



U.S. NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION FIVE  
.....DEPLOYMENT COMPLETION REPORT.....  
DONG HA, RVN.....NOVEMBER, 1967 - JULY, 1968

U. S. NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION FIVE  
FPO San Francisco 96601

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To: Commander, Naval Construction Battalions, U.S. Pacific Fleet

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(b) COMCBPAC OPORD 28-67

Encl: (1) Deployment Completion Report

1. Enclosure (1) is submitted in accordance with reference (a), as required in the performance of reference (b).



R. D. WILSON

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

|   | <u>PAGE</u> |
|---|-------------|
| Introduction                                      | 1           |
| Chronology  | 2-5         |
| Administrative Summary                            | 7           |
| 1. Personnel                                      | 9           |
| 2. Reenlistment                                   | 10          |
| 3. Safety   | 10-11       |
| 4. Discipline                                     | 12          |
| 5. Morale   | 13          |
| 6. Medical  | 13-16       |
| 7. Dental   | 17          |
| 8. Chaplain's Activities                          | 17          |
| 9. Public Relations                               | 17          |
| 10. Awards and Promotions                         | 18-36       |
| 11. Supply Summary                                | 37-39       |
| 12. Security Company                              | 40          |
| 13. Detail/Detachment Summary                     | 40-45       |
| Equipment Summary                                 |             |
| 1. General Comments on Equipment Codes            | 49-50       |
| 2. Results of NMCB FIVE - NMCB SEVEN BEEP         | 51-53       |
| 3. Equipment Status Charts                        | 54-58       |
| Training Report                                   | 59-60       |
| Labor Distribution Report                         | 61-62       |
| Construction Summary                              | 63          |
| 1. Completed Projects Report                      | 65-67       |
| 2. Facilities Constructed by Item                 | 68-70       |
| 3. Major Construction Projects - General Comments | 71-79       |
| 4. Construction Item Summaries                    | 80-132      |
| 5. Progress and Performance Chart                 | 133-137     |
| Fiscal Summary of Construction Operations         | 139-140     |
| Progress Photographs                              | 141-176     |

## INTRODUCTION

NMCB FIVE was deployed to Camp Barnes on the Dong Ha Combat Base, Dong Ha, Republic of Vietnam from 30 November 1967 to 20 July 1968. The primary mission of the battalion was construction in support of Third Marine Amphibious Forces in the Northern I Corps Area. The battalion was under the operational control of the THIRTY-SECOND Naval Construction Regiment.

NMCB FIVE's construction forces were employed through the Northern I Corps with the major sites being the Dong Ha and Quang Tri Combat Bases, National Highways ONE and NINE, and the numerous sites below the Demilitarized Zone. Specific projects in these and other areas are covered in Section VI of this report.

The military situation in the Dong Ha Area never seriously impeded the construction effort except during the TET Offensive when the flow of construction materials into Dong Ha was halted by the interdiction of the Cua Viet River by Northern Vietnamese Forces. The National Highway upgrading work was halted several times during the TET period; however, equipment utilization continued at a maximum with a backlog of projects such as the Dong Ha LCU Ramp and Ammunition Supply Point.

