

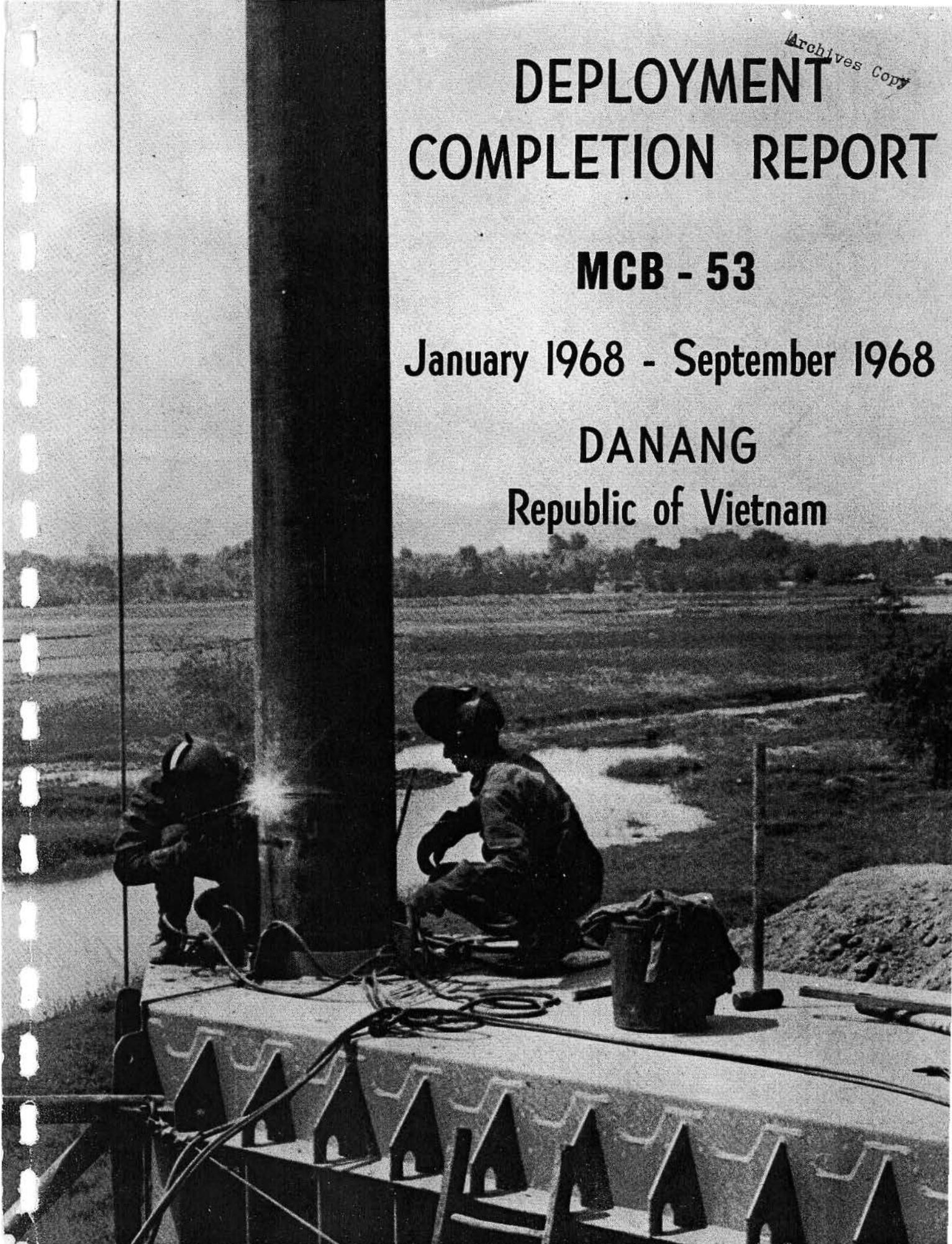
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# DEPLOYMENT COMPLETION REPORT

