

From Bob Ventimiglia

1st Deployment to Camp Campbell, Hue-Phu Bai, RVN

1966

08 December

...On 08 December, MCB-62 relieved MCB-7 at Phu Bai and became the first battalion from the reopened Construction Battalion Center at Gulfport, Mississippi to operate in Vietnam.

15 December

...NMCB-62's Dong Ha Detail under ENS Herrmann, rejoined the Battalion at Camp Campbell after turning its project over to NMCB-5.

1967

01 January

...An NMCB-62 convoy of Charlie Company personnel were returning from a bridge repair job south of Phu Bai on National Route 1 and came under enemy fire. Fire was returned and resulted in one probable enemy KIA.

16 January

... CDR R.H. Miller, CEC, USN, Operations Officer, CBPAC; LCDR J.G. Bauer, Training Officer, CBLANT; and LCDR F.M. Newcomb, CEC, USN, Training Officer, CBPAC, visited NMCB-62 at Camp Campbell

17 January

1967...CAPT S.J. Wynne, CEC, USN; CDR B.F. Burch, CEC, USN; and MAJ H. Huntzinger, USMC, all with Base Development, Da Nang, visited NMCB-62 at Camp Campbell.

20 January

...At approximately 0145, NMCB-62 at Camp Campbell received six rounds of 82mm mortar fire. This was a portion of the total of 59 rounds taken within the Phu Bai Combat Base. One hut in the Alpha Company berthing area and one in the Delta Company area sustained direct hits. Casualties sustained as a result of the attack were two KIA, EO3 Francis E. Camden, Wheaton MD and BUCN Murlin Boon, Watonga, OK and seventeen WIA

24 January

...CAPT A.R. Marschall, CEC, USN, COM30NCR and CDR B.L. Saravia, CEC, USN, CO NMCB-40 visited NMCB-62 at Camp Campbell.

31 January

... A record 25 inches of rainfall was received during the month of January. Normal rainfall for January was 5.5 inches. In January heavy rains continued to slow construction in I Corps, with vertical construction reduced and horizontal construction (earth work) halted in some instances. However, satisfactory progress was made on many projects despite adverse weather conditions. Work under construction by MCB-62 during January included construction of a helicopter parking apron at Phu Bai, installation of a new deck for the Nong River Bridge and various well-drilling projects. Well-drilling projects at An Khe and Cu Chi were completed in January. Two producing wells were drilled at An Khe and five at Cu Chi.

04 February

...A defensive perimeter was established at the Gia Le quarry site to provide security for 24 hour/day operation of the quarry and crusher. The crusher was moved from the Phu Bai Combat Base to the quarry on 05 February 1967. This perimeter, set up by NMCB-62 proved to be an effective toehold from which the Marines later enlarged to become the Gia Le Combat Base. While clearing fields of fire, an MRS scraper hit an anti-personnel mine suffering extensive damage to a wheel and tire.

07 February

...CAPT Don Brazier, USNR, Seattle Times and CAPT A.R. Marschall, CEC, USN, COM30NCR, visited NMCB-62 at Camp Campbell.

24 February

...A survey crew from NMCB-62 along with Fox Company 2/9 Marines leave the battalion base camp at Phu Bai for a 4 day road survey project in Viet Cong held territory near the Dai Giang river. EAs Cormeyer, Walke, Kinney, Alley, Millar, and Schell along with BU3 Dacey performed the preliminary survey of 9 miles of trail for a future road upgrading project.

05 March

...NMCB-62 celebrated the Seabee 25th Birthday and the 100th anniversary of the CEC with activities including softball games, boxing smokers with 2/9 Marines, a concert by the 3rd Marine Division Band, and an evening show by Wilma Reading. A dinner of charcoal broiled steaks and trimmings was served by the Company Commanders and the 250 pound cake served by the Captain highlighted the day's activities.

27 March

1967...Lcdr Y. Young, CEC, USN, 31NCR visited NMCB-62 at Camp Campbell.

28 March

...RADM W.M. Heaman, CEC, USN, COMCBPAC; RADM P. E. Seufer, CEC, USN, COM3NCB; BGEN Bowles, USA; and CAPT C.W. Baker, CEC, CSO, COM3NCB, visited NMCB-62 at Camp Campbell.

2nd Deployment to Camp Haskins, Red Beach South, Danang, RVN

1967

31 December

...NMCB-62 Advance Party, consisting of 7 officers and 121 enlisted men, deployed to Camp Haskins South, Da Nang by C-141 aircraft and arrived to coordinate the BEEP and camp turnover from NMCB-74.

