

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

NMCB-74:PAO:egp
5720
21 August 1970

From: Commanding Officer, U. S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion
SEVENTY-FOUR
To: Commander Naval Construction Battalions, U. S. Atlantic Fleet,
Davisville, R. I.

Subj: MCB-74 Command History; submission of

Ref: (a) COMCBLANT/CBC 5720.4 of 9 April 1969

Encl: (1) NMCB-74 Command History

1. Enclosure (1) is forwarded in accordance with reference (a) and has
been verified for accuracy.



D. L. Robinson
By direction

Command History

U. S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Seventy-Four

U. S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion SEVENTY-FOUR was activated 28 April 1943, at the Naval Construction Training Center, Camp Perry, Williamsburg, Virginia. At that time Lieutenant Commander Fremont G. Elliott, CEC, USNR, took command of the Seabee Battalion which was soon to be highly acclaimed.

The battalion served her country well in the westward push to reclaim Japanese held islands in the South Pacific. The battalion constructed combat support facilities in such remote locations as Tarawa, Kwajalein, Okinawa and Berlin Island. For her outstanding achievements MCB-74 received the Navy Unit Commendation Medal before she was inactivated on 31 October 1945, on the island of Okinawa.

On 3 December 1966, the battalion was recommissioned at ceremonies held on board U. S. Naval Construction Battalion Center, Gulfport, Mississippi.

Commander G. W. Schley, CEC, USN, (now Captain) took command. After a training period, the battalion deployed to Camp Haskins, South Danang, RVN in June of 1967. During this first deployment she distinguished herself by outstanding performance on such projects as constructing Ammunition Supply Point II and a massive heliport for the First Air Cavalry. The battalion returned to homeport in January 1968 for reoutfitting and retraining. In July 1968, MCB-74 commenced her second RVN deployment at Camp Shields, Chu Lai. During the early months of the deployment she received the coveted Navy "E" designating her "Best of Type" of the 14 Atlantic Fleet Seabee battalions. The battalion was also awarded the Navy Unit Commendation Medal.

On 2 October 1968, Commander Schley was relieved by Commander Joseph A. D'Emidio, CEC, USN. Under his command the battalion constructed concrete arrons, barracks, POL facilities, hangars, ammunition supply point facilities, roads and a variety of other projects in support of the combat troops.

Three large details deployed near the DMZ to build SEA-huts and to crush rock for road upgrading. In February of 1969, the battalion again returned to Gulfport, Mississippi.

MCB-74's two Seabee teams provided technical assistance and spread good will in villages near Saigon. Team 7401 was awarded the Construction Battalions Pacific Detachment Excellence award for its accomplishments. It was picked from 14 other teams in Vietnam.

In July 1969, the battalion was deployed to Quang Tri Combat Base only to be moved after a six-week stay. Leaving a 220-man detail in Quang Tri to

-more-

Encl (1)

COMMAND HISTORY, MCB-74 2-2

perform important road work, MCB-74 moved to Camp Hooyer Danang.

Companies were engaged in work on hospitals, ASP-1, ASP-2, cantonments, barracks, and installing utilities in several locations throughout the area. Besides Detail Alpha in Quang Tri, several other details left the home base. Detail Echo constructed revetments at Cam Ranh Bay in record breaking time. Three detachments built cantonments at Hill 37, 55 and 65. One of the biggest projects was the construction of the 730-foot Cau Do Bridge located two miles south of Danang.

Two Seabee Teams were detached from the battalion during her third Vietnam deployment. Team 7403 was located at Cau Doc, RVN, while 7404 went to Kusaie in the United States Trust Territory Islands in the Pacific.

During this deployment, the battalion received her third Navy Unit Commendation Medal for work during the devastating Hurricane Camille which struck the Mississippi Gulf Coast on 17 August 1969.

