9th Naval Construction Battalion

Historical Information

"Construimus, Batuimus"
"We Build, We Fight"

NAVAL HISTORY & HERITAGE COMMAND

9th C.B. (1ST SECTION)

1st Embarkation

NCTC	-	Norfolk
ABD	-	Davisville 30 Jun'42
Ready Date	-	~~9 Jul'42~~
Left ABD	-	~~18 Jul'42 et seq.~~ 5 Aug'42
Destination	-	Iceland

2nd Embarkation

NCTC	-	Davisville
ABD	-	Hueneme
Ready Date	-	25 May'44
Left ABD	-	25 Jun'44
Location	-	~~Cincpoa~~ Oahu ~~Tinian Is.~~, Okinawa

LOG

6-10-42 - 1st Sect. of the 9th CB consisting of approximately 800 men ordered from Norfolk to Davisville on 29th Jun'42. (Bupers letter of 10 Jun to CO Norfolk)

6-19-42 - 1st Sect., comprising 18 officers and 781 men, "A", "B", "D", and 3/4 HQ Co's. assigned to Iceland via ABD Davisville to replace contractor's employees and provide maintenance force.

7-10-42 - Orders requested for 10 of above to proceed via air to NOB Iceland.

7-13-42 - 15 welders ordered to Iceland via air.

7-25-42 - This Section scheduled to leave for Iceland about 1 Aug.

8-19-42 - This Section arrived NOB Iceland this date approximately.

11-18-42 - 12 Filipino messmen ordered to Iceland for this Section.

11-21-42 - (Approximately) - 28th CB left for Iceland.

5- 2-43 - 1 Apr'43 report - Both the 1st Sect. of the 9th CB and 28th CB continue to operate together in Iceland.

6-12-43 - May report (combined with 28th) recommends maintenance units relieve 9th CB in Iceland by 1 Sep'43.

9th C.B.

8-10-43 - 9th CB, 1st Sect. is to be known as 9th CB. 9th CB, 2nd Sect., to be known as CB Detachment 1012.(Conf. VCNO ltr 27 Jul to Cinclant Com 15)

10-27-43 - 9th CB arrived NCTC Davisville around the first week in Sep'43.

5-17-44 - 29 officers and 1056 men of the 9th CB departed ABDRB Davisville 4 May'44 for Hueneme.(ABDRB Davisville 05WX0859 May'44)

7- 1-44 - 9th CB departed ABDRB Hueneme 25 Jun'44. (WRK)

7-28-44 - Officers and men reported 7th Reg. for duty 1 Jul'44. (OinC 7th Reg ltr 7CR/ol-PLA/pln over A4, Ser 2715 dtd 12 Jul'44)

8-28-44 - 9th CB arrived Moanalua about 1 Jul'44.(20th Reg. 1 Aug'44 report)

8-30-44 - 1 Aug'44 report of 9th CB - operating at Moanalua Ridge, NASD Pearl City, Molokai, NASD Personnel Camp, Pearl City Junction.

10-12-44 - 1 Sep'44 report of 9th CB - operating at NASD Pearl City and at Homestead Field, Molokai. Estimated date of completion of present assignment is 15 Jan'45.

10-20-44 - The 9th CB ordered to Tinian and to report to the 6th Brigade.(Cincpoa Sec. disp 150545 NCR 4878 to CNO dtd 16 Oct'44).

11-2-44 - 1 Oct'44 report of 9th CB - Operated at Molokai and Pearl City during Sep. Report endorsed by 32nd Reg.

11-15-44 - The 9th CB is assigned to HANCB while awaiting transportation to the Forward Area.(Comserforpacflt Sec. ltr 55-CKW/apk over Ser. 001008 to CNO dtd 4 Nov'44).

12-13-44 - 1 Nov'44 report of 9th CB - Report endorsed by 32nd Reg. and HANCB.

1-5-45 - The 9th CB reported to the OinC 6th Brig. on 1 Dec'44 and ordered to report to the OinC of the 29th Reg. for duty. (6th Brg. Conf. 4th End. dtd 1 Dec'44 on HAB ltr HAB-06-HCB/fnf P16-3/00/MM Ser 6569 dtd 19 Oct'44 to OinC 9th ~~Regx~~ CB)

9th CB

1-11-45 - 1 Dec'44 report of the 9th CB - Enroute to new location during Nov'44. Report endorsed by the 29th Regiment.

1-13-45 - 9th CB is at Tinian. (IsCom Tinian Sec Disp to CNO 010938)

2- 2-45 - 1 Jan'45 report of the 9th CB - No info on location. Report endorsed by the 29th Regiment.

2- 9-45 - 1 Jan'45 report of the 29th Reg. - The 9th CB arrived at its forward area base on 1 Dec'44. During Dec'44, a det. of 1 off. and 15 men ret'd from det. duty. This det., under temp. addt'l duty orders, was detached in July for assignment in an invasion in a forward area.

2-22-45 - The 9th CB is assigned to the 49th Reg.(CNO conf. ltr Ser. 055130 to Cincpoa and Bupers dtd 10 Feb'45).

3- 6-45 - 49th Reg. hereby established effective at once and to consist of the 9th, 38th, 110th, and 112th CBs. (Conf Disp 020050 from Cincpoa Pearl to Comservpac)

3-10-45 - 1 Feb'45 report of the 9th CB - location not given. Report endorsed by 30th Reg. Reinforced.

3-31-45 - 1 Mar'45 report of the 9th CB - no info on location. Report end. by 49th Reg.

4- 4-45 - The 9th, 17th, and 101st CBs have been designated for the FINK operation. (Comservpac Sec ltr Ser 90-VR/wh over ser 001193 dtd 22 Mar to CNO)

4-24-45 - 1 Apr'45 report of the 49th Reg. - 9th CB has been alerted with 3 other battalions of the 6th Brigade.