1968

01 January

...100 Seabees from NMCB-62 presented the Nation's Colors at the annual Sugar Bowl game held in **New Orleans** at which LSU defeated Wyoming 20-13

08 January

...NMCB-62/NMCB-74 BEEP commenced.

18 January

...NMCB-62/NMCB-74 BEEP concluded.

24 January

...NMCB-62 Main Body arrived at Da Nang via C-141 aircraft.

27 January

...NMCB-62 begins it's second RVN deployment at Camp Haskins South relieving NMCB 74 which was completing it's first RVN deployment

30 January

...A rocket/mortar attack occurred in the Da Nang area. NMCB-62 personnel remained in their mortar holes from 0200 to 0330. No rounds impacted in Camp Haskins South.
...Substantial military action took place during the TET offensive conducted by the enemy. Construction capability was lost due to disruption of transportation and requirement for increased security.

03 February

...CDR C.H. Swift, CHC, USN, COMCBPAC Staff, arrived at Camp Haskins South for a 2 day Administrative Inspection of NMCB-62.

06 February

...A rocket/mortar attack occurred at the U.S. Army's 1st Air Cavalry Division Maintenance Facility. NMCB-62 personnel remained in their mortar holes from 0100 to 0230. No rounds impacted within Camp Haskins South.

08 February

NMCB-62 Detail Sierra Alpha, consisting of 15 men, departed Camp Haskins South for Hai Van Pass to provide construction support for the 1st LAAM Battalion "A" Battery. The Detail rejoined the Battalion on 02 March 1968

09 February

...NMCB-62 Detail Sierra Bravo, consisting of 14 men, departed Camp Haskins South for Phu Gia to repair and maintain Route 1. The Detail rejoined the Battalion on 16 February 1968.

10 February

...An NMCB-62 working party repairing a bridge on Route 1 (L7014, AT933893), 7 miles north of Camp Haskins South, came under rifle and automatic weapons fire several times during the day. One pickup truck was slightly damaged. An NMCB-62 truck convoy was ambushed at 1100 on Route 1 (L7014, AT936907) 8 miles north of Camp Haskins South. A command detonated mine initiated the attack which was followed by rifle and automatic weapons fire. One Marine was wounded. No NMCB-62 casualties were sustained.

11 February

...During the evening hours 9 incoming mortar rounds fell near the camp site of NMCB-62 Detail Sierra Bravo (L7014, AT833998) located on Route 1, 15 miles north of Camp Haskins, near Phu Gia. The Detail's equipment had been moved from the impact area after dark, but prior to the attack, and was undamaged. No NMCB-62 casualties were sustained.

12 February

...An NMCB-62 working party repairing a blown bridge on Route 1 (L7014, AT936908), 8 miles north of Camp Haskins, came under rifle and automatic weapons fire several times. No damage or casualties were sustained.

13 February

...The left rear tire of an NMCB-62 front end loader was blown off by a land mine on Route 1 (L7014, AT822008). 16 miles north of Camp Haskins. A culvert was being installed at the location by Detail Sierra Bravo. No NMCB-62 casualties were sustained.

15 February

...An NMCB-62 lowboy trailer detonated a land mine while working on the maintenance and repair of Route 1 (L7014, AT938907), 8 miles north of Camp Haskins. No NMCB-62 injuries were sustained.

17 February

...An NMCB-62 truck convoy was ambushed on Route 1 (L7014, AT934885), 7 miles north of Camp Haskins at 1248 hours. The action was initiated by a command detonated mine and followed up by extensive rifle and automatic weapons fire. NMCB-62 sustained one KIA and four WIA as a result of the ambush:

EOH3 Amon F. Moore KIA
BURCN Johnathon P Grohs WIA
EON3 Billy G. McCormick WIA
EON3 Charles Polacek WIA
CN Marshall D. Durham WIA
(MCB-62 DCR 1968)

19 February

...NMCB-62 held a memorial service in the galley at Camp Haskins South for EOH3 Amon F. Moore.

27 February

...At 1530, an NMCB-62 jeep, with 2 men aboard, drew 3 rounds of small arms sniper fire while traveling on Route 1, near Da Nang, at coordinates AT983771. No casualties were sustained.

28 February

...CAPT C.W. Turner, CEC, USN, COM30NCR, visited NMCB-62 at Camp Haskins South and toured construction sites with CDR W.J. Richeson, CEC, USN, CO NMCB-62.

