a forthcoming COMCBPAC REPORTS publication. The art work that follows is a combination of lay and professional artists' efforts and is presented here as a preview of the gala event in early 1970.

*Titled "One Little Candle", this unique linoleum cut was the work of JO3 A. A. Tabe, NMCB 74. It features the M-16 rifle in a vertical position with the three decade old peace symbol at the top.*







*"Team Work" is another linoleum cut by JO3 Tabe.*



*"Seabees relaxing around a weapons carrier"-Roach*

ROACH:  
A PORTFOLIO

*While on Combat Art assignment in Vietnam for the Navy Chief of Information, Seaman John C. Roach spent some time with the Seabees in I Corps. Here is a portfolio of his work showing the Seabees in their day-to-day efforts. The originals were done in striking color by Roach, the only professional artist represented in this small exhibit of Seabee Art.*

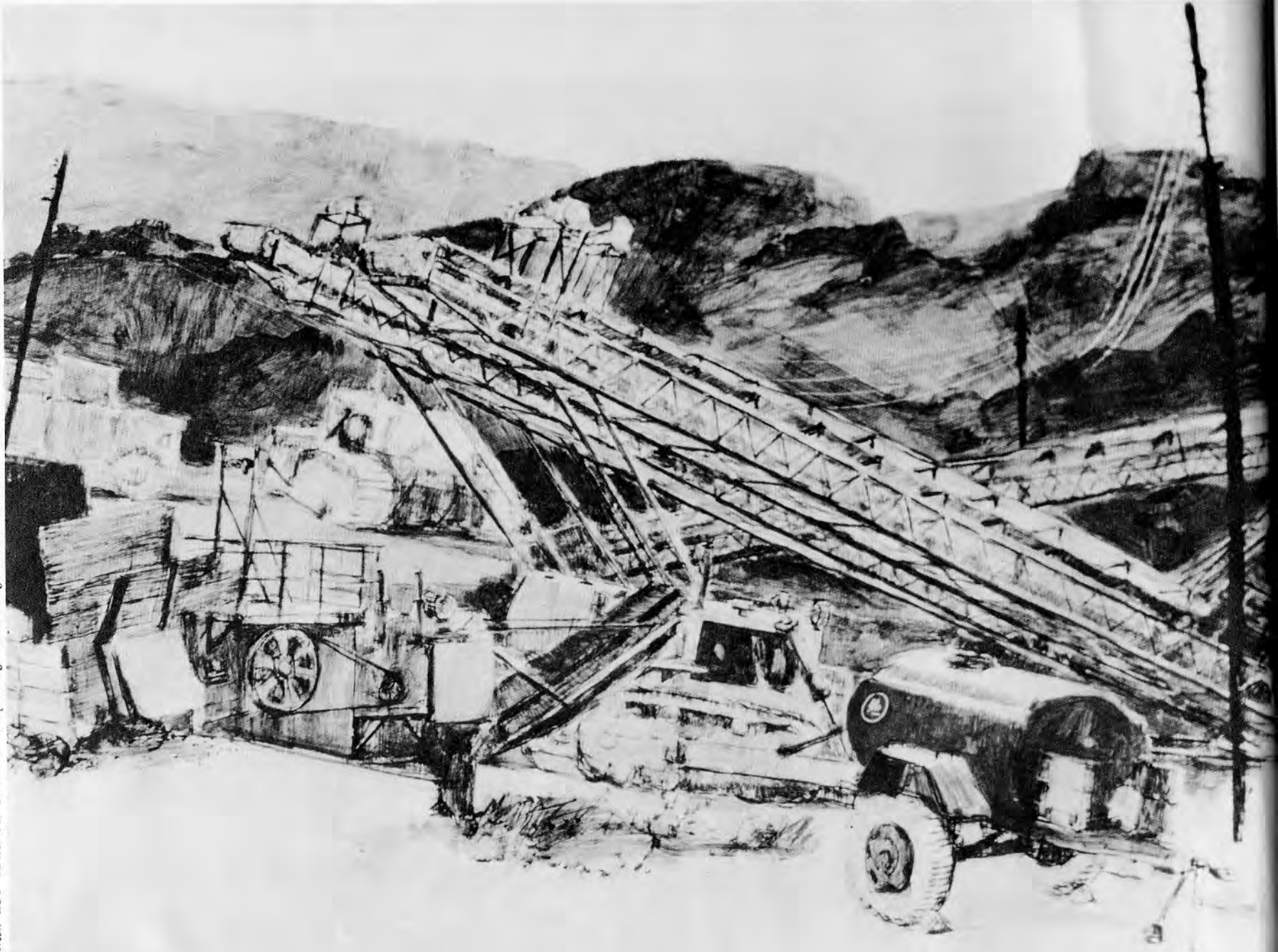


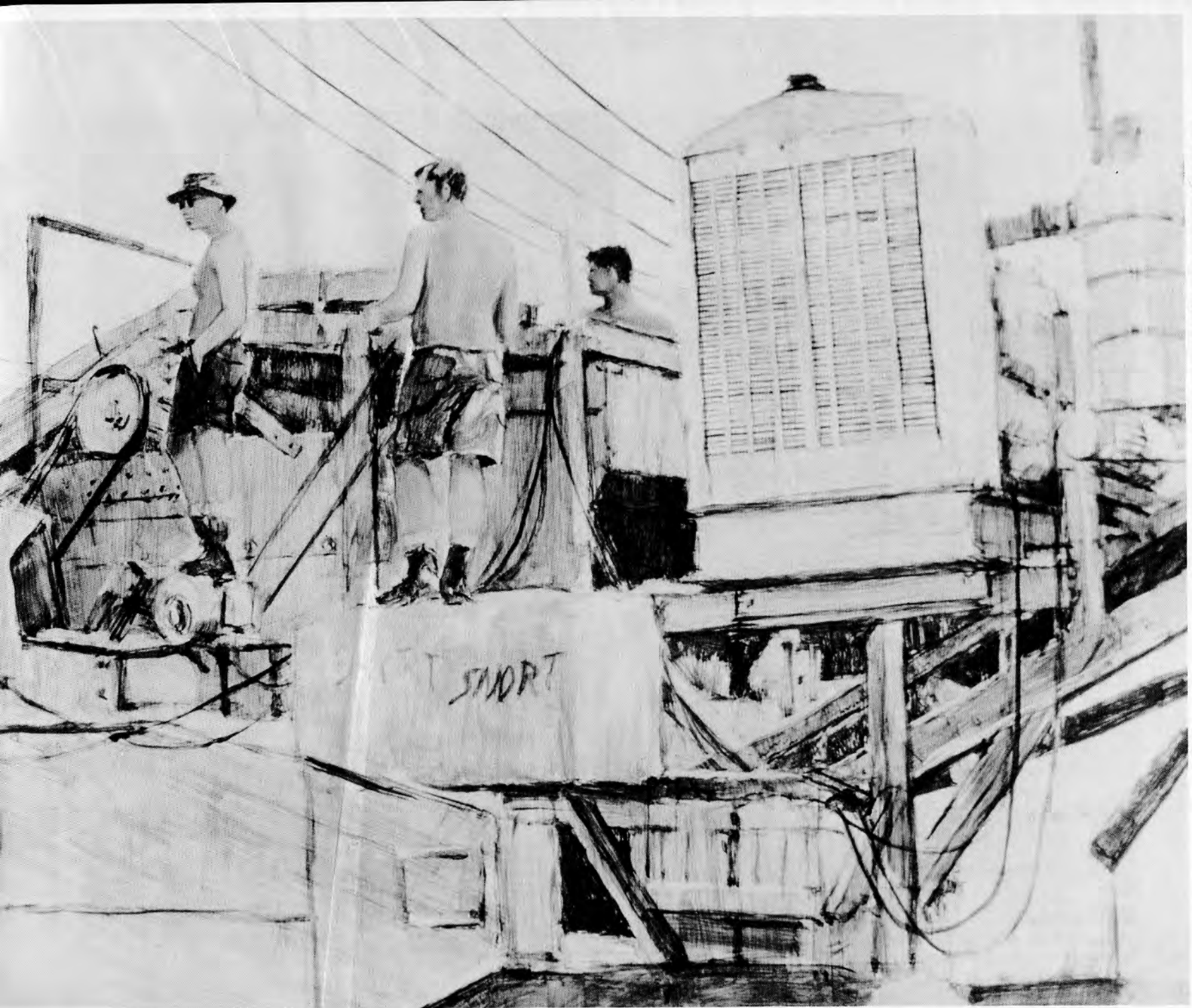
*"Dozing on the Danang barrier"-Roach*



*"Vietnamese sandbag detail al la Seabee"-Roach*