4-24-45 - 1 Apr'45 report of the 9th CB - no info re location. Endorsed by 6th Brigade.

4-28-45 - 9th CB scheduled for the FINK operation. Approx ETD April. (Comservpac Sec ltr Ser 001581 dtd 11 Apr'45 to Comfwdareacenpac)

5- 1-45 - 9th CB located at Tinian. Scheduled for FINK. (Dirpacdocks P Sec Rep of 1 Apr)

Location - ~~Tinian~~ - Okinawa

9th C.B.

5- 8-45 - The 9th CB is located at Tinian. (Dirpacdocks S.F. Sec Rep of 15 Apr'45)

5-25-45 - 1 May'45 report of the 9th CB - located at Tinian. Report routed via the 49th Reg and 6th Brg.

5-25-45 - 1 May'45 report of the 49th Reg. - The 9th CB has been alerted and has recd orders for detachment in the near future.

6- 2-45 - The 9th CB is located at Tinian, scheduled for Okinawa. (Dirpacdocks P Sec rep of 1 May'45)

6-7-45 - The 9th CB detached from present duty. Proceed in accord with shipping instr and report to Comdr Const Troops APO 331. (Comservpac sec disp 042341 Jun'45 to Com Mariannas)

6-13-45 - 1 Jun'45 report of the 9th CB - location not given. A det. of 10 men was sent forward to report to Island Comdr, Okinawa for TAD. On 25 May'45 the Batt was detached from the 6th Brig and from the 49th Reg reporting for duty to the 39th Rg. in preparation for forward movement.

6-26-45 - 1 Jun'45 report of the 49th Reg - The 9th CB was officially detached from the 49th Reg and 6th Brg on 25 May'45 and was further assigned to the39th Reg.

7-21-45 - 1 Jul'45 report of the 9th CB - located at Okinawa. On 19 Jun'45 the 9th CB departed from Tinian for Okinawa. Upon arrival at Okinawa on 26 Jun'45 the Batt. was detached from the 39th Reg and ordered to report to the 8th Brig and the 35th Reg. Report via the 35th Reg and 8th Brig. 33 men were returned to the U.S. for discharge during Jun'45.

8-11-45 - Upon receipt of these orders 9th CB detached from the 35th Reg. Ordered to report to the 17th Reg for duty. (CCT APO 331 orders ser 1264 dtd 29 July to OinC 9th CB)

8- 20-45 - 1 Aug'45 report of the 9th CB - located at Okinawa. Batt was detached from the 35th Reg and assigned to temp duty with the 17th Reg on 19 Jul'45. Report via 17th Reg and 8th Brg.

Location - Okinawa 9th C.B.

8-23-45 - 1 Aug'45 report of the 17th Reg - The 9th CB reported to the 17th Reg for duty on 19 Jul'45.

9-17-45 - 1 Sept'45 report of 17th Reg. No info as to location. 14 men transferred under the present point system, Alnav 196-45.

10-17-45 - 1 Oct'45 report of 9th CB - located at Okinawa. Report via 17th Reg. & 8th Brig. 243 men transferred to U.S. for discharge under the point system.

11- 1-45 - CNOB, Okinawa requests authority to inactivate 9th CB. (CNOB, Okinawa conf disp 261516 Oct'45 to Comservpac).

11-19-45 - Comservpac approves inactivation of 9th CB. Advise Comservpac when inactivation is completed. (Comservpac ltr ser 5722 dtd 5 Nov'45 to CNOB, Okinawa).

12-13-45 - Officers & men under the command of 17th Reg. are reassigned to 37th Reg. (8th Brg conf ltr ser 0321 dtd 20 Nov'45 to 9th, 86th, 135th CBs & CBMU 521).

12-14-45 - 1 Nov'45 report of 9th CB - located at Okinawa. Report via 17th Reg. & 8th Brg. 309 men transferred to U.S. for discharge.

1-11-46 - 1 Dec'45 report of 9th CB - located at Okinawa. Report via 37th Reg. & 8th Brig. 324 men transferred for discharge.

1-14-46 - 9th CB reported to 37th Reg. on 21 Nov'45. (OinC, 37th Reg. 2nd end. SER. 1836 to 9th, 86th & 135th CBs & CBMU 521).

1-14-46 - Inactivation of 9th CB was completed on 7 Dec'45. (OinC, 8th Brig. ltr ser 3178 dtd 8 Dec'45 to OinC, 9th CB).

INACTIVATED

ON BOARD

DATE	OFFICERS	MEN	AUTHORITY
1 Jul'44	31	1072	R & Recap.
1 Aug'44	32	1073	R & MoR
1 Sep'44	31	1079	MoR
1 Oct'44	30	1061	MoR
1 Nov'44	28	1048	MoR
1 Dec'44	29	1026	MoR
1 Jan'45	29	1040	MoR
1 Feb'45	29	1033	MoR
1 Mar'45	29	1019	MoR
1 Apr'45	28	1013	MoR
1 May'45		1009	BNP625
1 Jun'45	31	1157	BNP625 & R
1 Jul'45	31	1119	BNP625 & R
1 Aug'45		1117	BNP625
1 Sept'45		1085	BNP625
1 Oct'45	25	913	BNP625 & R
1 Nov'45	23	632	BNP625 & R
1 Dec'45	20	515	BNP625 & R

9th Construction Battalion (INACTIVATED)

DECLASSIFIED

Date	Organization	Location	Reference	Notes
5/30/44	Lion 6	En Route	–	–
6/13/44	–	(Cincpoa)	C. B. report 1 June	
6/29/44	–	FRAY	Tuvenema disp (sec.) 261945 June.	Departed Tuvenema 25 June for FRAY.
9/18	–	FRAY	Com 11 sec act disp. 042215 Aug.	
6/13	–	LIRP (Tinian)	20 Com Tinian sec act disp. 010938 Jan.	added.
5/17 – note from cdr Burke.			"alerted to move to Rine by 070029.	

