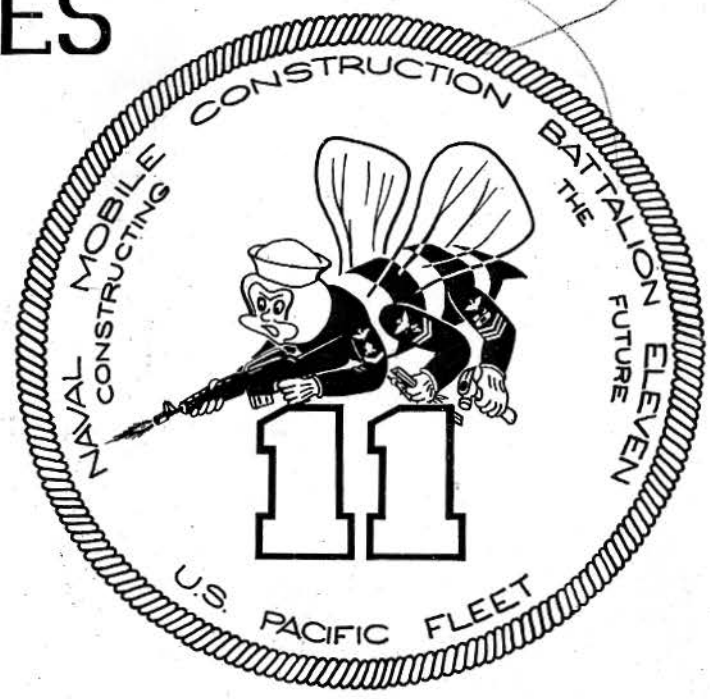


UNITED STATES

NAVAL
MOBILE



CONSTRUCTION BATTALION

ELEVEN

DEPLOYMENT

COMPLETION REPORT

QUANG TRI, RVN

9 MAY 1968

15 JANUARY 1969

NMCB ELEVEN DEPLOYMENT COMPLETION REPORT
QUANG TRI, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM
MAY 1968 THROUGH JANUARY 1969

Ref: (a) COMCBPAC OPORD 8-68

1. Employment Status. In accordance with reference (a), U. S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion ELEVEN was deployed to Camp Rhodes, Quang Tri Combat Base, Republic of Vietnam from May 1968 through January 1969. The Primary mission of the Battalion was construction in support of U. S. Military forces in the Republic of Vietnam.

2. Unit Movements. The following unit movements were accomplished during the deployment:

a. RVN Predeployment Party. On 13 March 1968, a predeployment party of one Officer and one Chief Petty Officer departed the Battalion at NCBC, Port Hueneme via commercial aircraft to Quang Tri Combat Base, RVN and were followed on 22 March 1968 by a party consisting of three Officers.

b. RVN Advance Party. On 16 April 1968, an Advance Party consisting of 7 Officers and 112 Enlisted personnel deployed from the Battalion at NCBC, Port Hueneme via C-118 aircraft to Quang Tri Combat Base, RVN.

c. RVN Main Body Movement. Beginning 5 May 1968, the NMCB ELEVEN Main Body consisting of 18 Officers and 612 Enlisted personnel deployed from NCBC, Port Hueneme, to Quang Tri Combat Base. The movement was accomplished by Military Airlift Command C-141 aircraft to the Philippines and by C-130 aircraft from there to Quang Tri Combat Base. The last C-130 aircraft crashed upon landing at Quang Tri resulting in seven NMCB ELEVEN personnel receiving extensive injuries. The advance party was disestablished upon arrival of the first main body flight on 8 May 1968.

d. Seabee Team 1111 Deployment. On 30 May, 1968 Seabee Team 1111 deployed from NCBC, Port Hueneme to Thung Song, Thailand in accordance with COMCBPAC Thai OPORD 2-68 to perform construction and training support of USOM/THAI projects.

e. Seabee Team 1112 Deployment. On 30 May, 1968, Seabee Team 1112 deployed from NCBC, Port Hueneme to Huai Mo Khang, Thailand in accordance with COMCBPAC THAI OPORD 2-68 to perform construction and training support of USOM/THAI projects.

f. Seabee Team 1110 Return to CONUS. In August 1968, Seabee Team 1110 returned from Long Xuyen, RVN to NCBC, Port Hueneme.

