



# U.S. NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION THREE

31NCR



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## DEPLOYMENT COMPLETION

# Report

**DA NANG RVN**

**JULY 1968 - MARCH 1969**

U.S. NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION THREE  
C/O FLEET POST OFFICE  
SAN FRANCISCO 96601

NMCR3/GDL/cjj  
5212  
Ser 865  
Date: 18 June 1969

From: Commanding Officer, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion THREE  
To: Commander, Naval Construction Battalions, U.S. Pacific Fleet

Subj: NMCB THREE Deployment Completion Report; forwarding of

Ref: (a) COMCBPACINST 5213.1E  
(b) COMCBPAC OPORD 13-68  
(c) COMCBPAC MSG 250053Z Aug 1968  
(d) COMCBPAC ltr 3120 Ser 0178 of 28 Dec 1967  
(e) COMCBPAC OPORD 4-69

Encl: (1) Administrative Summary  
(2) Equipment Status Summary  
(3) Training Summary  
(4) Intelligence Summary  
(5) Labor Distribution Summary  
(6) Construction Summary  
(7) Construction Item Summary  
(8) Progress and Performance Chart  
(9) Fiscal Summary of Operation  
(10) Civic Action Summary  
(11) Logistical Summary

1. The completion report of U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion THREE's deployment to Danang, Republic of Vietnam, during the period of July 1968 through March 1969 is forwarded, as enclosures (1) through (11), in accordance with references (a) and (b).

2. Employment Status. U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion THREE was deployed to Camp Faulkner, Danang, Republic of Vietnam from 12 July until 2 October 1968 in accordance with reference (b). In accordance with reference (c), the Battalion redeployed to Camp Haskins South from 3 October 1968 until 19 March 1969. The following units were employed at other locations:

a. Detachments: None

b. Details:

(1) Detail Charlie, composed of two officers and 98 enlisted personnel, was deployed at Camp Kinser, Okinawa, constructing berthing and messing facilities in accordance with reference (b).

(2) Detail Sierra, composed of 9 enlisted personnel, was employed at Hill 395 Nong Son, RVN, constructing underground bunkers, a dispensary, warehouse, water supply system, and access roads.

(3) Detail Tango, composed of 9 enlisted personnel, was employed at Hill 55, Duc Ky, RVN, replacing two spans of the Golden Gate Bridge which were destroyed by a VC mine.

(4) Detail Uniform, composed of 7 officers and 297 enlisted personnel, was employed at An Hoa, RVN, constructing various airfield facilities.

(5) Detail Victor, composed of one officer and 29 enlisted personnel, was employed at Liberty Bridge, Thu Bon River, RVN, constructing a 660 ft. combination timber pile and concrete beam bridge across the Thu Bon River.

(6) Detail Whisky composed of one officer and 49 enlisted personnel was employed at Bridge 5, Hue, RVN, hauling mineral products and erecting two 35 - 50 TPH asphalt plants.

c. Temporary Additional Duty:

(1) 63 enlisted personnel to NMCB 133 in support of the 1968 LOC upgrade program.

(2) 14 enlisted personnel to 3NCB Rep Saigon for installation of water and electrical system in refugee housing (Operation Dang Tam).

d. Seabee Team 0310 deployed to Long Xuyen and Bac Leiu, Republic of Vietnam, in accordance with reference (d).

e. Seabee Team 0311 deployed to Can Tho, Republic of Vietnam, in accordance with reference (d).

3. Unit Movements

a. On 24 June 1968, the first part of the advance party arrived at Camp Faulkner, RVN, via government aircraft.

b. On 3 July 1968, the second part of the advance party arrived at Camp Faulkner, RVN, via government aircraft.

c. On 12 Through 20 July 1968, the main body of NMCB THREE arrived at Camp Faulkner, RVN, via government aircraft.

d. On 12 through 21 July 1968, Detail Charlie arrived at Camp Kinser, Okinawa, via government aircraft.

e. On 25 July 1968, 63 men on TAD to NMCB 133 arrived at Phu Bai, RVN, via government aircraft.

f. On 5 August 1968, Seabee Team 0310 deployed to Long Xuyen, RVN, and Seabee Team 0311 deployed to Can Tho, RVN, via government aircraft.

g. On 10 August 1968, 14 men on TAD to 3NCB Rep Saigon arrived at Saigon, RVN, via government aircraft.