9th CB.

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Date	Organization	Location	Reference	Notes
6/2	–	–	Comservpac sec disp. 042341 June.	detached present duty – proceed & report Cdr. Const Troops Apo 331.

HISTORY OF U. S. NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION NINE

WORLD WAR II: 1942-45

The predecessor to today's U. S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion NINE was the U. S. NINTH Naval Construction Battalion which was originally commissioned 6 June 1942 with LCDR Jarl E. LARSON, CEC, USNR, as Commanding Officer. Recruits had been receiving technical training at Camp Allen, Virginia, since 8 May 1942 and, upon commissioning, the battalion deployed to Camp Bradford, Virginia, for further technical training. This was concluded on 29 June 1942.

From 30 June to 5 August 1942 the battalion engaged in hut construction at the Advance Base Depot, Davisville, Rhode Island. During this same period the battalion was broken into two sections which were assigned to widely separated locations. The first section retained the designation of NINTH Naval Construction Battalion. The second section was redesignated as Construction Battalion Detachment No. 1012.

Detachment No. 1012, composed of approximately 4 officers and 236 men, was broken into smaller units which were assigned to widely dispersed locations throughout Central and South America. The projects these units worked on were as diverse as their locations.

The NINTH Naval Construction Battalion composed of 17 officers and 704 enlisted men sailed for Iceland from 5 August to 18 August 1942. The battalion was dispersed upon arrival to various construction activities that were under the supervision of Captain C. B. JOHNSON, CEC, USN, Officer in Charge of Construction, Iceland. Up to this time all work on the

Iceland advance base was under the supervision of the Bureau of Yards and Docks and was being accomplished by Merritt Chapman and Scott and George A. Fuller Construction Company, a commercial contracting firm. Practically all the civilian personnel working for the contractor returned to the U.S. on the same ship that transported the NINTH NCB to Iceland. Only a few key people were retained for a short time in order to help the Seabees take over the diversified work that was under way at the Naval Operating Base, Reykjavik; the Naval Fuel Depot, Hval Fjord; Fleet Air Base, Reykjavik; the Naval Ammunition Depot at Falcon Point Landing; and the Army Air Field, Keflavik.

It became apparent immediately that additional personnel would be required and another construction battalion was requested. Meanwhile, the NINTH NCB tackled the uncompleted work on the various projects and, by the time the TWENTY-EIGHTH NCB arrived in Iceland on 4 December 1942, all of the work was well under way. Immediately upon arrival the personnel of the TWENTY-EIGHTH NCB were dispersed to the various projects to supplement the NINTH NCB so that personnel from both battalions worked on all projects.

During the course of the NINTH's approximate one-year stay in Iceland the two battalions built a large Army bomber field and fighter field; a tank farm consisting of forty-four 10,000 barrel oil tanks, eight 35,000 barrel gasoline tanks, and a 1200 foot oil pier; a harbor and seaplane installation; and Army and Navy camps.

The largest project of the group was the Army Air Field at Keflavik. The construction was scheduled by Army engineers in phases. The first phase called for the North-South and East-West runways, each 5000 feet

long and 150 feet wide, to be completed by 15 March. This first phase was completed on time and the formal opening of the field was held on 24 March 1943. There were six Generals and one Rear Admiral present at the opening, as well as the U. S. Consul and his wife, and high ranking officers from the Royal Air Force and the Danish Army.

Construction in Iceland was difficult for a number of reasons. During the winter months there were as few as four hours of daylight. This meant that regardless of when the work was performed it would either have to be started or completed in darkness, thereby creating a great demand for artificial lighting. The darkness combined with the fierce winds that blow across the Keflavik Peninsula made all construction difficult, and erection of trusses for hangers at the airfield was at times extremely dangerous. On top of these problems the mud, snow, sleet, rain, frozen ground and rocks all contrived to slow construction. Even with these handicaps the Seabees "holed in" and more or less acclimated to the weather, and the work was performed.

On 15 April 1943 LCDR LARSON was relieved as Commanding Officer by LT Edward M. HOWARD, CEC, USNR, who became acting Officer in Charge. Shortly after this, on 22 May 1943, LT HOWARD was relieved by CDR George G. LANCASTER, CEC, USNR.

Snow and ice disappeared after 15 May 1943 and daylight hours increased sufficiently for two nine-hour shifts to operate without artificial lights. Progress improved significantly with the better weather conditions.

The 514 Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit arrived in Iceland

on 28 August 1943 and the NINTH NCB sailed for the U.S. on 29 August.

On 6 September 1943 the battalion arrived at Davisville, Rhode Island, and on 9 September commenced a 30-day leave period.

The leave period ended on 9 October 1943 with the start of technical training at Camp Endicott, Rhode Island. During this training period detachments worked at Point Judith on harbor installations and at Charleston, Rhode Island, on landing strips for carrier-based planes.

On 22 February 1944 training ended and the battalion, consisting of 28 officers and 1081 enlisted men, moved to Camp Thomas, Rhode Island, an Advance Base Depot, for camp construction.

The battalion departed 4 May 1944 for Port Hueneme, California, and arrived there 9 May, to remain until 25 June 1944.

When the battalion left Port Hueneme, it sailed for Oahu, Hawaiian Islands, arriving there 1 July 1944. While there, the battalion was based on Moanalua Ridge. Construction while on the island included a Naval Aviation Supply Depot at Pearl City Peninsula and a rocket target range on Molokai Island. The two officer and 63 man detachment working on the rocket range was accidentally strafed while on the job but suffered no casualties. Another detachment of one officer and 17 men was assigned to man invasion barges in the Palau invasion. This assignment was accomplished with no casualties.