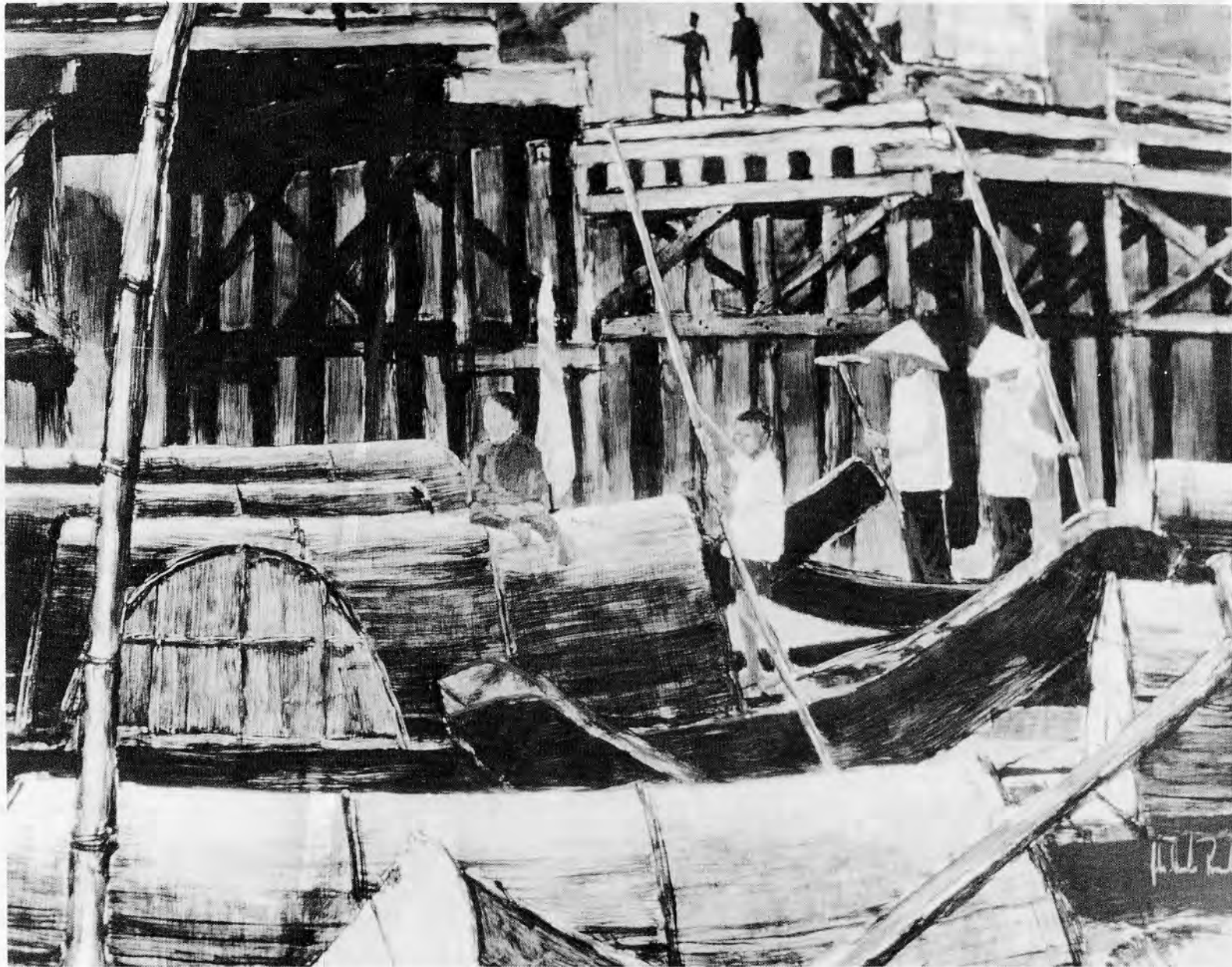




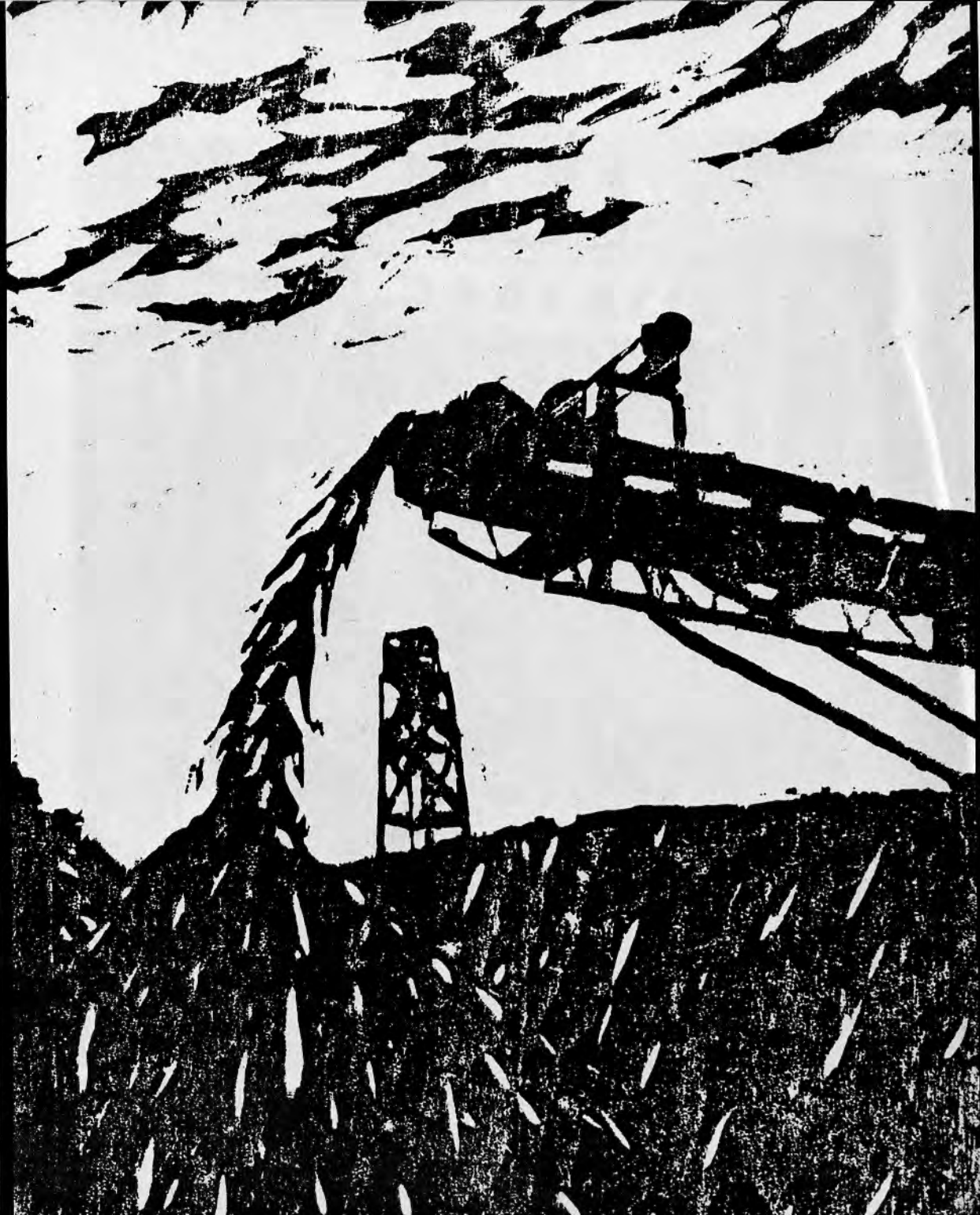
"Close-up on crusher operations"-Roach







*"Route One's Bridge Five under construction"-Roach*



HENLEY  
&  
CARRUTHERS

*LCDR Joseph L. Henley,  
CEC, USN,  
while serving on the  
Staff of COMCBPAC,  
did this bold woodcut,  
which depicts "Crushed  
Rock for Roads to  
Victory!"*