U. S. NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION SEVENTY-FOUR
FLEET POST OFFICE
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 02501

MCB74:S1:ss
Ser 1183

23 SEP 1970

OPNAV REPORT 5750-1

From: Commanding Officer, U. S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion
SEVENTY-FOUR

To: Director of Naval History (OP-09B9)

Subj: Command History for Fiscal Year 1970; submission of

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12A

Encl: (1) Narrative History
(2) Danang Deployment Completion Report (1969-70)
(3) Danang Deployment Cruise Book (1969-70)
(4) Officers Roster

1. Enclosures (1) through (4) are submitted in accordance with Reference (a).

J. D. Kirkpatrick
J. D. KIRKPATRICK

Copy to: (w/o enclosures)

NAV HISTORIAN

COMCBLANT

COMCBPAC

COMSERVPAC

COMSERVLANT

20NCR

21NCR

→ CB MUSEUM PORT HUENEME

3NCB

32NCR

CBC GULFPORT

NARRATIVE HISTORY

A. Brief Chronology of Noteworthy Events

1. 1 AUG 69 Advance party of four officers and 105 enlisted personnel arrived at Camp Rhodes, Quang Tri, RVN.
2. 16 AUG 69 Main body movement began from Gulfport, Mississippi to Camp Rhodes, Quang Tri.
3. 17 AUG 69 Hurricane Camille hit Gulfport, Mississippi, and surrounding Gulf coast. The remaining flights to Quang Tri, RVN, were delayed to assist rescue and emergency recovery operations.
4. 18 AUG 69 Camp Rhodes, Quang Tri, RVN, officially turned over to NMCB SEVENTY-FOUR from NMCB ONE TWENTY-EIGHT.
5. 23 AUG 69 Final main body flights began from Gulfport, Mississippi, to Quang Tri, RVN.
6. 26 AUG 69 Came under 122mm rocket attack at Camp Rhodes, with one round partially destroying "B" Company Shop. Second round landed approximately 50 feet behind outdoor movie area where 250 men were viewing slides of the destruction caused by Hurricane Camille. No injuries were received from this attack.
7. 28 AUG 69 RADM J. G. DILLON, COM3NCB, visited.
8. 2 SEP 69 Typhoon Doris struck Quang Tri Province with resulting damage to the combat base, Camp Rhodes included. NMCB SEVENTY-FOUR provided repair crews and equipment to local units to make repairs to damaged facilities, especially communications and power.
9. 3 SEP 69 Visited by RADM J. G. DILLON, COM3NCB, and CAPT J. E. WASHBURN, COM32NCR.
10. 13 SEP 69 Visited by RADM J. G. DILLON, COM3NCB, and CAPT J. E. WASHBURN, COM32NCR.
11. 25 SEP 69 Visited by RADM J. G. DILLON, COM3NCB, and CAPT J. E. WASHBURN, COM32NCB.
12. 28 SEP 69 Main body of NMCB SEVENTY-FOUR completed redeployment to Camp Hoover, Danang.

13. 6 OCT 69 Visited by RADM J. G. DILLON, COM3NCB and CAPT J. E. POWELL, COM3ONCR.
14. 15 OCT 69 Awards were received from the Government of Vietnam by CDR J. A. D'EMIDIO, LCDR G. W. JACKSON, LT F. D. SCHLESINGER, EO1 TAYLOR, EO1 C. B. JACKSON, AND CMCN N. L. FLATT for their contributions to the construction of QL-1.
15. 31 OCT 69 CBPAC Command and Logistics Inspection conducted by CAPT C. G. MILLER, Chief Staff Officer COMCBPAC and CDR B. J. HACKENSON, Logistics Officer, CDR P. R. GATES, Chief Staff Officer, COMCBLANT also visited.
16. 14 NOV 69 Navy Unit Commendation was awarded to the personnel from NMCB-74 who participated in disaster recovery operations during and after Hurricane Camille by the Secretary of the Navy
17. 15 NOV 69 Camp Hoover visited by CAPT J. R. FISHER, NAVFAC CODE 06, and CAPT J. E. POWELL, COM3ONCR.
18. 22 NOV 69 CDR W. L. WILSON and LT R. M. ROHRBACH, COMCBPAC operations and administration inspection team arrived at Camp Hoover to conduct inspections.
19. 24 NOV 69 CHARLIE Company commenced planning of construction of 730 foot Cau Do Bridge.
20. 28 NOV 69 CWO W. L. MARR, 31NCR representative of COMCBPAC arrived to conduct Equipment Inspection.
21. 3 DEC 69 The third anniversary of NMCB SEVENTY-FOUR recommissioning was celebrated with Brigadier General R. H. SPANGER, Assistant Commander, FIRST Marine Aircraft Wing, Rear Admiral J. G. DILLON, Commander, THIRD Naval Construction Brigade, guests from 3NCB, 3ONCR, 32NCR and adjacent commands were present.
22. 4 DEC 69 Annual Supply Inspection began at Camp Hoover by LT A. P. MASTERHAZY, SC, USN, of COMCBPAC.
23. 26 DEC 69 CAPT C. F. KRICKENBERGER, JR., COMCBLANT, and CDR C. F. SCHMID visited.
24. 6 FEB 70 Management Inspection by CBPAC representative, LCDR G. R. MATTHEWS and 31NCR representative, CAPT J. B. FRANCIS, USMC.
25. 10 FEB 70 LCDR G. R. MATTHEWS and CAPT J. B. FRANCIS fatally injured in helicopter crash.