## MCB - 53

### January 1968 - September 1968

### DANANG Republic of Vietnam



From: Commanding Officer, U. S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Fifty-Three  
To: Commander, U. S. Naval Construction Battalions, Pacific  
Subject: NMCB FIFTY-THREE Deployment Completion Report  
Ref: (A) COMCBPACINST 5213.1E  
(B) COMCBPAC OPORD 34-67  
Encl: (1) Administrative Summary  
(2) Equipment Summary  
(3) Training Summary  
(4) Labor Distribution Summary  
(5) Construction Operations Summary  
(6) Construction Item Summary  
(7) Progress and Performance Completion Report  
(8) Fiscal Summary  
(9) Civic Action Summary  
(10) Progress Photos

1. This report, covering U. S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion FIFTY-THREE's 1968 deployment to the Republic of Vietnam, is submitted in accordance with reference (A).

2. EMPLOYMENT STATUS. In accordance with reference (B), U. S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion FIFTY-THREE was deployed to Camp Adenir, Da Nang East, Republic of Vietnam, from January 1968 through September 1968. The primary mission of the unit was construction in support of U. S. Military and other Free World Forces, under the operational control of the THIRTIETH Naval Construction Regiment. Units were employed at other locations as follows:

A. HOI AN DETAIL: FROM 15 JANUARY TO 28 FEBRUARY 17 ENLISTED MEN WERE EMPLOYED AT HOI AN (MAP SERIES L7014, SH 66401; COORD BT 144572) IN THE RENOVATION OF A VIETNAMESE HOSPITAL. XUM

b. Detail Delta One: From 26 April to 19 July one officer, one chief Petty Officer and 30 enlisted men were employed at Nam Hoa (Map series L607, SH 6541; coord TD 763128) to construct a 556 foot Ammi Pontoon Bridge under the OPCON of 32NCR.

c. Detail Alpha Two: From 19 June to 7 September one officer, one Chief Petty Officer and 40 to 48 enlisted men were employed at Ca Lu (Map series L7014, SH 6342 11; coord YD12461) to set up, operate, and maintain a 75 ton rock crusher and a 50 man cantonment under OPCON of 3NCB.

d. Detail Charlie One: From 13 July to 2 August one officer and 10 enlisted men were employed at Tra Bong (Map series L7014, SH6730IV coord. BS335895) to construct a timber trestle bridge and tactical operations center for company "C", 5th Special Forces Camp.

e. Detail Charlie Two: From 6 September to 22 September one officer and 10 enlisted men were employed at the Camp of "A" Battery, 1st LAAM Battalion, Hai Van (Map series L7014, SH664111; coord at 945921) to repair storm damage caused by Typhoon Bess.

3. UNIT MOVEMENTS.

- a. 29 - 31 Dec. 1967 NMCB 53's advance party consisting of 9 officers and 124 enlisted men, deployed to Da Nang, Republic of Vietnam, on two C-141 aircraft from NAS Quonset Point, Rhode Island.
- b. 18 - 21 Jan. 1968 NMCB53's main body, consisting of 15 officers and 644 enlisted men, deployed to Da Nang, Republic of Vietnam on eight C-141 aircraft from NAS Quonset Point, Rhode Island.

- c. 19 - 20 Aug. 1968 NMCB 53's Advance Party, consisting of two officers and 17 men returned to NAS Quonset Point, Rhode Island on two C-141 aircraft from Da Nang, Republic of Vietnam.
- d. 22 - 27 Sept. 1968 NMCB 53's main body, consisting of 22 officers and 610 men returned to CONUS via two Super DC-8 passenger aircraft, one 707 passenger aircraft and 3 C-141 cargo/passenger aircraft. All flights terminated at NAS Quonset Point, Rhode Island, except for one C-141 passenger aircraft which landed at Travis AFB, California.