- h. On 6 August 1968, Detail Sierra arrived at Hill 395, Nong Son, RVN, via government helo.
- i. On 22 September 1968, 14 men TAD to 3NCB Rep Saigon returned to Camp Faulkner via government aircraft.
- j. On 28 September 1968 through 3 October 1968, the main body of NMCB THREE convoyed from Camp Faulkner to Camp Haskins South, Danang, RVN.
- k. On 15 October 1968, Detail Tango deployed to Hill 55, Duc Ky, RVN, via convoy.
- l. On 23 October 1968, the 63 men TAD to NMCB 133 returned to Camp Haskins South via government aircraft.
- m. On 3 November 1968, Seabee Team 0310 moved from Long Xuyen to Bac Lieu, RVN via convoy.
- n. On 7 November 1968, Detail Tango returned to Camp Haskins South via convoy.
- o. On 8 November 1968, Detail Charlie (main body) returned to Camp Haskins South via government aircraft.
- p. On 11 November 1968, Detail Victor deployed to Liberty Bridge, Thu Bon River, RVN, via convoy.
- q. On 26 November through 1 December 1968, Detail Uniform arrived at An Hoa, RVN, via government aircraft.
- r. On 3 December 1968, Detail Sierra returned to Camp Haskins South via government helo.
- s. On 11 December 1968, Detail Whiskey arrived at Bridge 5, Hue, RVN, via convoy.
- t. On 13 February 1969, the advance party returned to CONUS via government aircraft.
- u. On 16 February 1969, Detail Uniform returned to Camp Haskins South via convoy and government aircraft.
- v. On 18 March 1969, Detail Whiskey returned to Camp Haskins South via convoy.
- w. On 19 through 23 March 1969, the main body of NMCB THREE returned to CONUS via government and commercial aircraft in accordance with reference (e).
- x. On 8 April 1969, Detail Victor returned to CONUS via government aircraft.
- y. On 9 April 1969, the delay party returned to CONUS via government aircraft.

g. On 13 April 1969, SEABEE Teams 0310 and 0311 returned to CONUS via government aircraft.

4. Significant Events

a. 24 June 1968:  
BEEP COMMENCED.

b. 7 July 1968:  
BEEP COMPLETED.

c. 12 July 1968:  
NMCB THREE's Commanding Officer, CDR C. R. WHIPPLE, CEC, USN, relieved NMCB ONE-TWENTY-EIGHT's Commanding Officer, CDR D. W. WITTSCHIEBE, CEC, USN, at Camp Faulkner, Danang, RVN.

d. 23 July 1968:  
Mortar alert at 0005 due to mortar attack in Danang area. Set Condition I at 0050 and Condition II at 0115; secured at 0635. There were additional mortar attacks in the area at 0200 and 0600, no enemy rounds fell in the Camp Faulkner area.

e. 24 July 1968:  
RADM J. V. BARTLETT, Commander, THIRD Naval Construction Brigade, visited Camp Faulkner for an arrival conference.

f. 24 July 1968:  
Set Condition I at 2219 due to mortar attack in Danang area. Stepped down to condition II at 2224. Secured at 0650, 25 July. No enemy rounds in the Camp Faulkner area.

g. 29 July 1968:  
Mortar alert at 2132; secured at 2135. LCDR J. R. IVES suffered a bi-maleolar fracture of left leg as a result of a fall during enemy mortar attack on Danang area. LCDR IVES was med-evaced to Japan on 31 July 1968. No enemy rounds fell in the Camp Faulkner area.

h. 2 August 1968:  
Received BUPERS message authorizing LCDR BONHAM and LT LUZUM to assume duties as Executive Officer and Operations Officer, respectively.

i. 5 August 1968:  
NMCB THREE Commanding Officer departed for a visit to Detail Charlie, Okinawa.

j. 7 August 1968:  
NMCB THREE Commanding Officer returned from Okinawa.

k. 11 August 1968:  
COMCBPAC Management Inspection visit by CDR WILSON, LCDR GILMORE, and LT HENLEY.

l. 20 August 1968:  
NMCB THREE Executive Officer departed for a visit to Detail Charlie, Okinawa.