26. 10 FEB 70 RADM J. G. DILLON, COM3NCB and CAPT J. E. WASHBURN, COM32NCR visited Detail Alpha at Camp Rhodes.
27. 3 MAR 70 RADM A. R. MARSCHALL, CEC, USN, relieved RADM J. G. DILLON, CEC, USN, at the THIRD Naval Construction Brigade Change of Command ceremony at Red Beach, Danang, RVN. CDR J. A. D'EMIDIO, CEC, USN, Commanding Officer, and UTCS S. N. KIRSCH, USN, Acting Battalion Master Chief and a color platoon from Headquarters Company participated.
28. 4 MAR 70 RADM A. R. MARSCHALL, CEC, USN, COM3NCB and CAPT J. E. WASHBURN, CEC, USN, COM32NCR visited.
29. 14 MAR 70 Camp Rhodes, Quang Tri, officially turned over to Pacific Architects and Engineers.
30. 16 MAR 70 Detail Alpha left Camp Rhodes, Quang Tri for Camp Hoover, Danang.
31. 23 MAR 70 CAPT J. E. WASHBURN, CEC, USN, COM32NCR visited.
32. 27 MAR 70 Detachment on Hill 65, in support of Marine Corps units, encountered three airbursts of unknown type. UTCN R. H. SQUIRE, received multiple minor shrapnel wounds and was awarded the Purple Heart.
33. 29 MAR 70 Visited by RADM J. V. BARTLETT, CEC, USN, Vice Commander NAVFAC, RADM A. R. MARSCHALL, CEC, USN, COM3NCB, and CAPT J. E. WASHBURN, CEC, USN, COM32NCR, and CAPT A. W. WALTON, JR., CEC, USN, Deputy Commander for Facilities Acquisition, NAVFAC.
34. 3 APR 70 NMCB-74 Advance Party, consisting of one officer and 57 enlisted men, departed for Gulfport, Mississippi.
35. 20 APR 70 Main body flights began departing for Gulfport, Miss.
36. 21 APR 70 CDR J. P. JONES, CEC, USN, Commanding Officer, NMCB SIXTH-TWO relieved CDR J. A. D'EMIDIO, CEC, USN, Commanding Officer NMCB SEVENTY-FOUR of Camp Hoover, Danang.
37. 20 MAY 70 RADM JOHNSTON, Congressional Liaison for the Navy, visited.
38. 29 JUN 70 NMCB-74 Block Military Training began.
39. 12 JUL 70 CDR J. A. D'EMIDIO, CEC, USN, Commanding Officer, left to attend CO's conference at CBLANT, Davisville, Rhode Island