## CHRONOLOGY

- 10 Nov 67 NMCB FIVE's Advance Party arrived at Camp Barnes, Dong Ha, Republic of Vietnam.
- 25 Nov 67 Detail Echo composed of one officer and twenty-eight enlisted men deployed to Ca Lu to construct living and security bunkers for the U.S. Marine Corps. The detail returned on 6 January 1968 after constructing 22 - 18'X24' and 2 - 18'X22' timber bunkers.
- 30 Nov 67 NMCB FIVE relieved NMCB ELEVEN at Camp Barnes, Dong Ha, Republic of Vietnam.
- 5 Dec 67 RADM J. V. BARTLETT, CEC, USN, COM3NCB visited the site of the LCU Ramp being constructed by NMCB FIVE at Dong Ha.
- 8 Dec 67 The Dong Ha Bridge was closed due to a traffic accident which seriously damaged the bridge decking. By mobilizing a round-the-clock repair operation, NMCB FIVE personnel were able to reopen the vital LOC link only 48 hours after the accident.
- 9 Dec 67 Detail Foxtrot composed of one officer and thirty-five men departed for site A-3 to construct living and security bunkers for the U.S. Marine Corps. The detail returned on 24 December 1968 after constructing 17 - 18'X24' and 2 - 8'X12' timber bunkers. Detail Foxtrot came under daily NVA artillery and rocket fire while at A-3.
- 14 Dec 67 Detail Foxtrot came under enemy fire while deployed at site A-3. The resultant enemy action resulted in one KIA, Roger E. HUESTIS, BUHCN, B11 19 72 and one WIA, William D. THOMPSON, BUR2, 327 19 71 who later died as a result of wounds received in this action.
- 18 Dec 67 Vietnamese Laborers from Cam Lo were hired to work on the LCU Landing and Storage Area, Dong Ha, under an arrangement whereby they would be paid food commodities from Food for Peace Work Projects in accordance with Public Law 480 Title II, Section 202.
- 20 Jan 68 At 0845 two NMCB FIVE trucks were ambushed on Route #9 between Dong Ha and Cam Lo. The enemy used small arms fire, claymore mines, and rocket propelled grenades. The two drivers, W. L. DANIELS, EOH3 and J. T. JAWORSKI, EOH3, were wounded in the ambush.
- 23 Jan 68 At 1135 an NMCB FIVE grader hit an explosive device on the shoulder of the road on Highway One, 1.7 miles north of the Dong Ha Bridge. B. O. KIZER, EONCA received minor shrapnel wounds.



- 25 Jan 68 NMCB FIVE completed construction of a mobile Eiffel truss bridge. The mobile bridge is 40' long, 12' wide and has a capacity of 35 tons on a 30' span. The mobile bridge was planned for use in transporting heavy equipment over National Route Nine and to provide an immediate replacement for short span damaged bridges. The bridge can be transported by prime mover or airlifted by CH-54.
- 30 Jan 68 The Camp Barnes Enlisted Men's Club was officially opened with the presentation of a USO show.
- 1 Feb 68 RADM J. B. OSBORN, USN, Commander Naval Support Activity, Danang, visited the construction site of the LCU Landing and Staging area being constructed by NMCB FIVE at Dong Ha.
- 19 Feb 68 The construction site at the LCU Landing and Staging area at Dong Ha came under enemy artillery fire. The attack resulted in three NMCB FIVE WIA's. The injured men were J. H. REYNOLDS, EOL: O. J. ESTUS, EON3; and T.L. COLLINS, CA.
- 26 Feb 68 Camp Barnes received 40 rounds of enemy rocket and artillery fire. The action resulted in three WIA's, EOHEN S.L. MCGINNIS, CMA2 I.M. THOMAS JR., and EAD3 J.C. MONROE, plus 38 pieces of damaged equipment and severe damage to Alpha Company shops, NMCB FIVE messhall, and several living huts.
- 3 Mar 68 The Civil Engineer Corps and Seabee Birthday was celebrated at Camp Barnes. Major General TOMPKINS, Commanding General 3rd Marine Division, was guest speaker and presented awards.
- 8 Mar 68 Camp Barnes received 10 rounds of enemy rocket and artillery fire. The action resulted in 3 KIA's, CN E.E. NEVINS, CEW2 J.P. HARTLAGE II, and BUL2 J.W. BORDERS, and 8 WIA's, SWFCN J.L. WARD, SWF2 G.R. ADAMS, BUL3 R.A. TERRY, BULCN M.C. RADFORD, CEP2 D.L. SPAHN, CEP3 W.D. WHITE, BUL2 E.J. SYKORA JR., and CEW3 K.E. MULLIS. One berthing hut was completely destroyed.
- 28 Mar 68 Seven NMCB FIVE personnel constructing a 42' guard tower at Cam Lo came under enemy mortar fire. The action resulted in one WIA, EON2 J. T. FOSTER.
- 1 Apr 68 NMCB FIVE's change of command ceremony was held with Commander R. B. WILSON, CEC, USN, relieving Commander E. J. WILLIAMS, JR., CEC, USN.
- 1 Apr 68 A convoy carrying materials to NMCB FIVE's Detail Romeo at Ca Lu came under enemy mortar fire. No casualties were sustained by NMCB FIVE personnel or equipment.

