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DEPLOYMENT COMPLETION REPORT

Camp Barnes, Dong Ha, RVN

July 68 — April 69

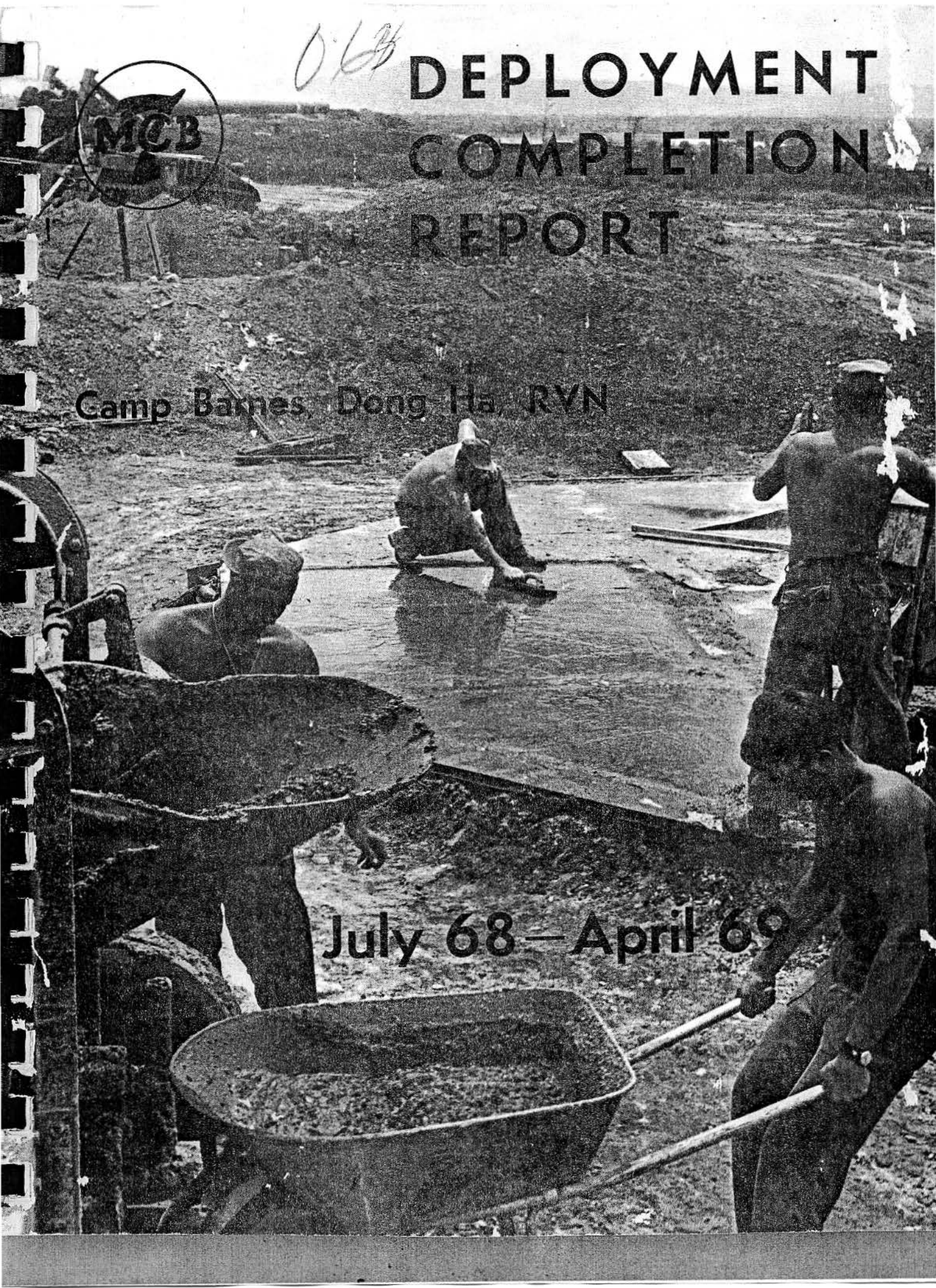


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U. S. NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION SEVEN