- m. 22 August 1968:  
Mortar alert at 0230 due to enemy attack on FOB4 Special Forces Camp. Reaction Squads manned the lines until secured at 0600. No NMCB THREE casualties; no enemy rounds fell in the Camp Faulkner area.
- n. 22 August 1968:  
Reaction Squads manned the lines from 1800 until 0600 23 August 1968, due to enemy movement in the area.
- o. 23 August 1968:  
Mortar alert at 0247; secured at 0303.
- p. 26 August 1968:  
NMCB THREE Executive Officer returned from Okinawa.
- q. 27 August 1968:  
Set Condition II from 0130 until 0600 due to increased enemy movement in the area.
- r. 30 August 1968:  
Mortar alerts at 1915, 0200, and 0300 31 August 1968 due to mortar and rocket attack in Danang area. No NMCB THREE casualties; no enemy rounds fell in the Camp Faulkner area.
- s. 1 September 1968:  
Set condition II at 2305 due to mortar and rocket attack in Danang area. No NMCB THREE casualties; no enemy rounds fell in the Camp Faulkner area.
- t. 4 September 1968:  
Mortar alert at 0530 due to mortar and rocket attack in Danang area. No NMCB THREE casualties; no enemy rounds fell in camp.
- u. 5 September 1968:  
Set Typhoon Condition One prior to Typhoon Bess hitting the Danang area. No personnel were injured during the typhoon. Property damage at Camp Faulkner was limited to one BOQ blown off its foundation, the movie screen and projection booth blown over, and a lean-to on the CTR building blown down. Negligible damage was incurred at the project sites.
- v. 6 September 1968:  
A 5 Ton dump truck detonated a land mine on III AMTRAC access road in Marble Mountain area. One Vietnamese civilian was killed; the driver received minor cuts and bruises. The vehicle was heavily damaged.
- w. 8 September 1968:  
MRS tractor clearing debris on Route 1 North of Hai Van Pass triggered a booby-trapped rocket propelled grenade. The driver, EO3 R. N. SEBASTIAN received shrapnel wounds in the arm, abdomen and thigh, and was med-evaced to Alpha Med in Phu Bai in good condition.



x. 12 September 1968:

Set Condition II from 2305 until 0114, 13 September 1968, due to increased enemy movement in the area.

y. 13 September 1968:

Mortar alert at 0515 due to mortar and rocket attack. No NMCB THREE casualties; no enemy rounds fell in camp.

z. 18 September 1968:

Mortar alert at 0530 due to mortar and rocket attack. No NMCB THREE casualties; no enemy rounds fell in camp.

aa. 18 September 1968:

At 1535 SKC J. WALLACE was shot in the back by a spent stray .30 caliber round at Camp Haskins South. The injury was not serious.

bb. 18 September 1968:

RADM A. C. HUSBAND and party visited various job sites and Camp Faulkner.

cc. 22 September 1968:

Mortar alert at 0215 due to rocket and mortar attack. One 82mm mortar round fell near Bunker #10 at the north east corner of Camp Faulkner. No NMCB THREE casualties; no property damage.

dd. 24 September 1968:

Mortar alert at 1836; stepped down to Condition III at 1900. No NMCB THREE casualties; no enemy rounds fell in camp.

ee. 25 September 1968:

Mortar alert at 2120; set condition I at 2121; stepped down to Condition III at 2123. No NMCB THREE casualties; no enemy rounds fell in camp.