04 March

...A rocket attack occurred at the U.S. Army's 1st Air Cavalry Division Maintenance Facility and at the Force Logistics Command Camp, Camp Books, Red Beach, Da Nang. NMCB-62 personnel remained in their mortar holes from 0130 to 0215. No rounds impacted in Camp Haskins South. NMCB-62 personnel again went to their mortar holes from 0710 to 0740 when another rocket attack occurred at the FLC camp. Once again, no rounds impacted within Camp Haskins South.

05 March

...NMCB-62 celebrated the 26th Anniversary of the Seabees. Events of the afternoon included a softball game, a Special Services sponsored show, the cutting of a 350 pound anniversary cake and crowning of the Seabee Queen. RADM J.V. Bartlett, CEC, USN, COM3NCB and CAPT C.W. Turner, CEC, USN, COM30NCR participated in the ceremony; after which, the Queen and other Red Cross girls in her court assisted in serving a steak dinner to the men of NMCB-62.

11 March

... RADM J.V. Bartlett, CEC, USN, COM3NCR and CAPT C.W. Turner, CEC, USN, COM30NCR, toured construction sites with CDR W.J. Richeson, CEC, USN, CO NMCB-62.

24 March

...Although the threat in travel was probably less than in the previous months, several incidents experienced by the chaplains emphasized the reality of war. NMCB-62's Chaplain Carl W. Erickson, traveling from Red Beach to Phu Bai, about 50 miles northwest of Da Nang, relates: "...once over the Hai Van Pass it was a bone chilling,

damp, dusty rough ride...huddled on sandbags on the flat bed truck, shielding each other from the rain, whipped by the truck's motion, C-rats was the luncheon fare for the chaplain and crew...thanks to the bone bruising ride, the first night in Phu Bai was spent in sleep except for one flight to the mortar holes. The previous night one hundred rounds of rocket and mortar fire exploded in the Phu Bai Combat Base. What churches, pagodas, and imperial palace buildings and stores on street and province headquarters have in common is mute, jagged holes of conflict and busy, grimy smiling residents of their city in search of day to day living."

27 March

...31 NMCB-62 Alpha Company men (the first half of a total of 50 Equipment Operators and 12 Construction Mechanics) were deployed north to Phu Bai to augment NMCB-121's Alpha Company, to assist in the upgrading of Route 1. An additional 31 Alpha Company men joined the Detail on 29 March 1968

01 April

...Eight NMCB-62 Delta Company men departed to the first of 6 Special Forces Camps to construct 1 Quonset hut at each of the 6 separate camps located throughout the southern I Corps area.

04 April

...A rocket attack occurred at the U.S. Army's 1st Air Cavalry Division Maintenance Facility and at the Force Logistics Command Camp, Camp Brooks, Red Beach, Da Nang. NMCB-62 personnel remained in their mortar holes from 0130 to 0215. No rounds impacted in Camp Haskins South. NMCB-62 personnel again went to their mortar holes from 0710 to 0740 when another rocket attack occurred at the FLC camp. Once again, no rounds impacted within Camp Haskins South.

11 April

...NMCB-62 divers provided diving assistance for the 45th Army Engineer Group by inspecting a blown bridge at Lang Co. The divers inspected 7 bents consisting of 8 pilings per bent.

20 April

...CDR C.C. Baggs, CEC, USN, COMCBLANT Staff and CDR W.L. Wilson, CEC, USN, COMCBPAC Staff, visited NMCB-62 at Camp Haskins South.

3rd Deployment to Camp Barnes, Dong Ha, RVN

1969

07 March

...NMCB-62 Advance Party, consisting of 5 officers and 120 enlisted men arrived at

Camp Barnes, Dong Ha.

28 March

...An NMCB-62 TD-6 bulldozer, providing construction support to 3rd Marine Engineer Battalion, was dropped at L7014, KD757614 while being helolifted to a Fire Support Base Construction Site. (MCB-62 DCR 1969)

02 April

...NMCB-62 Detail Hammerhead, consisting of 20 personnel, deployed to Cam Lo to relieve NMCB-7 Detail Delta Ten in the construction of the Cam Lo River Bridge.
...NMCB-62 Detail Snapper, consisting of sixteen personnel, deployed to Vandegrift Combat Base to relieve NMCB-7 Detail Alpha Xray in conjunction with road construction and maintenance, and general construction in the Vandegrift and Elliott Combat Base areas.