U. S. ATLANTIC FLEET

DAVISVILLE, RHODE ISLAND 02854

NMCB7/S3:TJH:bs

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Ser:

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 20 July 1968 through 3 April 1969
Ref: (A) COMCBPACINST 5213.1E dated 18 May 1968
(B) COMCBPAC OPOD 15-68

1. This report is submitted in accordance with reference (a) in the performance of reference (b). During the period 20 July 1968 through 3 April 1969, U. S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion SEVEN was deployed at Camp BARNES, Dong Ha Combat Base, Republic of Vietnam. The Battalion's primary mission was construction in support of the THIRTY-SECOND Naval Construction Regiment.

2. UNIT MOVEMENTS:

- a. 28, 29, and 30 June 1968 NMCB SEVEN's Advance Party, consisting of eight officers and one hundred and eight enlisted men arrived at the Dong Ha Combat Base, RVN, to perform the BEEP and effect a smooth turnover of Camp BARNES from NMCB FIVE pending the arrival of the main body.
- b. 12 July 1968 The Commanding Officer, the Logistics Officer, and two enlisted men from NMCB SEVEN, arrived at Camp BARNES, Dong Ha Combat Base.
- c. 19-24 July 1968 The NMCB SEVEN Main Body, consisting of eleven officers and 491 enlisted men, was airlifted from Davisville, Rhode Island, to Da Nang, Republic of Vietnam aboard eight C-141 Aircraft provided by the Military Airlift Command, and shuttled from there to Dong Ha Combat Base, RVN, on C-130 Aircraft provided by the SEVENTH Air Force.
- d. 13 August 1968 SEABEE Teams 0703 and 0704 arrived at Da Nang, RVN, and proceeded directly to Soc Trang City and Go Cong City, respectively.
- e. 8 March 1969 NMCB SEVEN Advance Party, consisting of 17 enlisted men and two officers departed Camp BARNES for Da Nang, RVN, enroute to Davisville, Rhode Island.
- f. 2-6 April 1969 NMCB SEVEN Main Body consisting of 642 enlisted men and 22 officers departed Camp BARNES, enroute to CONUS.

3. SIGNIFICANT EVENTS:

- a. 20 July 1968 Commander L. D. LAWSON, CEC, USN, relieved Commander R. B. WILSON, CEC, USN, as NMCB SEVEN relieved NMCB FIVE at Camp BARNES, Dong Ha Combat Base, Republic of Vietnam.
- b. 25 July 1968 NMCB SEVEN hosted RADM W. V. COMBS, COMSERVPAC, RADM E. W. SUTHERLING, CINCPACFLT Supply Officer, MGEN R. G. DAVIS, CG THIRD MARDIV, RADM J. B. OSBORN, Commander NSA Da Nang, and party for lunch in SEVEN's wardroom.