ff. 3 October 1968:

NMCB THREE relieved NMCB SIXTY-TWO at Camp Haskins South.

gg. 5 October 1968:

At 2230, Camp Faulkner received from 7 to 10 rounds of 82mm mortar fire. LT J. W. CROSS, SC, USN, (Battalion S-4) was critically wounded by a mortar round and med-evaced. First Marine Engineer Battalion had three minor WIA. Minor property damage was caused in the Officer's Club and the Personnel Office.

hh. 6 October 1968:

First Engineer Battalion (1st MARDIV) relieved NMCB THREE at Camp Faulkner.

ii. 9 October 1968:

The Honorable Paul R. IGNATIUS (SECNAV) visited the Children's Hospital at Camp Books which is being constructed by Vietnamese Nationals under NMCB THREE supervision.

jj. 10 October 1968:  
The Honorable Paul R. IGNATIUS (SECNAV) visited Camp Haskins on his scheduled inspection tour of Navy and Marine Corps units operating in Southeast Asia.

kk. 22 October 1968:  
Commanding Officer commenced visit to Seabee Teams O310 at Long Xuyen and O311 at Can Tho.

ll. 25 October 1968:  
Commanding Officer returned from visit to Seabee Teams.

mm. 28 October 1968:  
CAPTAIN J. R. FISHER, CEC, USN, COM3ONCR, visited job sites.

nn. 6 November 1968:  
CAPTAIN W. H. STURMAN, CEC, USN, COM3NCB Rep Saigon, visited job sites.

oo. 8 November 1968:  
CAPTAIN J. R. FISHER, CEC, USN, COM3ONCR and CDR L. J. GREEN, CEC, USN, COS, 3ONCR, were briefed on NMCB THREE's Civic Action Program and visited our Medcap at Trung Nghia, RVN.

pp. 13 November 1968:  
CBPAC Management Inspection visit was conducted by CDR W. L. WILSON, CEC, USN, LT J. L. HENLEY, CEC, USN, AND CUCM VARNER.

qq. 17 November 1968:  
Commanding Officer visited job sites in the CHU LAI, RVN, area.

rr. 17 November 1968:  
Mortar alert at 0115 due to rocket attack on FLC and Deep Water Pier. No NMCB THREE casualties, no rounds in camp. Mortar alert at 0445, due to rocket attack on Danang Air Base. No NMCB THREE casualties; no rounds in camp.

ss. 18 November 1968:  
Mortar alert at 0231 due to mortar attack on 1st Air Cav. No NMCB THREE casualties; no rounds in camp.

tt. 18 November 1968:  
Mortar alert at 2300 due to rocket attack on FLC and Danang Air Base. No NMCB THREE casualties, no rounds in camp. Set Condition I at 2315 due to increased enemy activity in the area; secured from Condition I and set Condition III at 2355.

uu. 20 November 1968:  
Annual Supply Inspection held by LT J. F. GOHRBAND JR., SC, USN, of COM31NCR Staff.

vv. 28 November 1968:  
At 1910 a hand illumination flare started a fire in the 3NCB storage yard. The fire was contained by 1940 by the NMCB THREE Fire Fighting crew.



ww. 29 November 1968:  
RADM W. M. HEAMAN, CEC, USN, COMCBPAC, inspected NMCB THREE job sites in the West Danang area.

xx. 30 November 1968:  
Mortar alert at 0047 due to rocket attack on FLC. No NMCB THREE casualties; no enemy rounds fell in camp.

yy. 30 November 1968:  
Set Condition I at 0327 due to enemy activity in the area. Stepped down to Condition III at 0400.

zz. 30 November 1968:  
RADM W. M. HEAMAN, CEC, USN, COMCBPAC, was the guest of honor at a dinner held in the NMCB THREE wardroom. Other guests included RADM J. V. BARTLETT, CEC, USN, COM3NCB, and CAPTAIN J. R. FISHER, CEC, USN, COM3ONCR.