On 16 September 1944 CDR LANCASTER was relieved as Commanding Officer by LCDR Howard S. SHAFER, CEC, USNR.

The battalion sailed for Tinian on 10 November 1944. Construction on Tinian included construction of two bomber airstrips 500 feet by 8000 feet,

erection of an asphalt plant which was completed in three months, and construction of a Quonset hut camp.

In May 1945 the battalion was alerted for a forward movement and on 19 June deployed from Tinian for Okinawa, arriving there on 26 June. During July the battalion engaged in sporadic action with Japanese troops, killing several of the enemy.

Construction projects accomplished from July through October 1945 included a four-lane coral-surface highway, a compound for the Seventeenth Naval Construction Regiment, internal roads, shops for aircraft repairs, a 1600 foot quay wall, and a standard marine railway. The battalion also operated a coral pit and rock crusher.

The Seabees, born in the emergency of World War II, were still not a permanent part of the Navy at the end of the war. The men assigned to the construction battalions were over a quarter-million strong when the war was finished but dwindled to 20,000 in less than a year. The NINTH Naval Construction Battalion was caught in this general demobilization and was officially inactivated on 7 December 1945 while located on Okinawa.

BEFORE VIETNAM: 1952-65

The Korean Emergency caused the Navy to activate eleven Mobile Construction Battalions, and U. S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion NINE was among these. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion NINE began forming, on 15 April 1952, at the Naval Construction Battalion Center, Port Hueneme, California, with LCDR L. A. MADSEN, CEC, USN, in charge. On 2 August of that year the battalion was formally commissioned with LCDR H. P. KWASNY, CEC, USN, as its first Commanding Officer.

After commissioning, NMCB NINE conducted military training and departed 14 September 1952 for Subic Bay, Philippine Islands. The battalion arrived on 8 October and began construction of concrete enlisted men's barracks and a subsistance building at Cubi Point Naval Air Station. Equipment operators and mechanics assisted NMCB's TWO, THREE and FIVE in construction of the air strip. Detachment ABLE was deployed to Sangley Point, P.I., where it built 23 units of dependent housing. The deployment ended a year later when the battalion returned to Port Hueneme in October of 1953.

On 11 February 1954, CDR R. E. THOMAS, Jr., CEC, USN, relieved CDR KWASNY as Commanding Officer of NMCB NINE.

Another Detachment ABLE, consisting of four officers and 200 men, departed Port Hueneme for Saipan in March 1954, about one month before the main body departed for Adak, Alaska. At Adak, during the spring and summer of 1954, NMCB NINE Seabees operated a rock crusher and an asphalt plant, constructed 23 miles of asphalt road, and performed numerous other

smaller jobs. The deployment was completed on 2 October when the battalion returned to Port Hueneme.

On 29 December 1954, NMCB NINE left Port Hueneme by ship for Cubi Point and Camayan Point, Philippine Islands, with about half the battalion personnel deployed at each of the two sites. The Camayan Point group had the largest project, which included the construction of 15 reinforced concrete magazines and a mine assembly depot. The Cubi Point group resumed work on concrete barracks and a subsistance building which had been started during NMCB NINE's first deployment. Detachment ABLE rejoined the battalion after completing the construction of housing and rehabilitation of administrative spaces on Saipan. During July 1955 NMCB NINE returned to its home port for another period of leave and training.

In October 1955, NMCB NINE returned to Subic Bay, Philippine Islands, where the battalion completed numerous small projects.

On 27 March 1956, CDR J. M. RAYMOND, CEC, USN, relieved CDR THOMAS as Commanding Officer during a ceremony at Cubi Point. Command of NMCB NINE was passed to LCDR A. G. TOWLE, CEC, USN, on 12 June as CDR RAYMOND departed for Port Hueneme to participate in the reorganization of NMCB THREE, when it and NMCB TWO were combined into a single, 1000-man battalion. On 30 June CDR A. F. MEEKS, CEC, USN, relieved LCDR TOWLE as Commanding Officer.

The battalion boarded surface transportation, on 4 September 1956, for return to Port Hueneme. During the five months at home port, NMCB NINE Seabees began work on a nine-hole golf course for the Construction Battalion Center. Also during this period, a serious fire occurred in the

foothills near Malibu, California, and that region was declared a national disaster area by the President of the United States. Many NMCB NINE men volunteered for duty as fire fighters and were on the fire lines for several days and nights.

During 1957 the battalion split into three detachments. Detachments ABLE and BAKER left Port Hueneme on 20 January, and Detachment CHARLIE left on 21 March. Detachment ABLE went to Midway Island to begin construction of a harbor control tower and rehabilitation of a seaplane hangar. Detachment BAKER deployed to Pearl Harbor and centered its efforts on the rehabilitation of Camp Smith. Detachment CHARLIE went to Kwajalein, Marshall Islands. Its projects included excavation for an underground power and communications system, resurfacing of roads, and numerous other improvements to the facilities there. On 28 September 1957 CDR D. A. ROOKE, CEC, USN, relieved CDR MEEKS as Commanding Officer. On 22 November 1957, all detachments were disestablished and the battalion regrouped at Port Hueneme.

The main body of NMCB NINE, with a Detachment ABLE formed, departed Port Hueneme by ship on 18 March 1958. The main body disembarked at Kodiak, Alaska, on 24 March. Detachment ABLE, consisting of four officers and 240 enlisted men, continued on to Adak, Alaska, where it arrived on 26 March. The main body's major projects were the rehabilitation of two concrete runways, and the construction of a bridge for a 16-inch waterline over the Bushkin River. Detachment ABLE built two reinforced concrete bridges and completed several other projects. The battalion returned to Port Hueneme on 29 October.