- 4 Apr 68 A convoy carrying materials and supplies for NMCB FIVE's Detail Romeo was ambushed on National Route Nine while en-route to Ca Lu. The action resulted in one minor WIA, EADCN K.R. HAAN.
- 7 Apr 68 NMCB FIVE's Detail Romeo completed a C123 capable airstrip at Ca Lu. The project, soon to become known as LZ Stud, was begun on 14 March 1968 and was utilized by U. S. and South Vietnamese Forces during operation Pegasus in the relief operation of Khe Sanh.
- 25 Apr 68 RADM W.M. HEAMAN, CEC, USN, COMCBPAC; RADM J.V. BARTLETT, CEC, USN, COM3NCB; CAPT T.C. WILLIAMS, CEC, USN, Staff CINCPACFLT; and CAPT G.A. GOETZKE, JR., CEC, USN, 3NCB Rep Saigon visited NMCB FIVE and inspected Camp Barnes and various construction projects on the Dong Ha Combat Base.
- 14 May 68 The Dong Ha Combat Base came under enemy artillery fire. Camp Barnes received approximately seven rounds of enemy fire resulting in three WIA's: EO1 D.V. BAKER, USN; SK3 A.R. WOOD, USN; and SK2 W.F. HUMPHERY. The Camp Barnes Enlisted Men's Club suffered major damage and two pieces of construction equipment were damaged.
- 27 May 68 NMCB FIVE's Advance Party, composed of one Officer in Charge and 16 enlisted men departed Camp Barnes to Danang and returned to Port Hueneme, California with NMCB NINE's Main Body flights on 30 May 1968.
- 3 Jun 68 RADM J.V. BARTLETT, CEC, USN, COM3NCB and RADM J.B. OSBORN, USN, Commander Naval Support Activity, Danang, visited Camp Barnes.
- 9 Jun 68 An NMCB FIVE patrol, patrolling the area south of the Dong Ha Combat Base, set off an explosive device resulting in the injury of one member of the patrol, BUH3 T.L. RICHART.
- 9 Jun 68 Two NMCB FIVE 5 Ton dump trucks, traveling between Cam Lo and the Camp Carroll River Run source on Route Nine, were damaged by enemy road mines. No NMCB FIVE personnel sustained injury.
- 20 Jun 68 Dong Ha Combat Base came under enemy artillery fire resulting in the destruction of the Dong Ha ASP. Three NMCB FIVE personnel, BUH2 R.D. EASTMAN, CMA3 B.E. HALL, and BUR3 F.J. RUPERT were injured as a result of the action. Camp Barnes received major structural damages to all shop areas and damages varying from slight to major in the berthing and administrative areas.

- 29 Jun 68 NMCB FIVE personnel on a road crew west of Cam Lo on Route Nine came under NVA mortar fire, resulting in 3 WIA's, EOC J.H. ADAMS, EOH3 E.M. MCNICHOLAS, and EOH3 C.C. MILLER.
- 3 Jul 68 NMCB FIVE commenced asphalt paving operations on National Route One between the Dong Ha LCU Ramp and the main gate of the Dong Ha Combat Base.
- 18 Jul 68 NMCB FIVE's main body airlift to CONUS commenced with the first flight's movement from Dong Ha to Danang. The main body airlift from Danang to Point Mugu, California was completed via Military Airlift Command aircraft on 24 July 1968.
- 20 Jul 68 NMCB FIVE was relieved at Camp Barnes, Dong Ha, Republic of Vietnam by NMCB SEVEN.