*Another fine example  
of using what's available  
was provided by  
CE3 John D. Carruthers  
of NMCB 121 in the canvas  
on the following page.  
Carruthers used a piece  
of tarpaulin stretched  
on a two-by-four frame  
as the "canvas" for  
his colorful "latex"  
painting of  
"Gia Le".*





**A**



**B**



**C**

VERKAMP  
"ALL HANDS -  
A SEABEE BATTALION"

*This impressive  
series of linoleum  
cuts tell graphically  
the various expertise  
found in a  
Naval Mobile  
Construction Battalion's  
various companies.*

*The series was  
accomplished by  
LTJG*

*C. M. Verkamp,  
CEC, USN,  
of NMCB 74.*





STEARNS  
PENCIL  
SKETCHES

*Using nothing  
more than a  
few pencils  
and an artist pad  
of paper*

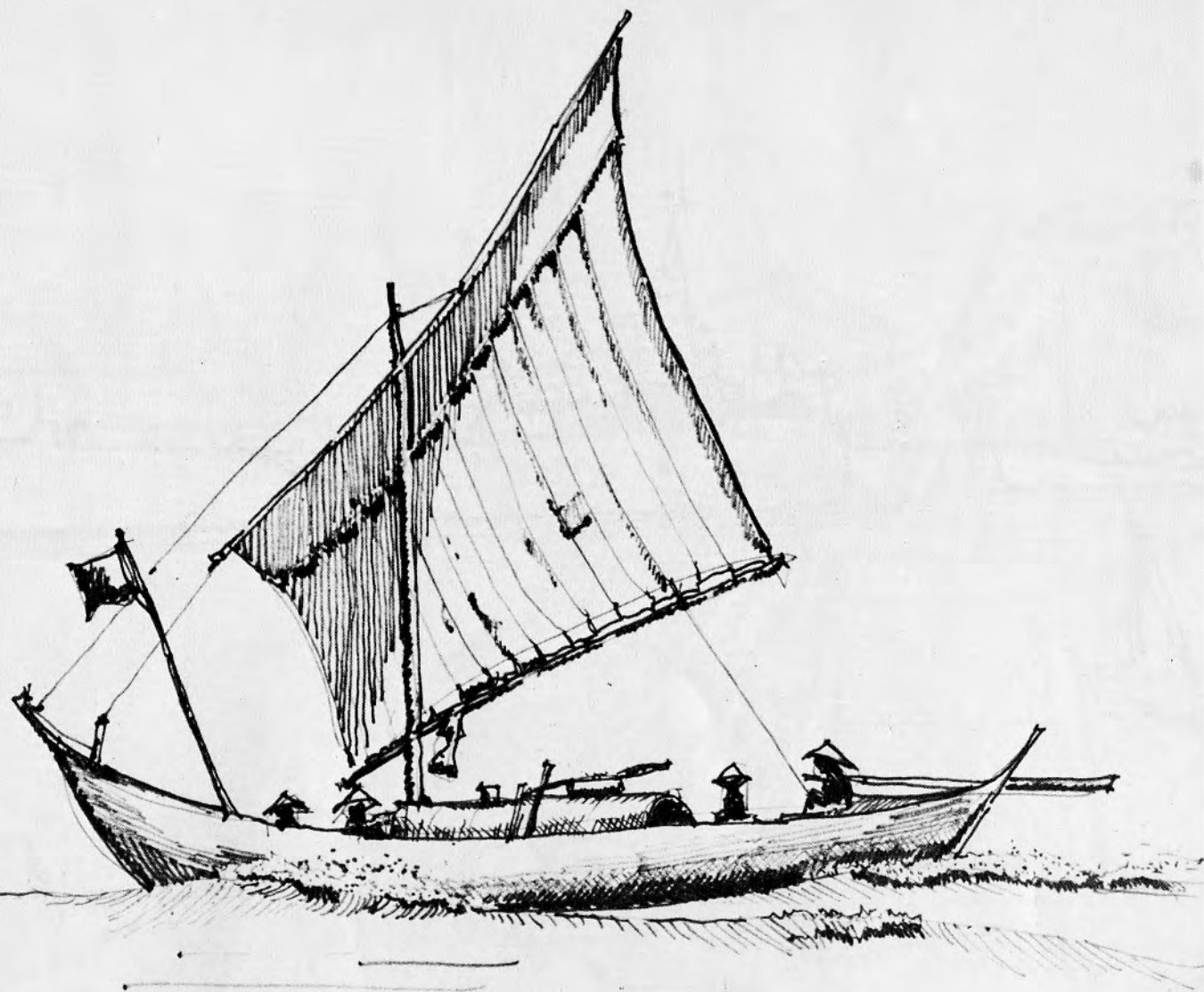
*LTJG*

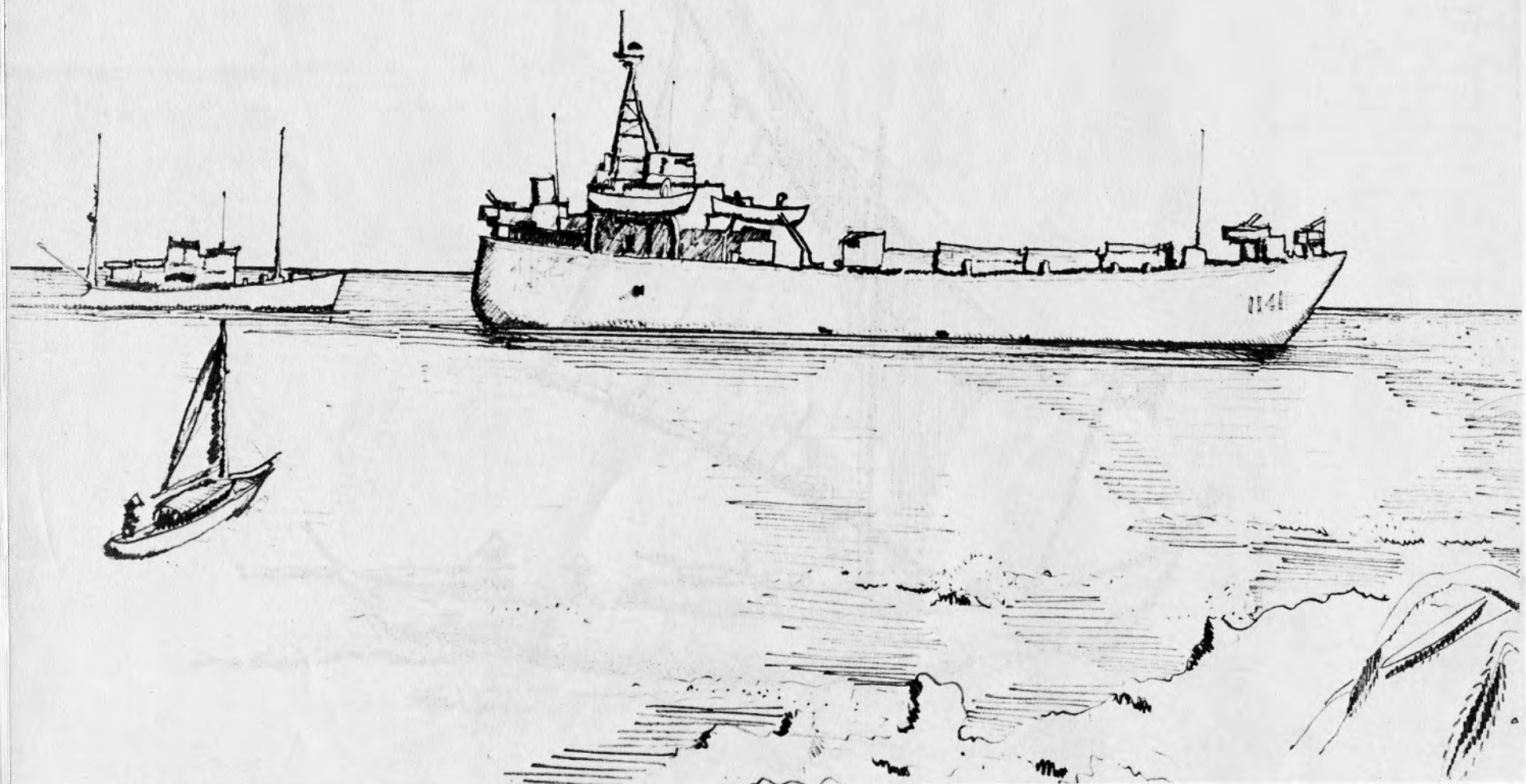
*C. D. Stearns,  
a CEC officer  
from NMCB 71,  
has provided  
some very interesting  
interpretations of  
Chu Lai and Seabee  
Camp Miller.*