NMCB NINE departed Port Hueneme aboard an MSTS transport ship on 22 January 1959, arriving at Naha, Okinawa, on 8 February. Base camp for the deployment was Camp Kue, Sukiran. The main project for this deployment was the construction of staging warehouses and shops for the U. S. Marine Corps. On 1 July 1959, LCDR R. W. BUCK, CEC, USN, relieved CDR ROOKE as Commanding Officer. On 5 September, CDR F. W. ARNOLD, CEC, USN, relieved LCDR BUCK, who remained with NMCB NINE as Executive Officer. In October 1959, the battalion returned to Port Hueneme.

Kodiak, Alaska, was the site for the 1960 deployment. The main body arrived at Kodiak on 27 March. Detachment BAKER went to Adak, Alaska, arriving 31 March with four officers and 156 enlisted men. During this deployment, the main body operated a rock crusher and an asphalt plant at Kodiak repairing runways and improving other facilities aboard the Naval Station. In August 1960, NMCB NINE was named Best of Type for Naval Construction Battalions in the Pacific. The battalion returned to Port Hueneme in November.

After leaving Port Hueneme in late February 1961, the battalion arrived at Naval Station, Midway, on 3 March to begin a deployment during which barracks and administrative spaces were constructed, and other assorted maintenance and rehabilitation work was completed.

On 25 April, the Society of American Military Engineers awarded NMCB NINE the Peltier Award as the Navy's best Mobile Construction Battalion.

In August 1961, LCDR W. H. STURMAN, CEC, USN, relieved CDR ARNOLD as Commanding Officer. The battalion departed Midway on 11 December and arrived at Port Hueneme on 21 December 1961.

On 7 April 1962, the battalion boarded sea transportation for Adak and Kodiak, Alaska. Detachment FOX, consisting of two officers and 78 enlisted men, departed ship at Kodiak on 31 April. The main body arrived at Adak on 16 April. The majority of the work during this deployment for both units was rehabilitation and major repair work on existing facilities at the two locations. The battalions returned to Port Hueneme on 14 November 1962.

NMCB NINE deployed to Camp Kinser, Okinawa, on 15 March 1963 and arrived on 1 April. Construction assignments were completed at Camp Kinser, Camp Hansen and White Beach.

On 7 June 1963, CDR Anson C. PERKINS, CEC, USN, relieved CDR STURMAN as Commanding Officer.

On 9 September, a well drilling team from Okinawa arrived in the Republic of Vietnam to aid the 1st Marine Air Wing which had requested help in obtaining a water supply. During 1963, NMCB NINE sent out its first two Seabee Technical Assistance Teams, 0901 and 0902. Team 0902 became the first to operate in Thailand and won much praise for its efforts, including a Letter of Commendation from the Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet. On 22 December 1963, the battalion returned to Port Hueneme.

One hundred fifty NMCB NINE Seabees flew to Kodiak, Alaska, on 28 March 1964 where they participated in disaster recovery operations after an earthquake severly damaged the area. For this work, NMCB NINE was later awarded the Navy Unit Commendation. The men returned to Port Hueneme on 11 April.

On 24 April 1964, the battalion again deployed to Camp Kinser, Okinawa, arriving there 12 May. Three months later on 12 August, NMCB NINE was named Best of Type for Naval Construction Battalions, Pacific, for the second time. On 6 November, CDR R. E. ANDERSON, CEC, USN, relieved CDR PERKINS as Commanding Officer. In February 1965, NMCB NINE returned to Port Hueneme for leave and training.

On 27 May 1965, NMCB NINE received its second Peltier Award from the Society of American Military Engineers.

VIETNAM 1965 TO PRESENT

On 3 June 1965, the battalion departed Port Hueneme for its first deployment to a combat zone at Da Nang East, Republic of Vietnam. The battalion arrived on 27 June and built a new Seabee Camp on the coast of the South China Sea. On 28 October 1965, a Viet Cong mortar and small arms attack wounded almost one hundred of NINE's Seabees of which two later died. This was the first instance of Viet Cong action directed against an entire Seabee battalion. The camp was later dedicated in honor of TN Restituto P. ADENIR, the first Seabee from NMCB NINE to die from enemy action. In addition to the camp construction, other major projects accomplished during this deployment included construction of an advance base hospital for the Naval Support Activity, Da Nang, a difficult road and missile site project on Monkey Mountain, the Marine Air Group 16 cantonment, and the operation of a rock crusher. On 25 January 1966, NMCB NINE sustained a second, but less serious, Viet Cong mortar attack. February 1966 saw NMCB NINE return to Port Hueneme by jet transport aircraft.

On 21 March 1966, NMCB NINE received its third Peltier Award as the Navy's best NMCB.

On 1 August 1966, the main body of the battalion began departing by air for the battalion's second deployment and the construction of another Seabee camp at Red Beach, near Da Nang, Republic of Vietnam. This was the first time the main body of the battalion had been transported to the deployment site by air. On 2 December 1966, command of NMCB NINE was assumed by CDR D. N. SHOCKEY, CEC, USN, in a ceremony at Camp Haskins,

Da Nang, where the battalion was based.

During this second Vietnam deployment the battalion sent out numerous platoon-sized units performing construction tasks for the U. S. Army Special Forces at Minh Long, Thuong Duc, and Ba To. All materials for these isolated airstrips and fortified camps were airlifted by helicopter.

The first Seabee detachment in the Mekong Delta region, consisting of 26 men from NMCB NINE, built a boat basin and 250-man cantonment on the My Tho River during February 1967. Several Ammi pontoons, the first to be utilized in Vietnam, were installed as a part of this waterfront facility in support of U. S. Navy Riverine Warfare Forces.