- c. 7 August 1968 NMCB SEVEN received a welcoming visit from RADM J. V. BARTLETT, Commander 3NCB, CAPT J. M. HILL, Commander 32NCR, CDR W. K. HARTELL, Commanding Officer NMCB ELEVEN, and CDR M. Z. HANLON, Operations Officer 32NCR.
- d. 10 August 1968 Detail WHISKEY from NMCB SEVENTY-FOUR consisting of 50 enlisted men and one officer arrived to lend assistance for the MER Program.
- e. 11 August 1968 NMCB SEVEN was visited by CAPT J. W. HILL, Commander 32NCR, and CAPT A. W. WALTON, prospective 32NCR Commander.
- f. 13 August 1968 At 1330 Commander J. C. RICKELS, CEC, USN, relieved Commander L. D. LAWSON, CEC, USN, as Commanding Officer of NMCB SEVEN. The Ceremony was conducted on the Parade Ground and was attended by MGEN R. G. DAVIS, CG THIRD MARDIV and other Commanding Officers and Staff officers from units in the Dong Ha-Quang Tri Area.
- g. 15 August 1968 CAPT A. W. WALTON, Commander 32NCR and Staff visited Camp BARNES and SEVEN's job sites.
- h. 19 August 1968 CDR W. L. WILSON and LT J. L. HENLEY made a management inspection visit to NMCB SEVEN at Camp BARNES.
- i. 22 August 1968 SEVEN celebrated the Seventeenth Anniversary of its Commissioning with a ceremony in the Messhall. The Troops were addressed by CAPT A. W. WALTON and CDR J. C. RICKELS. The Ceremony was also attended by CDR W. K. HARTELL, Co MCB ELEVEN.
- j. 23 August 1968 CAPT A. W. WALTON, accompanied CDR J. C. RICKELS on an inspection of SEVEN's construction sites.
- k. 4-6 September 1968 Typhoon BESS hit the Northern I Corps area bringing high winds and torrential rains:
- | | |
|---------------|-------------------|
| 4 September - | 6.55 inches |
| 5 September - | 8.01 inches |
| 6 September - | 3.17 inches |
| | 17.73 inches of |
| | rain in a 72 hour |
| | period |
- The Typhoon resulted in considerable erosion of all surfaces and extremely high water conditions in all lowland areas. Bridge 9-15 was damaged beyond repair and the wingwalls on Bridges #9-4 and #9-7 were severely damaged. Route ONE south was overtopped by flood waters and severely damaged just north of Quang Tri Combat Base. Water damage to the ASRT bunker at Camp CARROLL necessitated replacement of the facility. The storm also damaged virtually all defensive bunkers and trenches within the Camp BARNES area.
- l. 16 September 1968 A ceremony was held to officially present the Battalion with the Navy Unit Commendation while serving as a supporting NMCB of the THIRTIETH Naval Construction Regiment in the Republic of Vietnam during the period of 1 September 1966 through 31 July 1967. The formation for the ceremony consisted of all the men and officers who served with SEVEN during the period involved.
- m. 18 September 1968 Camp BARNES received a visit from RADM A. C. HUSBAND and party. A brief ceremony with a limited formation was held for the Admiral to present Purple Hearts

- to BUCN G. LANE and SA R. C. BYERS. The ceremony was followed by a luncheon in the wardroom and an informal address held in the Chapel by the Admiral to all officers and chiefs of NMCB SEVEN and CBMU 301.
- n. 21 September 1968 CBPAC Inspection team headed by CWO V. E. BAILEY, began an ALPHA Company Equipment Administration Inspection.
- o. 26 September 1968 Major General BRADLEY, RADM J. A. BARTLETT, Commander THIRD Naval Construction Brigade, and CAPT A. W. WALTON, Commander THIRTY-SECOND Naval Construction Regiment, visited Camp BARNES.
- p. 28 September 1968 Helen "Patches" MUSGROVE, from the Jacksonville Journal, arrived on board NMCB SEVEN and remained four days in her continuing series of interviews with servicemen in Vietnam from the Jacksonville, Florida, area.
- q. 29 September 1968 CAPT C. G. MILLER, COMCBPAC Chief of Staff, and Party arrived on board NMCB SEVEN for a management inspection visit.
- r. 4 October 1968 CDR J. C. RICKELS and 5 others visited the Battleship NEW JERSEY. CDR RICKELS and the Commanding Officer of the NEW JERSEY exchanged unit plagues.
- s. 9 October 1968 CAPT A. W. WALTON, Commander THIRTY-SECOND Naval Construction Regiment, arrived on board to visit the NMCB SEVEN project sites.
- t. 10 October 1968 CDR J. A. D'EMIDIO, Commanding Officer NMCB SEVENTY-FOUR, visited his MER detail, Detail Stantontown Whiskey, at Camp BARNES.
- u. 13 October 1968 SEABEE Day was celebrated in Camp BARNES with the day off. It was the first break in the seven day work schedule for seven weeks. . Aside from a little rain, the break was well appreciated by All Hands.
- v. 19 October 1968 CAPT A. W. WALTON, Commander THIRTY-SECOND Naval Construction Regiment, arrived on board to visit the NMCB SEVEN jobsites.
- w. 21 October 1968 MPC Conversion Day. All outside Dong Ha Combat Base work halted while the In-Country Conversion was effected.
- x. 30 October 1968 CDR C. W. HOWE and CDR S. BROCKWELL from THIRD Naval Construction Brigade visited Camp BARNES and the Vinh Dai Crusher site cantonment.
- y. 4 November 1968 At 0515, the body of J. L. GRIER, Constructionman, was found at the Front Gate. He had committed suicide while on watch.
- z. 4 November 1968 CDR W. L. WILSON and LT J. L. HENLEY arrived on board from CBPAC to conduct the deployment management inspection. An overall grade of excellent was assigned to MCB SEVEN.
- aa. 5 November 1968 An awards ceremony was held in Camp BARNES to present CDR RICKELS with the Navy Commendation Medal. Present at the ceremony were RADM J. A. BARTLETT, Commander THIRD Naval Construction Brigade, and CAPT A. W. WALTON, Commander THIRTY-SECOND Naval Construction Regiment.

