



U.S. NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION SEVENTY - FOUR
CHU LAI, R.V.N. JUNE 1968 - FEBRUARY 1969



DEPLOYMENT COMPLETION REPORT

U. S. NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION SEVENTY-FOUR
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FROM: COMMANDING OFFICER, U. S. NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION
SEVENTY-FOUR
TO: COMMANDER NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALIONS, PACIFIC
SUBJ: NMCB SEVENTY-FOUR DEPLOYMENT COMPLETION REPORT
REF: (A) COMCBPACINST 5213.1E
ENCL: (1) DEPLOYMENT COMPLETION REPORT

1. ENCLOSURE (1) SUMMARIZING THE 25 JUNE 1968 TO 10 FEBRUARY 1969 DEPLOY-
MENT OF NMCB SEVENTY-FOUR TO THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM IS HEREBY SUBMITTED
IN ACCORDANCE WITH REFERENCE (A).

J. A. D'Emidio
J. A. D'EMIDIO

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NMCB SEVENTY-FOUR DEPLOYMENT COMPLETION REPORT
25 JUNE 1968 THROUGH 10 FEBRUARY 1969
CHU LAI, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

1. EMPLOYMENT STATUS:

DURING THE PERIOD OF 25 JUNE 1968 TO 10 FEBRUARY 1969, U. S. NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION SEVENTY-FOUR WAS DEPLOYED TO CAMP SHIELDS, CHU LAI, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM AS DIRECTED BY COMCBPAC OPOD 11-68. DURING THIS DEPLOYMENT OTHER BATTALION UNITS WERE EMPLOYED AT OTHER LOCATIONS AS FOLLOWS:

A. DETAIL VICTOR: FROM 20 JUNE 1968 UNTIL 11 FEBRUARY 1969, ONE OFFICER AND 60-90 ENLISTED MEN WERE DETAILED TO CAM LO IN OPERATION OF A 200 TON PER HOUR ROCK CRUSHING PLANT FOR THE DONG HA AREA.

B. DETAIL X-RAY: FROM 10 AUGUST 1968 UNTIL 14 NOVEMBER 1968, ONE OFFICER AND 49 ENLISTED MEN WERE DEPLOYED TO THE QUANG TRI AREA IN ASSISTANCE TO NMCB ELEVEN IN CONTONEMENT CONSTRUCTION FOR THE MINIMUM ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENT (MER) PROGRAM.

C. DETAIL WHISKEY: FROM 10 AUGUST UNTIL 15 OCTOBER 1968, ONE OFFICER AND 57 ENLISTED MEN DEPLOYED TO THE DONG HA AREA IN ASSISTANCE TO NMCB SEVEN IN CONTONEMENT CONSTRUCTION FOR THE MINIMUM ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENT PROGRAM.

D. SUPPORT TO NMCB SEVEN: DURING THE MONTH OF AUGUST UNTIL 29 OCTOBER 1968, 67 ENLISTED MEN OF THE EQUIPMENT OPERATOR AND CONSTRUCTION MECHANIC RATING WERE TAD TO NMCB SEVEN IN SUPPORT OF THE ROAD UPGRADING OF NATIONAL ROUTE NINE.

E. DETAIL YANKEE: FROM 8 SEPTEMBER 1968 UNTIL 31 JANUARY 1969 ONE CHIEF PETTY OFFICER AND ELEVEN OTHER ENLISTED MEN WERE DEPLOYED TO QUANG NGAI IN CONSTRUCTION OF THE CORDS HOSPITAL PROJECT, CONSISTING OF SECONDARY POWER, INTERIOR WIRING, WATER DISTRIBUTION, AND SEWAGE DISTRIBUTION.

2. UNIT MOVEMENTS:

THE FOLLOWING MAJOR BATTALION MOVEMENTS WERE ACCOMPLISHED IN EXECUTION OF COMCBPAC OPOD 11-68.

A. RVN ADVANCE PARTY ONE: ON 5 JUNE 1968 THREE OFFICERS AND 85 ENLISTED PERSONNEL ARRIVED AT CAMP SHIELDS, CHU LAI, RVN.

B. RVN ADVANCE PARTY TWO: ON 15 JUNE 1968 THREE OFFICER AND 35 ENLISTED MEN ARRIVED AT CAMP SHIELDS, CHU LAI, RVN.

C. RVN MAIN BODY MOVEMENT: FROM 25 JUNE 1968 TO 3 JULY 1968 THE NMCB SEVENTY-FOUR MAIN BODY TRANSITIONED FROM GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI TO CHU LAI, RVN. ALL FLIGHTS EXCEPT TWO, TO RVN WERE ACCOMPLISHED UTILIZING MAC C-141 AIRCRAFT.

D. CONUS ADVANCE PARTY: ON 19 JANUARY 1969 ONE OFFICER AND 21 ENLISTED MEN DEPARTED CAMP SHIELDS, CHU LAI, RVN FOR GULFPORT MISSISSIPPI.

