

# DEPLOYMENT COMPLETION REPORT

PHU BAI, VIETNAM  
APR 1966 - DEC 1966



U.S. NAVAL  
MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION  
SEVEN

U. S. NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION SEVEN  
FLEET POST OFFICE  
NEW YORK 09501

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Ser: 269

31 MAR 1967

From: Commanding Officer, U.S. Naval Mobile Construction  
Battalion SEVEN  
To: Commander, Naval Construction Battalions, U.S. Pacific  
Fleet  
Subj: Deployment Completion Report for Period April 1966  
through December 1966; submission of  
Ref: (a) COMCBPACINST 5213.1C  
Encl: (1) Deployment Completion Report

1. Enclosure (1), summarizing the Battalion's activities while  
deployed to Hue/Phu Bai, Republic of Vietnam from April 1966  
to December 1966, is forwarded in accordance with reference (a).

*R. G. Shirley*  
R. G. SHIRLEY  
Acting

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## SECTION A

### EMPLOYMENT STATUS AND HISTORY OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion SEVEN was deployed at Hue/Phu Bai, Republic of Vietnam during the period April 1966 to December 1966 in accordance with COMCBPAC OPORD 4-66. The primary mission was construction in support of the 30TH Naval Construction Regiment.

#### 2. Significant Events.

- a. 6 April 1966 - Main body of MCB SEVEN began departing from Davisville aboard C-130 aircraft provided by the Military Airlift Command.
- b. 13 April 1966 - Last of main body of MCB SEVEN arrived at Hue/Phu Bai.
- c. 8 May 1966 - Captain E.G. Underhill, Chief Staff Officer, CBPAC, visited MCB SEVEN's camp.
- d. 14 May 1966 - MCB SEVEN perimeter attacked by VC resulting in no Seabee casualties and one VC WIA.
- e. 24 May 1966 - Fifty-six man delay party arrived at deployment site.
- f. 24 May 1966 - VC attack on MCB SEVEN perimeter repelled with no Seabee casualties and one VC WIA.
- g. 6 June 1966 - VC attack on MCB SEVEN perimeter. GLOVER, R.W., UTP2 wounded by enemy fire.
- h. 10 June 1966 - Attack by an estimated fifteen VC resulted in a six-hour firefight. No friendly casualties. 5 VC KIA.
- i. 18 July 1966 - RADM Husband, COMNAVFACECOM visited MCB SEVEN camp.
- j. 29 July 1966 - One Officer and ten men deployed to Dong Ha for work on the roads and airfield.
- k. 2 August 1966 - MCB SEVEN camp visited by RADM Ward, COMNAVFORV and RADM Weschler, COMNSA, Danang.
- l. 19 August 1966 - Rock quarry crew ambushed by an estimated four Viet Cong. Fry, L.T. EO3 and Purington, B.C., EOCN sustained minor wounds.
- m. 21 August 1966 - CAPT S.R. Smith, COMCBLANT, and CAPT E.G. Underhill, Deputy COMCBPAC visited MCB SEVEN camp.
- n. 5 September 1966 - Dong Ha detachment increased to two officers and seventy-five men.
- o. 9 September 1966 - MCB SEVEN perimeter attacked by an estimated twelve Viet Cong. Five VC KIA and no friendly casualties resulted.
- p. 17 September 1966 - MCB-62 predeployment party consisting of CDR W.J. RICHESON, CEG, USN, Commanding Officer, and staff, arrived at MCB SEVEN camp.



q. 1 October 1966 -- Twenty-two men departed for Lang Vei to construct hardened defensive positions for ARVN forces.

r. 30 October 1966 -- Phu Bai Seabee Camp dedicated Camp CAMPBELL in honor of Stanley Claus CAMPBELL, SWF3. RADM W.M. Heaman, CEC, USN, COMCBPAC; RADM H.N. WALLIN, CEC, USN, NAVFACENGGCOM; and MAJGEN W.B. KYLE, USMC, CG, 3RD MARDIV attended dedication ceremony.

s. 3 November 1966 -- RADM, R.R. Wooding, CEC, USN, COM3NCB visited Camp CAMPBELL.

t. 13 November 1966 -- Lang Vei detachment returned to Phu Bai upon completion of project.

u. 20 November 1966 -- MCB SEVEN's Advance Party of 2 officers and 17 men departed for Davisville. MCB SIXTY-TWO's Advance Party of 6 officers and 109 men arrived at Phu Bai.

v. 8 December 1966 to 15 December 1966 -- MCB SEVEN main body returned to Davisville in 14 C-130 aircraft flights.

### 3. Significant Accomplishments.

a. Pre-fabrication plant -- The workload assigned to MCB SEVEN included over 800 - 16 x 32 foot buildings for administration and berthing. After a study was made to determine the most efficient construction method, a prefabrication plant was built where units were mass produced for erection in the field. Pre-fabricated units were built in many CAC villages and as far away as Dong Ha. The time required to finish one unit was reduced from 11.5 to 8 mandays. The total saving of over 2800 mandays resulted in earlier completion of cantonments and enabled the Battalion to undertake additional projects.

b. Dong Ha expansion -- When the buildup of forces occurred along the DMZ during Operation Prairie, it was necessary to provide extensive facilities at the Dong Ha Combat Base, including upgrading the runway for continued use during the monsoon season. In addition to erecting 140 buildings for berthing, three mess halls, thirteen latrines, two showers, medical facilities, and shops spaces, a vastly improved LCU ramp was constructed. The most significant accomplishment was placing AM-2 matting on the runway and turnarounds. What would normally have been a routine operation was made very difficult by the requirement to keep the field open at all times due to operational needs. This precluded prestaging the material along the runway, and work had to be stopped each time a plane landed or took off. A major build up of forces took place during the period the matting was being laid. However, the project was completed in six and a half days despite the landing and taking off of over 420 aircraft. Not one plane was turned away nor were there any accidents.

c. Lang Vie - During the period of increased activity along the DMZ, it was necessary to provide fortifications for an observation post at Lang Vie, two miles from the Laotian border. A detail of one officer and 23 men constructed six concrete bunkers for the ARVN watch of 200 men overlooking the Ho Chi Minh Trail. Despite difficulty in obtaining aggregate and sand, the project was completed in only six weeks.