

U. S. NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION NUMBER ONE

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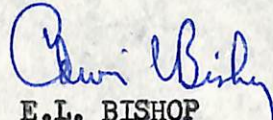
From: Commanding Officer, U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion ONE
To: Commander, Construction Battalions; U.S. Atlantic Fleet;
Davisville, R.I. 02854

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Encl: (1) NMCB ONE Command History

1. Enclosure (1) is forwarded herewith in accordance with reference (a)


E.L. BISHOP
By direction

USN MCB ONE
BATTALION HISTORY 1969

JANUARY-FEBRUARY

MCB ONE began the year under the command of CDR Thomas J. Mitchell, CEC, USN at Camp Hoover, Da Nang, Republic of Vietnam, where the battalion was nearing the completion of its third consecutive deployment to that country. In late January, the main body of MCB FIVE arrived to take over Camp Hoover and the operation of the rock quarry at Phu Loc where MCB ONE had a major detachment throughout the deployment. The battalion returned to its homeport in Davisville, R.I., where the official leave period began immediately upon arrival.

On 12 February 1969, LCDR Norman G. Ricker, Jr., CEC, USN assumed the duties of Executive Officer of MCB ONE relieving CDR William F. Glover, CEC, USN.

Following the leave period which ended on 22 February, the battalion began the technical phase of its training.

MARCH

During the month of March most of the enlisted men attended schools in Davisville where they received training in their respective rates. Others attended the Disaster Recovery Training School. Some of the men attended inter-service schools such as the Infantry Weapons Armorers' School at Quantico, Va.; the Marine Embarkation School, Little Creek, Va.; the Second Class Divers' School, Norfolk, Va., and various Class A, B, and C Navy schools for advanced training in their rates.

Selected individuals received training at civilian schools throughout the country such as the Motorola Electronic School in Chicago; the Roosa-Master school in Connecticut for training on automotive carburetors; the Consolidated Edison Power Cable Splicing School in New York City; The Institute of Explosives Specialists in Rochester, N.Y.; and at the National Safety Council School in Chicago, Ill.

The battalion's Officers received training in field medicine, military justice, personnel management, career counseling, preventive maintenance, and embarkation procedures.

APRIL-MAY

The technical phase of the homeport training ended on April 14, when the battalion began three weeks of military training at Camp Fogarty, R.I. After the completion of this training on 2 May, the battalion began preparations for deployment to Camp Lejeune, N.C. On May 12, the battalion began three weeks of advanced military training at that Marine Corps Amphibious Base, the largest of its kind in the world. The Battalion concluded its military training when the last flight arrived from North Carolina at the Quonset Point Naval Air Station in Rhode Island.

JUNE

MCB ONE received an administrative inspection prior to deploying to Phu Bai, Republic of Vietnam, receiving very high marks in most categories. On June 28, 1969, the advance party of 75 men, headed by LCDR Patrick Drennon, departed for Vietnam to organize and coordinate the battalion's deployment.

JULY

The battalion deployed to Camp Campbell, Phu Bai, Republic of Vietnam, and began its fourth consecutive tour in that battle zone. MCB ONE started operating the only concrete batch plant in the Hue/Phu Bai area. The Battalion started constructing an electrically controlled asphalt plant, the first of its kind in Vietnam. Alpha Company started placing asphalt from the old plant on QL1, TL4, and other roads in the Phu Bai area.

On 23 July MCB ONE received its first casualty of the deployment. An equipment operator lending support at Army Fire Base Davis Hill was injured in an enemy terrorist raid.

AUGUST

The new electrically controlled asphalt plant produced its first batch of asphaltic concrete on 3 August 1969 and began production on Bridge 15-A on QL1 near Camp Evans, in the I Corps area. Detail Echo was airlifted to Saigon to perform construction on the Cholon Fountain and the Nha Be detention facility, and Detail Charlie was flown to Phu Quoc Island, in IV Corps near Cambodia, to perform construction work on the An Thoi Air Base.