03 April

...NMCB-62 Main Body began arriving at Camp Barnes, Dong Ha via military aircraft to relieve NMCB-7. The entire movement was completed by 06 April 1969.

07 April

...NMCB-62 Detail Scup, consisting of 11 Charlie Company personnel, deployed to Dual Blade Site C-2 to construct bunkers.
...NMCB-62 Detail Pike, consisting of 8 Bravo Company personnel, deployed to Dual Blade Site A-4 (Con Thien) to drill a well and construct a water system.

17 April

...Lightning struck the NMCB-62 construction Electrician Line Shop in the Bravo Company area. The ensuing fire totally destroyed the building and equipment in it. No personnel were injured in the mishap.

18 April

...NMCB-62 Detail Shark, consisting of 12 Charlie Company personnel, deployed to Dual Blade Site A-2, near Gio Linh, to construct a 100 man messhall for the 12th Marines.

19 April

...RADM J.G. Dillon, CEC, USN, COM3NCB; CAPT A.W. Walton, Jr., CEC, USN, COM32NCR; and members of the 3NCB Staff conducted an Arrival Conference with the officers and CPO's on NMCB-62.

1893

01 April

...Navy Chief Petty Officers are established

Biggest loss of Seabee life in a single incidence in RVN; suffered by MCB 9:

1968

31 March

... In an action that was typical of the "fighter/builders" of the Navy Seabees deployed in Vietnam, 6 Seabees of MCB-9's Detail Echo gave their lives on 31 March in a valiant effort which saved the lives of many fellow Seabees and Marine personnel. When their camp, located near Phu Bai, came under heavy mortar and recoilless rifle attack, the Seabees immediately manned an 81-mm mortar position and commenced and maintained counter fire despite the barrage of enemy shells landing near their position. The effective return fire destroyed at least two enemy gun positions and broke the attack. During a second attack, five hours later, the Seabees again manned their mortar position and even though they realized the enemy had bracketed their position with mortars, stood their ground and, acting with concern for the entire camp, continued to return fire until the enemy scored two direct hits on their position. The Seabees, who gave their lives in defense of the camp, were instrumental in repelling the attack, the results of which would have been much more severe had the mortar crew abandoned their position, an action they would have been justified in taking. The Seabees were determined to defend and hold the camp which they had worked so hard to build. Seabee's killed in action at Phu Loc, RVN, while providing security (mortar crew) for rock crusher, Detail Echo. The camp was named Camp DeShurley after the mortar crew leader who was also KIA in the same incident.

- Det Echo, NMCB-9: ◦BUL3 George R. De Shurley, Roswell, NM;
 - BUL3 Allan L. Mair, Park City, UT;
 - BUL3 John F. Peek, Pontiac, MI;
 - CN James F. Galati, Philadelphia, PA;
 - CN Mark E. Hodel, Lodi, CA; and
 - CN James R. Retzloff, Redding, CA.
 - UH-34D 148792 aircrew, HMM-362, MAG-36: ◦Sgt Daniel Pesimer, Salt Rock, WV and
 - Cpl Kenneth R. Yantis, Philadelphia, PA
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2nd Biggest loss of Seabee life in a single incidence in RVN; suffered by MCB 74:

1970

31 December

...The bodies of five Seabees from NMCB-74 were discovered on a waterway near Kien Binh. The Seabees had died of gunshot and fragmentation wounds. Investigation of witnesses disclosed that the five Seabees, armed with 3 M-16s and one pistol had been sighted in a Boston Whaler by Vietnamese personnel an hour and a half before, and ARVN units reported seeing U.S. personnel in a firefight in the same area. A Vietnamese eyewitness account indicated two VC sampans engaged the whaler, which was later found abandoned, with grenade and AK-47 fire on the Kinh Thot Canal. The five Seabees had been traveling from Cho Moi to Binh Thuy for minor medical treatment
BU2 Jerry B. Edmonds, Crossville, TN;
CE3 Harold E. Asher, Tulsa, OK;
EOCN Edgar P. Beck, Gowanda, NY;
CN John F. Neubauer, Mount Vernon, NY; and
CN Wayne S. Rushton, Eastlake, OH.

The previous day, two NMCB-74 Detail Charlie personnel returning from Binh Thuy in a skimmer boat received 15 rounds of automatic rifle fire from the bank at Dong Binh. Rounds hit within 10 feet of the skimmer, however, no casualties or damage resulted.