- bb. 16 November 1968 Major General DRAKE, Deputy Commanding General, XXIV Corps, U. S. Army in Phu Bai, paid Camp BARNES a visit.
- cc. 17 November 1968 At 1645 the last pipe connection was made at the Quang Tri POL Farm to make an operationally capable system.
- dd. 18 November 1968 RADM J. A. BARTLETT, Commander THIRD Naval Construction Brigade, and CAPT A. W. WALTON, Commander THIRTY-SECOND Naval Construction Regiment, visited Quang Tri to inspect the Quang Tri POL Farm.
- ee. 21 November 1968 Brigadier General GUNN, Commander Da Nang Support Command visited the site of the recently completed POL Farm at Quang Tri.
- ff. 24 November 1968 The Battalion celebrated mid-deployment with its mid-deployment party. Highlights of the day included athletic competition, a steak barbecue at the EM Club and an evening USO Show.
- gg. 28 November 1968 RADM W. M. HEAMAN, Commander Naval Construction Battalions, Pacific, and RADM J. A. BARTLETT, Commander THIRD Naval Construction Brigade, visited Camp BARNES for the Battalion Color and Awards Ceremony. Sierra Company was honored as the new Color Company, and HM3 J. E. BRADLEY was awarded a Bronze Star. Also present were Commodore A. W. WALTON, Commander THIRTY-SECOND Naval Construction Regiment and CAPT H. F. CURREN, Inspector General, Naval Facilities Engineering Command.
- hh. 28 November 1968 Thanksgiving Day was celebrated with a half day work routine and a superbly prepared meal in the EM Galley.
- ii. 11 December 1968 CAPT W. STURMAN, CEC, USN, THIRD Naval Construction Brigade Representative, Saigon, arrived on board Camp BARNES for a visit.
- jj. 23 December 1968 Operation Santa Claus, sponsored by the citizens of Jacksonville, Florida, took place in Camp BARNES. Helen "Patches" MUSGROVE, Correspondent for the Jacksonville Journal, played the role of Santa Claus and passed out gifts to Vietnamese children and SEABEES of NMCB SEVEN, NMCB TWENTY-TWO, NMCB SEVENTY-FOUR, and CBMU 301. Later the same day, a Christmas pageant was presented to the men by children from Cam Lo Village. Commodore A. W. WALTON, COM32NCR, visited Camp BARNES for the celebrated day.
- kk. 31 December 1968 NPC Film of Dependents' Christmas Party was shown to All Hands on New Year's Eve.
- ll. 9 January 1969 The Commanding Officer, CDR J. C. RICKELS, the Medical Officer, LT J. J. GRECO, and the Chaplain, LT J. C. O'CONNOR, departed on seven days TAD to visit SEABEE teams 0703 and 0704. They returned on 16 January 1969.
- mm. 17 January 1969 CDR S. WINGAST, the new THIRTY-SECOND Naval Construction Regiment Chief Staff Officer, and CDR P. A. PETZRICK visited Camp BARNES.
- nn. 20 January 1969 Thich Thanh Truc, the Buddhist Bonze, called on the Commanding Officer. He is the spiritual leader of all Buddhists of Quang Tri and Thua Thien Provinces.