NMCB NINE brought the main Marine supply routes south of Da Nang to an all-weather capability, constructing 14 miles of roadway near Hill 55 on old railroad right-of-ways and berms pushed up from the rice paddy lowlands. As a part of this road, the battalion built the first major permanent bridge constructed by U. S. Military Forces in the I Corps area, a 510-foot unitized timber structure across the Ai Nghia River on Route 1C. This structure was completed on 25 November 1966.

Other major projects included the construction of a cantonment for Marine units at Phu Bai, numerous 50-foot timber sniper towers for isolated Marine outposts south of Da Nang, and a refugee center for USAID in Quang Ngai.

Constructionmen from NINE had the unique opportunity of developing a major quarry and rock crushing facility at a virgin site in Happy Valley, near Da Nang, from September 1966 to April 1967. The complete rock production facility included defensive structures and a 250-man camp.

Crushed rock was vital to holding tactical supply routes open throughout the I Corps area.

In mid-April 1967, NMCB NINE returned to Port Hueneme aboard C-141 jet transport aircraft.

The battalion's third consecutive deployment to the Republic of Vietnam began in October 1967. NMCB NINE's base of operations was Camp Hoover, near Da Nang.

Detachments were sent once again into forward areas south of Da Nang to live, work and on occasion share military duties with Marine units while constructing galleys, living huts, and shower facilities. On 10 October, an NMCB NINE detachment began repairs to the 2040-foot Liberty Bridge, the largest timber bridge in Vietnam. This structure, located 16 miles south of Da Nang on the Thu Bon River, was severely damaged by monsoon floods which carried away 800 feet of center spans. Reconstruction lasted through the entire deployment, during which bridge crews received continuous sniper harrassment. Other detachment work included the construction of sniper towers and 175-mm gun platforms.

Rock production and quarry development were highest of the battalion's construction priorities during this deployment. While production of rock materials proceeded at the Phuoc Tuong quarry on a 24-hour per day basis, a new 200-ton per hour crushing facility was developed adjacent to the quarry. Upon completion of new haul roads and the crusher site, the quarry was turned over to a civilian contractor for operation.

On 14 February 1968, CDR J. A. WRIGHT, CEC, USN, relieved CDR SHOCKEY of command of NMCB NINE.

Detail ECHO, a 180-man detachment of NMCB NINE, began developing a new quarry, rock crushing facilities, and a 250-man cantonment near Phu Loc, 45 miles north of Da Nang, at the base of towering Hill 494. They arrived there on 28 January 1968 only two days before the massive Viet Cong TET Offensive began. Despite problems in getting supplies over enemy-controlled roads, twenty-eight days of continous rainfall, and enemy mortar and recoilless rifle attacks by night and day, the facility was in operation within ten weeks after the Seabees' arrival. In five duels between Viet Cong gunners and Seabee mortar crews and Marine artillerymen, the enemy was driven off the nearby slopes of the surrounding hills. Six Seabees were killed and 17 wounded in defense of the camp. Enemy losses were estimated to be at least nine killed. The quarry cantonment was dedicated on 6 April 1968 as Camp DeShurley in honor of BUL3 George R. DeShurley, a mortar crew leader who was killed with four of his crew men when two enemy rounds exploded within their mortar position.

Projects within the Da Nang military complex were varied and often required a high degree of finish. Near the Da Nang air base, NMCB NINE built a 1000-man cantonment for the Naval Support Activity, complete with all utility systems. A prisoner-of-war compound and 500-man galley were built for the III Military Police Battalion. Other projects included storage facilities, a fire-station, the completion of a bowling alley, indoor theater, and communications center, and the paving and maintenance of roads.

NMCB NINE returned to Port Hueneme on 1 June 1968 to prepare for the next deployment.

On 1 and 3 December, a detail of one officer and 100 men deployed near Phu Loc, Republic of Vietnam, to operate and maintain a rock crusher under the operational control of NMCB ONE.

Almost simultaneously, on 2 and 3 December, the main body of the battalion consisting of 21 officers and 499 men deployed to Camp Kinser, Okinawa. The primary mission of the battalion was to serve as Pacific Fleet Alert Mobile Construction Battalion under the operational control of the Commander, U.S. Naval Forces, Japan, in support of the NINTH Marine Amphibious Brigade and Commander, Task Force SEVENTY-NINE. The battalion's secondary responsibility was the continuation of the first phase development of a permanent two-battalion Seabee Base at Camp Kinser.

To accomplish its primary mission as alert battalion in the Pacific, NMCB NINE undertook the development of operational plans for any eventuality as a mobile construction force.

The primary construction task at Camp Kinser involved the construction of a series of concrete block, reinforced concrete, and steel pre-engineered structures which included: six two-story 86-man Enlisted Men's barracks; a 44-man CPO barracks; a 500-man galley and messhall; a one-story, ten-room Junior BOQ; a CPO Club; and a regimental operations building. A primary earthmoving task was the relocation of a two-lane asphalt-surfaced roadway from the center of Camp Kinser to the southern border.

One officer and fifty-three men deployed on 29 May to Midway Island to rehabilitate living quarters and other facilities utilized during the summit conference between Presidents NIXON and THIEU. Their construction mission was two-fold: to prepare the island for arrival of dignitaries

and newsmen through a painting "face lift" and through installation of communication lines, power lines (for TV cameras), stages and other facilities. After the 8 June conference and until return to Okinawa on 22 June, this detail continued maintenance and repair work throughout the island.

From 26 June to 2 July, the battalion main body and the RVN detachment deployed from Kadena AFB, Okinawa, and DaNang, Republic of Vietnam, respectively, to Port Hueneme via NAS Point Mugu.

From 11 July to 1 August, a detail of sixteen men deployed TAD to the San Clemente U.S. Coast Guard LORAN Station to provide construction support for the augmentation of facilities at the adjacent Western White House of President NIXON. The primary construction task was interior finish carpentry and related utility work.