"MLO Yard"

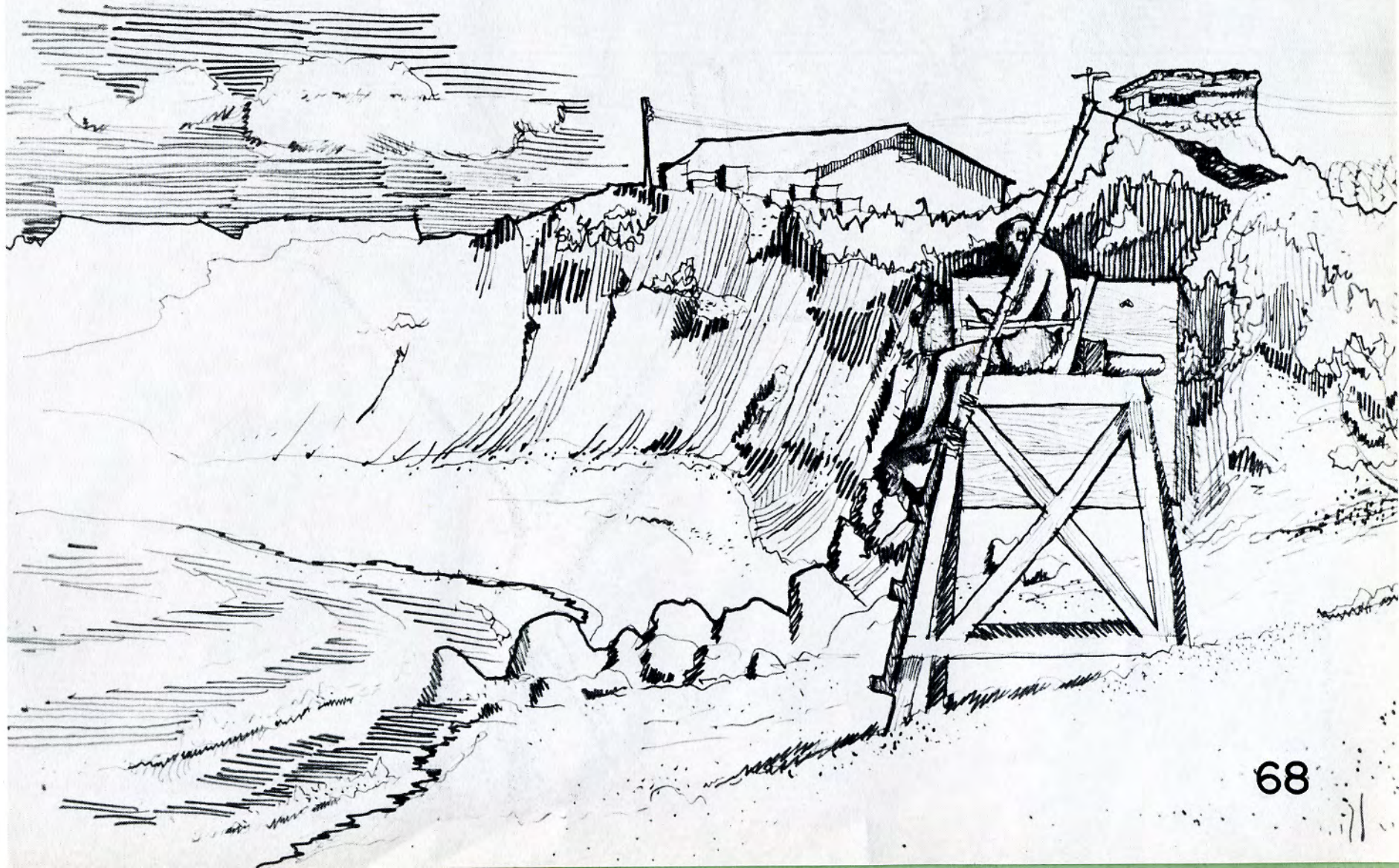
"Camp Miller"