- oo. 21 January 1969
Commodore D. G. ISELIN, Commander Construction Battalions Atlantic, and Commodore A. W. WALTON, COM32NCR, visited Camp BARNES. COMBLANT spoke to the officers and Chiefs about future plans for MCB SEVEN and the Atlantic Fleet Battalions.
- pp. 22 January 1969
The recently completed Force Logistic Support Group BRAVO Chapel was dedicated.
- qq. 14 February 1969
The Executive Officer, LCDR J. L. DETTBARN, and two prospective SEABEE Team officers (LTJG E. J. ADAMS and LTJG L. E. TOWNLEY) visited SEABEE Teams 0703 and 0704.
- rr. 15 February 1969
Commodore A. W. WALTON, Commander THIRTY-SECOND Naval Construction Regiment, visited Camp BARNES.
- ss. 18 February 1969
CDR. D. E. BECKER, MSC, USN, Staff Medical Officer for the Service Force Pacific, and CDR C. H. SWIFT, CHC, USN, Staff Chaplain for Construction Battalions, Pacific, visited Camp BARNES for a Management Inspection visit.
- tt. 3 March 1969
RADM J. V. BARTLETT, CEC, USN, COM3NCB, and RADM J. G. DILLON, CEC, USN prospective Commander THIRD Naval Construction Brigade, visited Camp BARNES.
- uu. 7 March 1969
Commodore A. W. WALTON, CEC, USN, COM32NCR, CAPT E. M. SAUNDERS, CEC, USN, Naval Forces Vietnam Staff, and CAPT E. L. PICKETT, CEC, USN, Naval Forces Vietnam, Da Nang Representative, visited Camp BARNES.
- vv. 9 March 1969
The NMCB SIXTH-TWO Advance Party consisting of five officers and 106 enlisted personnel arrived at Camp BARNES.
- ww. 9 March 1969
The 27th Anniversary of the SEABEES was celebrated with the day off from work. Activities of the day included athletic contests, cook-out at the EM Club and a USO Show.
- xx. 11-22 March 1969
The BEEP took place at Camp BARNES. All equipment was turned over with an overall deadline of 2.5%.
- yy. 14 March 1969
The body of HM1 A. T. STAHL of the NMCB SIXTY-TWO Advance Party was found in the Alternate Command Post. He died by a self-inflicted gunshot wound in the head.
- zz. 18 March 1969
RADM J. G. DILLON, COM3NCB, visited Camp BARNES and spoke to the officers and chiefs of NMCB SEVEN and NMCB SIXTY-TWO. Accompanying Admiral DILLON was Commodore A. W. WALTON, COM32NCR.
- aaa. 19 March 1969
NMCB SEVEN hosted a luncheon in the Camp BARNES wardroom for all Civic Action Dignitaries and coordinators in the Quang Tri Province. Among the visitors were Colonel KERRIGAN, G-5, THIRD MARDIV; Commander WINGAST, Chief Staff Officer, THIRTY-SECOND Naval Construction Regiment; and Mr. MCNAMARRA, Deputy Senior Advisor for Quang Tri Province.
- bbb. 20 March 1969
Mr. JOHNSON from Foremost Dairies - Sponsors of the Vinh Dai School visited NMCB SEVEN and attended the opening dedication of the Vinh Dai School.

ccc. 22 March 1969

NMCB SEVEN hosted dinner to Major General R. G. DAVIS, USMC, Commanding General THIRD Marine Division, and other business associates of the THIRD MARDIV Area of Operations, all of whom NMCB SEVEN had construction and support commitments to during the deployment.

ddd.

The Dong Ha Hospital was dedicated, highlighted by the presence of Brigadier General R. B. CARNEY, Assistant Division Commander, THIRD Marine Division.

4. MAJOR PROBLEMS:

a. Enemy Artillery attacks sustained on the following dates significantly affected personnel morale and construction commitments: 7, 8, 9, and 26 August; 22 and 30 October; and 1 November.

b. Typhoon BESS, occurring on the 4th through the 6th of September which dropped 17.73 inches of rain accompanied by high winds during the 72 hour period.

c. The long supply lines to Dong Ha and from Dong Ha to outlying construction sites often impeded smooth and efficient project completion.



J. C. RICKELS