- 40. 14 JUL 70 CDR J. A. D'EMIDIO, CEC, USN, was presented the Bronze Star at Davisville, R. I.
- 41. 21-24 JUL 70 Battalion Field exercise.
- 42. 25 JUL 70 193 men deployed to Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, for military training.
- 43. 3 AUG 70 Hurricane Celia struck Corpus Christi, Texas, heavily damaging the city and the Naval Air Station.
- 44. 4 AUG 70 Thirty-five men left with emergency generators and equipment for Corpus Christi, Texas. LCDR F. G. KELLEY, NMCB-74's Executive Officer accompanied the first flight.
- 45. 5 AUG 70 Fifty more men left for Corpus Christi, Texas, with additional equipment. LT(jg) R. F. COWAN was in charge.
- 46. 8 AUG 70 Camp Lejeune party returned.
- 47. 11 AUG 70 Pre-Admin Inspection by 2ONCR.
- 48. 22 AUG 70 Annual Battalion party at Broadwater Beach Hotel, Biloxi, Mississippi.
- 49. 24 AUG 70 Annual COMCBLANT Administrative inspection.
- 50. 27 AUG 70 CDR J. A. D'EMIDIO was relieved as Commanding Officer of NMCB-74 by CDR J. D. KIRKPATRICK, CEC, USN.

B. Narrative History USNMCB-74 Fiscal Year 1970.

1. COMMAND ORGANIZATION AND RELATIONS

On 3 December 1966, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion SEVENTY-FOUR was recommissioned under the command of CDR G. W. SCHLEY, CEC, USN. He was relieved by CDR J. A. D'EMIDIO, CEC, USN, on 2 October 1968.

On the first day of this history NMCB-74 was in homeport at Gulfport, Mississippi. Operational and Administrative control was with the TWENTIETH Naval Construction Regiment and Commander Naval Construction Battalions, U. S. Atlantic Fleet. During the deployment to Camp Rhodes, Quang Tri, Republic of Vietnam and to Camp Hoover, Danang, RVN Operational Control was transferred to THIRTIETH Naval Construction Regiment, THIRD Naval Construction Brigade and Commander Naval Construction Battalions, U. S. Pacific Fleet.

In July and August 1969, NMCB-74 was preparing for deployment to Camp Rhodes, Quang Tri, RVN. The main body began movement from Gulfport on 16 August 1969, but the last members were delayed due to Hurricane Camille which struck the Gulf Coast on 17 August 1969. The remaining members,

delayed in deploying for 1 week, to assist in off base rescue and restoration work. NMCB-74 was reunited by 25 August 1969 at Camp Rhodes, Quang Tri. (Chronology Item #3)

During this deployment, Battalion units were detached to several areas. Detail DELTA was sent to Danang to reconstruct Ammunition Supply Point One. A total of ninety-seven men from Delta Company made up this detail.

Detail FOXTROT, composed of 51 men was detached to assist on improvements to Ammunition Supply Point Two at Danang.

Severe weather again, impacted upon NMCB-74 as Typhoon Doris struck Quang Tri Province. (Chronology Item #8)

By 28 September 1969 the main body of NMCB-74 had redeployed to Camp Hoover, Danang, leaving the 200-man detail ALFA at Camp Rhodes, Quang Tri.

At Cam Ranh Bay, Detail ECHO constructed 7500 ft of Ammi Revetment for the Naval Air Facility from September thru November 1969.

Detail GOLF was sent to Ha Thanh Special Forces Camp to upgrade airfield facilities over a two month period commencing in February 1970.

Two Seabee Teams were deployed. One to Vietnam and one to the Trust Territory, Pacific Islands. Seabee Team 7403 deployed to Chau Phu City Vietnam with LTJG D. L. WILLAMAN, CEC, USNR as Officer-in-Charge. Seabee Team 7404, with LTJG P. F. HIMOVITZ, CEC, USNR, as Officer-in-Charge, deployed to the Kusaie Island, Trust Territory, Pacific Islands.

As this fiscal year ended there were four (4) Seabee Teams in training. Teams 7405, 7406, with LTJG J. L. DELKER and LTJG K. L. SMITH as Officer's-in-Charge respectively. They will deploy mid-September. LTJG J. M. CULLEN is Officer-in-Charge of Seabee Team 7404 which will deploy early December. Seabee Team 7408 is lead by CMC J. H. HILBORN and is not scheduled for deployment at this time.