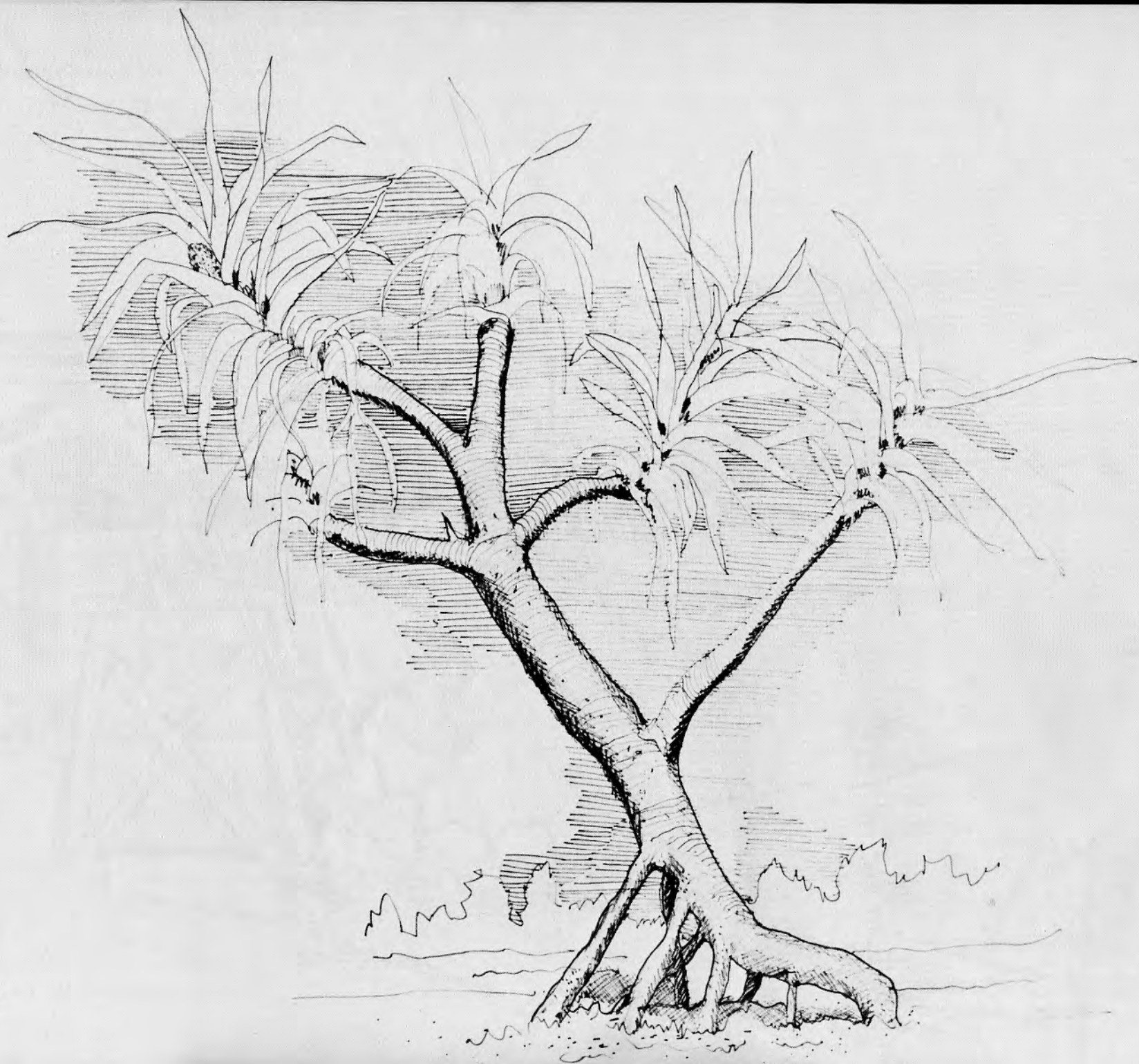












GALLEN  
AND  
"CONCRETE"

*Using felt-tip  
pens and a  
variety of colors,  
ENS  
K. P. Gallen,  
CEC, USN,  
of NMCB 71  
provided the Seabee  
Art Exhibit with  
a number of fine  
renderings.*

*"Concrete" was  
selected for  
display here because  
it is just as  
effective a  
presentation in  
monochrome as  
in color.*





a  
brief  
look  
at  
the  
seabees  
during

COMCBPAC REPORTS

**1968**