The battalion commenced its usual homeport training on 4 August after a one-month leave period.

On 17 October, the battalion received word it was to deactivate over the next 30-day period. This was a result of the economic cut-backs ordered by President NIXON.

A formal decommissioning ceremony was held 4 November which included a regimental review and the hauling down of the battalion flag. The reviewing officer was RADM S.R. SMITH, CEC, USN, Commander, Naval Construction Battalions, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

On 17 November 1969, U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion NINE was officially disestablished.

COPY

ITINERART OF THE 9th CONSTRUCTION BATTALION (2ND SECTION) OR CBD 1012

6 June 1942	Formed at NCTC, Norfolk, Virginia
29 June 1942	Departed Norfolk for New Orleans, La.
Aug 1942	Proceeded to Balboa, C.Z.
9 Sep 1942	Oinc reported Com15.
27 Sep 1942	Two units, each 1/3 of section, sent out on detached duty to advance bases.
27 Jul 1943	VCNO redesignated 9th CB (2nd Sec.) as CBD 1012.
21 Sep 1943	1012 operating at Galapagos, Corinto, and Salinas, with headquarters at Balboa, C.Z.
10 Feb 1944	CBD arrived NCTC, Davisville.

Note: The above itinerary is based on the record available in the C. B. Operations Section of the Bureau of Naval Personnel.

4 September 1945

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

R E S T R I C T E D

PLAIN

ITINERARY OF THE NINTH SPECIAL U. S. NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION

26 April 1943 — Battalion Formed at Camp Peary.

19 June 1943 — Departed Camp Peary for ABD, Port Hueneme.

24 June 1943 — Arrived ABD, Port Hueneme.

7 August 1943 — Departed ABD, Port Hueneme, for overseas.

19 August 1943 — Arrived Pago Pago, Samoa.

24 August 1943 — Departed Pago Pago, Samoa.

28 August 1943 — Arrived Noumea, New Caledonia.

17 September 1943 — Departed Noumea, New Caledonia.

21 September 1943 — Arrived Guadalcanal.

30 September 1943 — Company "A" and ½ Headquarters Company departed Guadalcanal for Russell Islands.

1 October 1943 — Company "A" arrived Russell Islands.

2 October 1943 — Company "B" and ½ Headquarters Company departed Guadalcanal for Tulagi.

3 October 1943 — Company "B" arrived Tulagi.

21 October 1943 — Company "D" and ½ Headquarters Company departed Guadalcanal for Sasavele.

22 October 1943 — Company "D" arrived Sasavele.

20 November 1943 — Company "A" departed Russell Islands for Sasavele.

21 November 1943 — Company "A" arrived Sasavele.

17 January 1944 — Company "C" and ½ Headquarters Company departed Guadalcanal for Bougainville.

19 January 1944 — Company "C" arrived Bougainville.

5 March 1944 — Company "C" departed Bougainville for Green Island.

6 March 1944 — Company "C" arrived Green Island.

(Continued on Page 2)

COPY

(Continued from Page 1)

PLAIN

ITINERARY OF THE NINTH SPECIAL U. S. NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION

1 December 1944 — One (1) officer and fifteen (15) enlisted men depart from Company "C"(Green Island) for temporary detached duty at Bougainville.

19 December 1944 — One (1) warrant officer and ten (10) enlisted men depart from Companies "A" and "D" (Sasavele) for temporary detached duty at Bougainville.

7 February 1945 — Two (2) officers and thirty (30) enlisted men depart from Companies "A" and "D" (Sasavele) for Russell Islands as advance echelon.

10 February 1945 — One (1) warrant officer and ten (10) enlisted men return to Companies "A" and "D" (Sasavele) from temporary detached duty at Bougainville.

18 February 1945 — One (1) officer and fifteen (15) enlisted men return to Company "C" (Green Island) from temporary detached duty at Bougainville.

24 February 1945 — Company "C" departed Green Island for Russell Islands.

26 February 1945 — Companies "A" and "D" depart Sasavele for Russell Islands.

27 February 1945 — Companies "A", "C" and "D" arrive Russell Islands.

Note: This itinerary has been authenticated by the Officer in Charge of the Ninth Special U. S. Naval Construction Battalion.

17 March 1945

1 October 1945 - Inactivated at Russell Islands.

15 October 1945

COPY

9th Naval Construction Battalion

Chronology

06 Jun 1942	U. S. Naval Construction Battalion 9 was activated at the Naval Construction Training Center, Norfolk, Virginia.
29 Jun 1942	The battalion was split into two sections. Section One, consisting of Companies A, B and D and three-fourths of the Headquarters Company, was sent to the Advance Base Depot, Davisville, Rhode Island. Section Two, consisting of Company C and one-fourth of the Headquarters Company, was sent to New Orleans, Louisiana.
01 Jul 1942	Section Two of Naval Construction Battalion 9 arrived at the Naval Station, New Orleans. While awaiting transportation for Balboa, Canal Zone, they were employed on public works activities.
05 Aug 1942	Section One Naval Construction Battalion 9 left Davisville for the Naval Operating Base, Reykjavik, Iceland.
18 Aug 1942	Section One arrived at the Naval Operating Base, Reykjavik, Iceland.
Aug 1942 – Aug 1943	While in Iceland, Section One of Naval Construction Battalion 9 constructed four bomber airstrips for the Army and the Fleet Air Base, built a Navy Fuel and Salvage Depot at Hvalfjordur, a camp for the Army, and 52 tanks with a total capacity of 28,500 barrels of aviation gas and 440,000 barrels of oil.
03 Sep 1942	Section Two of Naval Construction Battalion 9 departed from New Orleans for Balboa, Canal Zone.
15 Sep 1942	The second section of the battalion arrived at Balboa, Canal Zone after a delay at Coco Solo, Canal Zone.
27 Sep 1942	Two units of the second section of Naval Construction Battalion 9, each assigned one-third of the men in the second section, were sent to advance bases on detached duty. One unit was sent to Galapagos, Ecaudor, and the other unit was sent to Salinas, Ecaudor.
01 Dec 1942	About half the men assigned to the headquarters unit of the second section were sent to the U. S. Naval Base, Corinto, Nicaragua, for duty. The remaining personnel of the headquarters unit moved to Corinto when transportation became available.
May 1943	The officers in charge of Units 1 and 2 were assigned additional duties as Public works Officers of their respective bases.
27 Jul 1943	Naval Construction Battalion 9, Section Two, was redesignated Construction Battalion Detachment 1012.