In a message dated 2/4/2017 9:46:21 A.M. Eastern Standard Time, Mathiasretired@aol.com writes:

Is there any information on the number of full battalions or the total number of Sea Bees on active duty?

Has the numbers changed in the last 10 years

Chuck Mathias

MCB-11

NSVA Life Member 5246

Norm Dupuis replies :

Yes, Chuck, the number has dropped dramatically ! There are only 5 active NMCBs, 5 reserve NMCBs, and 1 PHIBCB. Don't know total numbers exactly but it's around 12,000 I believe. The info below was copied from the Wikipedia article on SEABEES .
Battalions[edit]

A U.S. Navy officer (3rd NCR Commodore Capt. Barbara Sisson, CEC) watches over a smoky mock battleground while members of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion One Four (NMCB-14) execute an advance on enemy positions during a convoy training evolution.

During World War II, there were more than 140 battalions commissioned. In the years between then and the present, battalions have been activated and deactivated as required by shifting national defense priorities. At present, there are six active-duty

naval mobile construction battalions (NMCBs) — known as Seabees — in the United States Navy, split between the east and west coasts. The remaining battalions are Navy Reserve battalions:

West Coast (Port Hueneme, California)[edit]See also: Naval Base Ventura County
NMCB 3 ("Better Than Best")

NMCB 4 ("4" Does More), a.k.a. "Fab-4" while in Davisville

NMCB-5 ("The Professionals")

Coronado, California

ACB 1 Amphibious Construction Battalion ("We put the sea in Seabees") CO Capt. Vinci

East Coast (Gulfport, Mississippi)[edit]See also: Naval Construction Battalion Center
Gulfport, Mississippi

NMCB-1 ("The First and The Finest"), a.k.a. unofficially as McBONE (pronounced "mick bone")

NMCB-11 ("Lucky Eleven")

NMCB-133 ("Kangroos" — "a" was intentionally left out — or "Runnin' Roos"), a.k.a. unofficially as "The Red Rats", because of the red Kangaroo in the Battalion emblem since 1966

Naval Reserve[edit]NMCB-14 ("Southern Pride"): Located at Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Florida and consists of detachments in South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, and Puerto Rico.

NMCB-18 ("Skookum Mamook"): Headquartered at Naval Base Ventura County, California and consists of detachments in Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, and Utah.

NMCB-22 ("Lone Star"): Headquartered in Port Hueneme, California. The battalion has detachments throughout Texas and one in Oklahoma.

NMCB-25 ("Spades and Clubs"): Located at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin and consists of Seabee detachments from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, North Dakota, Iowa, and Michigan.

NMCB-27 ("Skibeets"): Cold Weather Battalion, located at Westover Air Reserve Base, Chicopee, Massachusetts and includes detachments in six New England States and upstate New York.

Inactive battalions[edit]NMCB-7 ("Magnificent Seven") (decommissioned)

NMCB-10 ("Men Of Ten") (decommissioned 1976)

NMCB-15 ("Bat Out of Hell"): Located at Belton, Missouri. Personnel are from ten detachments in five states, (Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota). (decommissioned September 2013)

NMCB-16 : Located at Los Alamitos, California, and consisted of detachments in California, Arizona, and Nevada. (decommissioned September 94)

NMCB-17 ("Desert Battalion"): Located at Fort Carson, Colorado and consists of detachments in California, Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, Colorado, Utah and Hawaii. (decommissioned September 18, 2014)

NMBC-21 ("The Blackjack Battalion"): Headquartered in Lakehurst, New Jersey and consists of detachments in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware. (decommissioned September 21, 2013)

NMCB-23 ("The Blue and the Gray"): Headquartered in Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

(decommissioned September 30, 2013)

NMCB-24 ("Dixie Doers") Located at Red Stone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama

(decommissioned, September 15, 2013)

NMCB-26 ("Packs a Punch"): Was located at Selfridge Air National Guard Base near Mt. Clemens, Michigan and included detachments in Michigan, Ohio and Indiana.

(decommissioned September 30, 2014)

NMCB-28 ("The Old Pros"): Located at Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana and includes detachments in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Texas. (decommissioned 2014)

NMCB-40 ("Fighting Forty") (decommissioned)

NMCB-62 ("The Minute Men"), a.k.a. unofficially as "Sixty Screw" (decommissioned)

NMCB-74 ("Fearless 74"), a.k.a. "Eager Beavers" in the 1980s (decommissioned 2014)