#### 4. SIGNIFICANT EVENTS.

- 18 Jan. 1968 At a special ceremony at Camp Adenir Main Gate, CDR R. A. BOWERS Commanding Officer of NMCB-53 relieved CDR L. D. LAWSON, Commanding Officer of NMCB-7 as Camp Adenir Commander. The traditional duck was passed, symbolizing the change of command.
- 30 Jan. 1968 Camp Adenir came under enemy 61MM mortar fire. Seven rounds impacted within the camp and seventeen men were wounded. Fourteen were subsequently awarded the Purple Heart.
- 3 Mar. 1968 NMCB-53 celebrated the 26th birthday of the Seabees. A party was held and Commodore TURNER, Captain MAHIN of NSA Hospital, and Colonel REED of MAG-16 were in attendance.
- 30 Mar. 1968 The first in-country Ammi Pontoon Bridge was turned over at a ribbon cutting ceremony attended by Captains C. W. TURNER and J. R. FISHER and Colonel JOHNSON, III MAF Force Engineer.
- 24 April 1968 Lieutenant A. T. GERMANN, 31st NCR arrived to conduct annual equipment inspection.
- 25 April 1968 Lieutenant Commander L. VANN, 31st NCR arrived to conduct annual supply inspection.
- 22 May 1968 Lieutenant Commander G. R. MATTHEWS, CBPAC and Captain J. MURPHY, USMC, 21 NCR conducted an ordnance and communication inspection.
- 4 June 1968 Commander James LEE, Commanding Officer NMCB-12 and four officers arrived at Camp Adenir for a pre-deployment visit. They remained on board until 10 June.
- 19 June 1968 Detail Alpha Two departed for Ca Lu to set up, operate and maintain a rock crusher and a 50 man cantonment under OPCON of 3NCB.
- 29 June 1968 Two men from NMCB-53 were wounded when their vehicle was mortared. The vehicle was part of a convoy moving supplies from Dong Ha to the NMCB 53 crusher at Ca Lu.
- 29 June 1968 A dining-in was held to celebrate the 1st anniversary of NMCB-53.
- 1 July 1968 The rock crusher at Ca Lu produced its first rock.
- 2 July 1968 A command and logistics inspection was held by Captain C. G. MILLER and Commander B. J. HACKENSEW of CBPAC.
- 16 July 1968 The Nam Hoa Bridge was opened. Major General O. M. BARSANTI, C. G. 101st Air Cav, Brig. General N. Q. TRUONG, C. G. 1st RVN Army Division and Rear Admiral BARTLETT, Commander 3NCB, attended.
- 12 Aug. 1968 An inspection team from CBPAC headed by CDR W. WILSON arrived to review Operations, Administration and Training.

16 Aug. 1968 The first flights of NMCB-12's Advance Party with 9 officers and 111 enlisted men arrived.

31 Aug. 1968 The Battalion Equipment Evaluation (BEEP) was commenced.

5 Sept. 1968 Typhoon Bess hit the coast of Vietnam just north of Da Nang. Camp Adenir experienced a power failure and minor structural damage.

11 Sept. 1968 The Battalion Equipment Evaluation (BEEP) was completed.

21 Sept. 1968 Captain FISHER held a departure conference at Camp Adenir to discuss turnover and related problems. At 1500 Camp Adenir was turned over to NMCB-12.

*R.K. Miller*  
R.K. MILLER

Distribution List:

COMCBPAC	0 + 2	COM30THNCR	2
CINPACFLT	1	COM31STNCR	2
COMSERVPAC	1	COM32NDNCR	2
COMCBLANT	2	COM30THNCR	2
SEABEE HISTORIAN	1	COM21ST NCR	2
DIR OF NAVAL HISTORY	1	CO CBCEN PORHUE	1
CG FMPAC	1	CO NAVSCOL CONST	1
CG III MAF	1	CO NAVSCOL CEC OFF	1
NAVFAC (Code 06)	1	ALL MCBS	1
NAVFAC (Code 063)	1	ALL CBMUS	1
COMNAVFORV	1	CO NCEL	1
COMSERVLANT	1	DIRCON NORTH	1
COM3RDNCB	2	FILE	10