As of 30 June 1970, NMCB-74 had twenty-five (25) Officers and 784 enlisted personnel attached for duty. (Enclosure 4 for officers roster)

2. OPERATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

NMCB-74's third deployment to RVN since recommissioning, was to Camp Rhodes, Quang Tri, as established by COMCBPAC OPORD 0-69 and directed by COMCBPAC speed letter serial CB31B-055 of 5 May 1969. On verbal orders from Commander, THIRD Naval Construction Brigade, NMCB-74's main body re-deployed to Camp Hoover, Danang on 26 September 1969 and remained there for the duration of the deployment. (See enclosure 2 for deployment report)

a. Operational Statistics

The Deployment Completion Report, enclosure 2 annexed to this history contains facts and figures concerning statistics during deployment.

b. Construction Assignments

During the almost eight month deployment to Quang Tri and Danang, NMCB-74 was given a wide variety of projects mostly in support of the THIRD Marine Amphibious Force and FIRST Marine Division.

Among the most outstanding of NMCB-74's projects were the Cau Do Bridge, maintaining and upgrading of National Highway QL-1 from Dong Ha to Quang Tri, and Ammunition Supply Point #1. Annex E of the attached

Deployment Completion Report contains detailed information concerning these and the many other projects which NMCB-74 completed. The Deployment Completion Report also includes projects costs and labor statistics.

3. SUPPLY AND LOGISTICS

The P25A Organic Allowance was the basic supply and logistical support to the Battalion. This allowance had been processed thru the Supply Overhaul Assistance Program (SOAP) at Construction Battalion Center, Gulfport, Mississippi.

Material necessary for the construction projects was furnished by the THIRD Naval Construction Brigade, Danang, RVN. Being located in the Danang area was most helpful with materials and supplies. The Naval Support Activity and Force Logistic Command both provided excellent service.

NMCB-74 operated exchange 1026-03 which was an annex of Freedom Hill Army/Air Force Exchange.

4. CASUALTIES OF MEN AND EQUIPMENT

The only enemy inflicted wounds resulted when UTCN R. H. SQUIRE received minor shrapnel wounds in the back while on a detail at Hill 65. Other casualties are itemized in the deployment completion report.

5. PERSONNEL

Refer to Annex A of the Deployment Completion Report for a complete summary of personnel, re-enlistment, educational services, safety, and discipline/legal.

6. MEDICAL/DENTAL

See Annex A of the Deployment Completion Report for a thorough and complete summation of these areas.

7. CHAPLAIN

Refer to Annex A of the accompanying Deployment Completion Report.

8. COMMUNITY RELATIONS

During Hurricane Camille the immediate response of the Seabee's was one the people of Gulfport will never forget. Before and during the storm, members of NMCB-74 joined with other Seabee's and they began getting the people to safety and rendering any assistance possible. Afterwards, even though the Seabee Center was heavily damaged itself, the men went out into the different communities and began clearing roads, repairing utilities and helping the people in any way possible. Being trained in this area and having the equipment needed was a great aid to the community. Many individuals and groups wrote to thank the Seabee's for their immediate aid during the storm. Included in Annex A of the Deployment Completion Report is one such letter from the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory.

From their experience with Hurrinace Camille the Seabee's were ready and knew what to do and exactly what equipment was needed when Hurricane Celia struck. Their immediate response and their ability to go and do when they

were needed most will be long remembered by many, many people.

9. CIVIC ACTION

Civic Actions programs were conducted at Quang Tri and at Danang. Many separate projects were accomplished. A summary is included in the Deployment Completion Report, Annex I.

10. AWARDS AND COMMENDATIONS

A letter from the President of the United States was received thanking the Seabee's for the part they played in the disaster relief after Hurricane Camille. (Annex A, pages 33 and 35)

The Navy Unit Commendation was awarded by the Honorable John H. CHAFEE for the "Exceptional Meritorious Service" that the Seabee's rendered after Hurricane Camille.

See Annex A, page 27, of the Deployment Completion Report for individual awards. This section also includes other numerous commendations from various commands.

The CHINFO Merit Award was presented to NMCB-74 for its familygram publication being one of the top four (4) fleet-wide.

11. DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

Refer to Chronological Summary.