g. CONUS Advance Party. On 8 December 1968, an Advance Party consisting of 2 Officers and 18 Enlisted personnel departed the Battalion for return to NCBC, Port Hueneme, via C-118 aircraft. They were followed by a second increment advance party of one Officer and 79 Enlisted personnel on 28 December 1968.

h. CONUS Main Body Movement. During the period of 17 January 1969 through 23 January 1969, the NMCB ELEVEN Main Body, consisting of 18 Officers and 678 Enlisted personnel deployed to NCBC, Port Hueneme. The movement was accomplished by commerial aircraft from Danang to Point Mugu, California. The NMCB ELEVEN Advance Party was disestablished upon the CONUS arrival of the Main Body.

3. SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- 25 April 1968 - NMCB ELEVEN Awards Ceremony
- 5 May 1968 - Quang Tri Airfield received approximately 25 rounds of 122mm rockets. One NMCB ELEVEN man wounded and and med-evaced.
- 6 May 1968 - First flight of NMCB ELEVEN Main Body with CDR W. K. Hartell departed CONUS. (CONUS TIME)
- 8 May 1968 - Arrival of first flight of NMCB ELEVEN Main Body Body at Quang Tri Combat Base.
- 9 May 1968 - CDR W. K. Hartell, CEC, USN assumed command of the Seabee Camp at Quang Tri.
- 14 May 1968 - An NMCB ELEVEN " Six-By" truck struck a mine on Route One to Dong Ha resulting in five NMCB ELEVEN personnel being wounded.
- 15 May 1968 - Second C-130 of flight eight crashed on landing at Quang Tri airstrip resulting in seven NMCB ELEVEN personnel being med-evaced and numerous less serious injuries.
- 16 May 1968 - RADM J. V. Bartlett, CEC, USN and CAPT J. M. Hill, CEC, USN presented welcome aboard address for NMCB ELEVEN.
- 20 May 1968 - LCDR G. R. Matthews, CEC, USN, COMCBPAC Staff visited NMCB ELEVEN.
- 23 May 1968 - CAPT J. M. Hill, CEC, USN and staff of COM 32NCR held arrival conference with NMCB ELEVEN.
- 1 June 1968 - NMCB ELEVEN relieved NMCB FIVE at Dong Ha Rock Ramp and commenced hauling rock for National Routes One and Nine.
- 3 June 1968 - Commenced construction of 400 foot My Chanh Bridge (B-1-11) approximately 18 miles south of Quang Tri.
- 9 June 1968 - Discontinued weekly newspaper "STINGER" and began publication of a daily two-page current events paper.

14 June 1968 - NMCB ELEVEN Awards Ceremony Presentations were made by CAPT J. Hill, CEC, USN and CDR W. K. Hartell, CEC, USN.

20 June 1968 - RADM J. V. Bartlett, CEC, USN and CAPT J. M. Hill, CEC, USN visited the My Chanh Bridge site.

21 June 1968 - Quang Tri Combat Base received approximately twelve rounds of rockets. Four rounds impacted in the new Seabee camp area resulting in minor damage to the CTR Building.

27-30 June 1968 - Personnel moved into new Seabee camp area. Alpha Company shops did not relocate at this time.

5 July 1968 - New camp inspected by representatives of Third MARDIV, Third MAF, COM 3NCB, and COM 32NCR.

17 July 1968 - CDR W. K. Hartell, CEC, USN, CO NMCB ELEVEN departed to visit deployed Seabee Teams.

24 July 1968 - Condition ONE set for one hour. Five rounds impacted on combat base, none in the NMCB ELEVEN camp area.

25 July 1968 - RADM Combs, USN, COMSERVPAC and Party visited NMCB ELEVEN project sites.

31 July 1968 - Dedication of the My Chanh Bridge (B-1-11).

1 August 1968 - ADM Bartlett, GEN Olson, CAPT Hill, CAPT Andress, CDR Sweeny, CDR Lawson and CDR Burdick visited NMCB ELEVEN.

3-5 August 1968 - LT German and two CPO's from the Thirty-First Naval Construction Regiment conducted Alpha Company Admin Inspection.