aaa. 2 December 1968:  
The last fixed wing aircraft departed An Hoa at 1910. The runway was closed and detail Uniform began mat replacement.

bbb. 6 December 1968:  
MGEN C. J. QUILTER, USMC, CG, FMAW; RADM J. V. BARTLETT, CEC, USN, COM3NCB; and CAPTAIN J. R. FISHER, CEC, USN, COM3ONCR, visited An Hoa job site.

ccc. 7 December 1968:  
An Hoa Logistical Support Area (LSA) site preparation started.

ddd. 8 December 1968:  
An Hoa airfield runway, taxiways and parking apron complete. Fixed wing aircraft landed at 1335.

eee. 10 December 1968:  
An Hoa LSA completed 5 days ahead of schedule.

fff. 10 December 1968:  
Two NMCB THREE vehicles caught in an ambush at Hai Van Pass. No personnel or equipment casualties.

ggg. 17 December 1968:  
Mortar alert at 0053 due to mortar attack. 1st AIRCAV received approximately 7 rounds of 82mm mortar. No NMCB THREE casualties; no enemy rounds fell in camp. Stepped down to Condition III Modified at 0125.

hhh. 17 December 1968:  
Mortar alert at 2300 due to rocket attack on Danang Air Base. Stepped down to Condition III Modified at 2310. No NMCB THREE casualties; no enemy rounds in camp.

iii. 23 December 1968:  
Mortar alert from 0352 to 0410 due to rocket attack on the Danang Air Base and surrounding units. No NMCB THREE casualties; no enemy rounds in camp.

jjj. 6 January 1969:  
CDR R. J. WESTBERG, CEC, USN, Commanding Officer, NMCB EIGHT, and a party of four commenced a five day pre-deployment visit.

kkk. 15 January 1969:  
At 1230, an eight man NMCB THREE crew working Hai Van Pass, came under small arms and automatic weapons fire for one hour and twenty minutes. No personnel or equipment casualties were sustained.

lll. 18 January 1969:  
Mortar alert at 0042 due to mortar attack and sapper squad infiltration of FLC. No NMCB THREE casualties; no enemy rounds in camp. Stepped down to Condition III Modified at 0110.

mmm. 20 January 1969:  
At 1445 NMCB THREE's Fire Department was the first fire fighting unit to respond to an alarm sounded by the 3NCB. One barracks was a total loss, but the quick response of NMCB THREE helped to contain the fire to one building.

nnn. 20 January 1969:  
CAPTAIN D. G. ISELIN, CEC, USN, COMCBLANT, was the guest of honor at a dinner held at the NMCB THREE wardroom. Other guests included CAPTAIN A. M. LALANDE, Jr., CEC, USN, DIRCON NORTH, and CDR W. E. DAVIS, CEC, USN DEPDIRCON NORTH.

ooo. 22 January 1969:  
CAPTAIN W. H. STURMAN, CEC, USN, 3NCB Rep Saigon, toured NMCB THREE projects in the Danang and An Hoa areas.

ppp. 22 January 1969:  
Mortar alert at 0559 due to a rocket attack on Danang Air Base. Stepped down to Condition III Modified at 0608. No NMCB THREE casualties; no enemy rounds in camp.

qqq. 22 January 1969:  
Mortar alert at 1957 due to rocket attack on FLC and 1st Marine Air Wing. Stepped down to Condition III Modified at 2000. No NMCB THREE casualties; no enemy rounds in camp.

rrr. 28 January 1969:  
At 1235, the crew working on Hai Van Pass upgrading came under small arms fire for approximately 10 minutes. No casualties or equipment damage were sustained.

sss. 29 January 1969:  
At 0400 UT2 J. W. DIVINE received a chest wound from a stray round presumably from a fire fight on the An Hoa Air Base perimeter. He was med-evaced to Danang and later transferred to U.S. Naval Hospital at Yokosuka, Japan. Man has since returned.



ttt. 23 February 1969:

Mortar alert at 0205 and remained in that condition until 0700 due to heavy rocket and mortar attack on the Danang Enclosure. No NMCB THREE casualties; no enemy rounds in camp. From this date until the Battalion was relieved on 19 March, Condition II (ground) was set each night at 1900 until 0630 the following morning.

uuu. 26 February 1969:

Mortar alert from 0145 to 0205 due to rocket attack on Danang Air Base. No casualties or rounds in camp.

vvv. 27 February 1969:

Mortar alert from 2230 to 2256 due to rocket attack on Danang Enclosure. No casualties or rounds in camp.

www. 28 February 1969:

Mortar alert from 1923 to 2006 and again from 2258 to 2318 due to rocket attacks on the Red Beach area. No casualties or rounds in camp.

xxx. 2-3 March 1969:

NMCB EIGHT's Advance Party arrived at Camp Haskins South.

yyy. 4 March 1969:

Commenced BEEP. RADM J. V. BARTLETT, CEC, USN, COM3NCB; RADM J. G. DILLON, CEC, USN, prospective COM3NCB; CAPTAIN J. R. FISHER, CEC, USN, COM3ONCR; and CDR L. J. GREEN, CEC, USN, COS, 3ONCR, visited Camp Haskins South.

zzz. 8 March 1969:

NMCB THREE listening post came under small arms fire by one Viet Cong suspect. LP returned fire and suspect disappeared into village. There were no casualties.

aaaa. 11 March 1969:

CAPTAIN J. R. FISHER, CEC, USN, COM3ONCR and CAPTAIN J. E. POWELL, CEC, USN, prospective COM3ONCR, visited Camp Haskins South.

bbbb. 13 March 1969:

Completed BEEP. Mortar alert from 2002 to 2011 due to rocket attack on Red Beach area. No casualties or rounds in camp.

cccc. 18 March 1969:

Mortar alert from 0202 to 0237 due to rocket attack on Red Beach area. No casualties or rounds in camp. Approximately 8-10 RPG rounds impacted in camp area at Detail Victor. No personnel casualties at site. Tool Shed and 80% of contents were destroyed.

dddd. 19 March 1969:

NMCB THREE was relieved by NMCB EIGHT at Camp Haskins South. At 1045 the NMCB THREE crew working at Hai Van Pass came under small arms fire and RPG rounds directed at a passing convoy. The crew joined the convoy and proceeded to Lang Co bridge and returned to work at 1230. There were no personnel or equipment casualties.



eeee. 20 March 1969:

Mortar alert from 0210 to 0237, from 1945 to 1950, and from 2253 to 2337 due to rocket attack on Danang area. No casualties or rounds in camp.

ffff. 21 March 1969:

CM3 William A. PECK was killed in an automobile accident in Oxnard, California. The Commander-In-Chief, President Richard M. Nixon, greeted the arrival of flight #5 of the main body at Point Mugu, California.

gggg. 23 March 1969:

NMCB THREE's main body completed a successful return to CONUS.

hhhh. 29 March 1969:

NMCB THREE's Detail Victor completed the last span of the new Liberty Bridge making the bridge passable to vehicular traffic.

## 5. Major Problems.

a. During the first four months of the deployment, Charlie Company with support personnel was deployed to Camp Kinser. In addition to the permanent camp construction, the detail was tasked to provide its own overhead support as well as certain support functions for CBPACDET Okinawa. Although a detail normally provides its own support, the overhead and indirect labor in this case amounted to 50% of the 100 men assigned. This left a company which normally contributes 90% direct labor providing only 50% for the first four months of the deployment. Superimposed on this condition, the in-country relief of another battalion which occurred about mid-deployment caused the direct labor to dip even lower during late September and early October. The labor had to be used to move to the new location and accomplish another BEEP.

b. From 23 February until the end of the deployment, the camp remained in a condition in which increased manning of the lines was required from sunset to sunrise and increased readiness conditions was maintained during the day. These factors again caused the direct labor to drop.

  
C. R. WHIPPLE

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