10 Aug 1943	Section One of Naval Construction Battalion 9, was redesignated Construction Battalion Detachment 1012.
29 Aug 1943	Naval Construction Battalion 9 departed from Iceland for Davisville, Rhode Island.
06 Sep 1943	The battalion arrived at Davisville. Personnel were given leave. After the leave, the battalion reassembled at the Naval Training Center, Camp Endicott, Davisville.
09 Oct 1943 – 22 Feb 1944	After reorganizing, retraining and reoutfitting at Camp Endicott, the battalion performed public works services at Camp Thomas, Advance Base Depot, Davisville.
04 May 1944	Naval Construction Battalion 9 departed from Davisville for the Advance Base Depot, Port Hueneme, California.
25 Jun 1944	The battalion departed Port Hueneme for Pearl Harbor, Oahu Hawaii.
01 July 1944	The battalion arrived at Pearl Harbor, Oahu, Hawaii. While there, the battalion was assigned to the Thirty-second Naval Construction Regiment of the Eighth Naval Construction Brigade.
Jul 1944 – Nov 1944	In Hawaii, the battalion built facilities for the Naval Air Supply Depot and for the Naval Air Station Depot Personnel Camp at Pearl City, a rocket target range on Molokai, Hawaii, and an Army camp at Aiea, Oahu, Hawaii.
10 Nov 1944	Naval Construction Battalion 9 departed from Hawaii for Tinian, Mariana Islands.
01 Dec 1944	The battalion arrived at Tinian.
Dec 1944 – Jun 1945	On Tinian the battalion was employed on the construction of North and Northwest Fields, the bomber bases for the B-29s, and also on an Army camp and a camp for a bomber group. In addition, they erected and operated an asphalt plant.
May 1945	Naval Construction Battalion 9 was alerted for a forward movement.
19 Jun 1945	The battalion departed from Tinian on seven vessels, for Okinawa, Ryukyu Islands.
30 Jun 1945 – 04 Jul 1945	The battalion arrived at Okinawa in echelons.
Jul 1945	The battalion engaged in sporadic action with Japanese troops, killing several of the enemy.
Jul 1945 – Dec 1945	At Okinawa the battalion constructed a 4 – lane coral-surfaced highway, the compound for the Seventeenth Naval Construction Regiment, internal roads, shops for aircraft repairs, a 1,600 foot quay wall, and standard marine railway. The battalion also operated a coral pit and rock crusher.
07 Dec 1945	U. S. Naval Construction Battalion 9 was inactivated on Okinawa.

9th U. S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion

Officer in Charge

Lieutenant Commander Jarl E. Larson, CEC, USNR	06 Jun 1942 – 15 Apr 1943
Lieutenant Edward M. Howard, CEC, USNR	15 Apr 1943 – 22 May 1943
Commander George G. Lancaster, CEC, USNR	22 May 1943 – 16 Sep 1944
Lieutenant Commander Howard S. Shafer, CEC, USNR	16 Sep 1944 – 1 Oct 1945
Commander Robert B. Atkins, CEC, USNR	1 Oct 1945 – 7 Dec 1945

Officer in Charge
Second Section

Lieutenant James W. Head, Jr., CEC, USNR	29 Jun 1942 – 27 Jul 1943

Commanding Officers

Lieutenant Commander Lyman W. Madsen, CEC, USN	15 Apr 1952 – 11 Jul 1952
Commander Harry P. Kwansy, CEC, USN	11 Jul 1952 – 11 Feb 1954
Commander Robert E. Thomas, Jr., CEC, USN	11 Feb 1954 – 27 Mar 1956
Commander John M. Raymond, CEC, USN	27 Mar 1956 – 30 Jun 1956
Commander Arthur F. Meeks, CEC, USN	30 Jun 1956 – 28 Sep 1957
Commander Donald R. Rooke, CEC, USN	28 Sep 57 – 01 Jul 1959
Lieutenant Commander Robertson W. Buck, CEC, USN	01 Jul 1959 – 05 Sep 1959
Commander Ferdinand W. Arnold, CEC, USNR	05 Sep 1959 – 26 Aug 1961
Commander William H. Sturman, CEC, USNR	26 Aug 1961 – 07 Jun 1963
Commander Anson C. Perkins, CEC, USN	07 Jun 1963 – 06 Nov 1944
Commander Richard E. Anderson, CEC, USN	06 Nov 1964 – 02 Dec 1966
Commander Daniel N. Shockey, CEC, USN	02 Dec 1966 – 14 Feb 1968
Commander John A. Wright, CEC, USN	14 Feb 1968 – To date

CBD 1012

Section Two of the Ninth Battalion was formed at Norfolk, Va., and transferred to New Orleans July 1, 1942. Sailing for Panama September 3, 1942, the unit arrived September 9. On July 27, 1943, the section was redesignated as CBD 1012. The unit had duty in Balboa, C. Z., Ecuador, Nicaragua and Honduras, until February 1944, when it departed for the States. Arriving at Davisville, R. I., February 10, 1944, the detachment was inactivated April 20, 1944.

USNCB
9TH