9 August 1968 - Road between Quang Tri Combat Base and the Dong Ha Ramp was opened for use 24 hours a day by NMCB ELEVEN with Army and Marine personnel providing security.

10 August 1968 - LTJG Pentti arrived from NMCB-74 with 44 men for augment of NMCB ELEVEN on MER Program.

11 August 1968 - CAPT Hill and CAPT Walton visited NMCB ELEVEN

14 August 1968 - Quang Tri Combat Base received three rocket rounds. None impacted in NMCB ELEVEN Camp.

16-17 August 1968 - CAPT Walton visited NMCB ELEVEN

23 August 1968 - Quang Tri Combat Base received approximately ten rounds of 122mm rockets, none impacting in the NMCB ELEVEN Camp.

- 27 August 1968 - Detail from NMCB-71 arrived to augment NMCB ELEVEN on MER Program.
- 28-31 August 1968 - CBPAC Inspection Team inspected Supply Department. A grade of excellent was awarded.
- 29 August 1968 - Detail from NMCB-1 arrived to augment NMCB ELEVEN on MER Program.
- 31 August 1968 - CO, NMCB-71, CDR Anderson, visited NMCB ELEVEN.
- 4 September 1968 - Detail from NMCB-133 and NMCB-10 arrived to augment NMCB ELEVEN on MER Program.
- 4-6 September 1968 - Typhoon Bess deposited 23 inches of rain at Quang Tri.
- 18 September 1968 - NMCB ELEVEN Seabee Camp was formally dedicated as Camp Rhodes by RADM Husband in honor of LT Joseph Rhodes. LT Rhodes was Delta Company Commander of NMCB-121 when he was killed in Vietnam in 1967. In attendance at the ceremony were: General Hill, MAG 39 Commodore Walton, COM 32NCR.
- 28 September 1968 - CAPT Miller and party from COMCBPAC visited Camp Rhodes.
- 3-13 October 1968 - Construction details from NMCB-1, NMCB-8 and NMCB-133 returned to parent commands.
- 21 October 1968 - CAPT Walton, COM 32NCR visited sites.
- 23 October 1968 - RADM J. V. Bartlett toured NMCB ELEVEN projects.
- 2 November 1968 - Navy combat artist, Walter Giordano visited Camp Rhodes and construction sites for the purpose of gathering information and ideas for combat art work.
- 4 December 1968 - Condition ONE set from 2310 to 2355.
- 8 December 1968 - Advance party departed Camp Rhodes for CBC, Port Hueneme.
- 10 December 1968 - Condition ONE set from 2150 to 2240.
- 24 December 1968 - RADM James Kelly, Chief of Navy Chaplains, on board to dedicate new Camp Rhodes Seabee Chapel.
- 28 December 1968 - Second increment advance party departed for CONUS.
- 17 January 1969 - First flight of Main Body departs for CONUS.

4. Major Problems

a. Security. A major problem was created when the battalion moved from the old camp area into the new camp in that we were required to retain responsibility for our defensive sector of the base perimeter. The sector was located slightly in excess of one mile from the camp berthing area which made it extremely difficult to scramble a reaction force. Further, the large number of men that NMCB ELEVEN was tasked to provide for the defensive perimeter sector significantly detracted from the manpower availability for construction projects. This problem was alleviated on 21 November 1968 when by agreement with the Base Defense Coordinator the battalion gave up their defensive sector responsibilities and the constructionmen thereby freed were used to construct permanent defensive bunker positions throughout all sectors of the combat base.

b. Equipment. The non availability of proper equipment at the time needed and the general unavailability of equipment assigned the battalion caused major problems in meeting the extremely tight construction deadlines assigned during the deployment. This problem is discussed in greater detail in ANNEX C.

c. Construction Material (Wood Products). It is estimated that approximately thirty percent of the one-inch (1" x RW x RL) lumber received during the deployment was not usable due to rot. This appears to have been caused by excessively long periods of storage and non rotation of stock prior to the material reaching the battalion yard. Although far less serious, a problem was encountered when approximately one hundred twenty-five (125) bundles of random size "interior" grade plywood was received in lieu of the exterior grade ordered and normally received. This resulted in considerable re-work of structures in which material had been installed before the discrepancy was detected.