SEPTEMBER

Asphalt and paving for the upgrade of QL-1 continued to be the number one priority job. On September 6 the new asphalt plant surpassed the 1000 ton mark for one day's production.

With increasing responsibilities for construction in the Mekong Delta, capabilities for construction in the I Corps became limited. Official word that the battalion would close out Camp Campbell to make an in-country move came on September 16. Accordingly an all-out effort was made to complete existing work. The UH-1 hanger for the 4/77 Artillery was put back on schedule after it was damaged by storm winds on September 1.

A tremendous amount of materials was expedited for shipment to the Delta, where work was continuing.

As a part of the Phase II self-help program, tasked to the battalion on 12 September, the battalion began repair of storm damage for the 11th Coastal Group at Cua Viet.

OCTOBER

Rainfall affected all battalion tasks during this period. 61.7 inches of rain fell between 1 October and 13 October with a record 24 hour total of 21.65 inches. Placing of crushed rock at strategic places kept the battalion responsible area of QL-1 open and prevented several threatened wash-outs. A small tornado struck the Camp Campbell HHO yard on 5 October, resulting in minor damage to a Butler building, destruction of a lean-to and the prefab yard shed, and the downing of electrical wiring in the area. No Personnel casualties were sustained.

When the rains abated, paving crews finished paving QL-1 in the battalion's area of responsibility.

Detail Roman deployed to Quang Tri, Detail Delta deployed to An Thoi, and plans were made for the deployment of Detail Golf. Mounting out for the move to Camp Haskins North was taking place, and priority 2 and 3 items were moved out.

The advance party for the Army unit taking over Camp Campbell arrived on 17 October. On 25 October the Army assumed the security function of the outer perimeter.

Detail Delta commenced construction on the Tach Soi ATSB, Phu Chang ATSB was nearing completion, and materials were barged to Rung Sat and helo-lifted to the job sites as construction commenced there.

NOVEMBER

MCB ONE was relieved of Camp Campbell by the administrative Department of the 101st Airborne Division and assumed command of Camp Haskins North near Danang, from MCB FIFTY THREE. The movement went smoothly and according to schedule, with all hands turning to for a thorough clean-up prior to turning the camp over to the Army. Admiral Dillon inspected the camp and expressed his satisfaction with the turn-over preparations.

Construction details at Phu Bai, Hue, and Quang Tri were slowed in their progress by continuing rain; however, Detail Whiskey at Phu Bai completed the laydown of the leveling course on the main parking apron at the Phu Bai Airfield.

During November MCB ONE experienced two military incidents. On 13 November one man was seriously injured when his machete struck a possible booby trap or M-79 round while he was clearing elephant grass at Nam Can. On 25 November a rock hauling convoy comprised of trucks from MCB's ONE, FOUR, SEVENTY FOUR, AND ONE TWENTY ONE was hit with landmines and small arms fire. MCB ONE sustained a flat tire from small arms fire, and experienced no casualties in the incident.

DECEMBER

Work remained fragmented during this period with fulltime paving efforts in the Northern I Corps and expanding ACTOV commitments in the Delta. The battalion was tasked with the upgrading of Route 12 West, 8 miles south of Danang. This, together with the battalion's hauling assistance for the improvement of QL-1 South, constituted almost

all the main camp construction effort. The main camp effort was almost entirely devoted to material, administrative, and personnel support to the Delta projects.

Preparation was made for the establishment of Detail Kilo (ACTOV construction at Rach Soi) and reassignment of Detail Echo (road construction at Rung Sat Special Zone.)

Detail Hotel finished dredging and rip rap installation at the Hue Bypass Ferry Ramp and was disestablished on 24 December.

On 23 December three Seabees attached to Seabee Team 0103 were WIA when their front end loader detonated a road mine 10 kilometers north-east of My Tho.

Captain C. F. Krickenberger, CEC, USN, COMBLANT, visited Camp Haskins North and was briefed on battalion progress.