E. CONUS MAIN BODY MOVEMENT: FROM 10-15 FEBRUARY 1969 THE MAIN BODY OF NMCB SEVENTY-FOUR TRANSITIONED FROM CAMP SHIELDS, CHU LAI, RVN TO GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI. ALL FLIGHTS RETURNING TO CONUS WERE ACCOMPLISHED UTILIZING MAC C-141 AIRCRAFT.

3. SIGNIFICANT EVENTS:

29 JUNE 1968 HEAVY CONVOY TRAFFIC WEST OF CAM LO WAS HALTED BY MORTAR ACTION. ROCK CRUSHING OPERATIONS OF DETAIL VICTOR WERE HALTED FOR 1 1/2 HOURS DUE TO ROAD CONDITIONS, WHICH PREVENTED HAULING ROCK FROM SOURCE TO CRUSHER. ALSO ON THIS DATE CAPTAIN C. G. MILLER AND COMMANDER B. J. HACKENSON OF CBPAC VISITED THIS COMMAND.

10 JULY 1968-COORDINATES TD 0508569L6342 SERIES 2; AT 1100 H ELEMENTS OF DETAIL VICTOR RECEIVED 81MM AND OTHER MORTAR AND SMALL ARMS FIRE, RESULTING IN 1 WIA, AND DAMAGE TO ONE ROCK DUMP. AT 1240H ELEMENTS ALSO RECEIVED HARRASSMENT FROM CLAYMORE MINES AND VARIOUS SMALL ARMS FIRE, RESULTING IN 1 WIA.

11 JULY 1968-RADM J. V. BARTLETT, COM3NCB VISITED CAMP SHIELDS IN COMPANY WITH COMMODORE J. R. FISHER, COM30NCR, CAPTAIN W. H. STURMAN, 3NCB REP. SIAGON AND OTHER 3NCB/30NCR REPRESENTATIVES.

3 AUGUST 1968-BRIGADIER GENERAL HOWARD H. COOKSEY, U. S. ARMY, ASSISTANT DIVISION DIRECTOR OF ADCB AMERICAL DIVISION AND LT. COL. M. W. HOEY OF 26TH ENGINEERING BATTALION, AMERICAL DIVISION VISITED CAMP SHIELDS TO PRESENT THE BATTALION WITH A CAPTURED AK-47 AS A TOKEN OF THEIR APPRECIATION FOR ASSISTANCE GIVEN THE DIVISION AT VARIOUS LANDING ZONES.

5 AUGUST 1968-RECEIVED NOTIFICATION THAT NMCB SEVENTY-FOUR HAD BEEN SELECTED AS BEST OF TYPE AMONG THE ATLANTIC FLEET CONSTRUCTION FORCES FOR FY68.

24 AUGUST 1968-COMMANDER W. L. WILSON AND OTHER REPRESENTATIVES OF CBPAC VISITED CAMP SHIELDS.

26 SEPTEMBER 1968-VICE ADMIRAL E. R. ZUMWALT, USN COMNAVFORV, WAS BRIEFED ON THE CONSTRUCTION MISSION IN THE CHU LAI AREA.

27 SEPTEMBER 1968-COMMANDER J. A. D'EMIDIO, THE NEW NMCB SEVENTY-FOUR COMMANDING OFFICER, ARRIVED AT CAMP SHIELDS.

28 OCTOBER 1968-A CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY WAS HELD WHERE COMMANDER J. A. D'EMIDIO RELIEVED COMMANDER G. W. SCHLEY AS NMCB SEVENTY-FOUR COMMANDING OFFICER.

18 OCTOBER 1968-LIEUTENANT COMMANDER F. G. KELLEY RELIEVED LIEUTENANT COMMANDER E. W. THOMAS AS NMCB SEVENTY-FOUR EXECUTIVE OFFICER.

15-16 NOVEMBER-COMMANDER C. J. MATTHEWS, COMMANDING OFFICER NMCB FIFTY EIGHT AND OTHER MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF VISITED CAMP SHIELDS ON A PREDEPLOYMENT INSPECTION TOUR.

30 NOVEMBER 1968-REAR ADMIRAL W. M. HEAMAN, COMMANDER, CONSTRUCTION BATTALIONS, PACIFIC; REAR ADMIRAL J. V. BARTLETT, COMMANDER 3NCB, AND CAPTAIN B. F. CURRAN, NAVAL FACILITIES ENGINEERING COMMAND, INSPECTOR GENERAL VISITED CAMP SHIELDS.

2-3 DECEMBER 1968-REAR ADMIRAL J. V. BARTLETT VISITED CAMP SHIELDS AND PRESENTED THE BRONZE STAR WITH COMBAT V TO EQUIPMENT OPERATOR FIRST CLASS D. J. ANDERSON AND EQUIPMENT OPERATOR THIRD CLASS B. C. TESMER.

3 DECEMBER 1968-THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE NMCB SEVENTY-FOUR RECOMMISSIONING WAS CELEBRATED. THE FESTIVITIES INCLUDED A BATTALION BARBECUE, TWO USO SHOWS AND A FORMAL DINING-IN BY THE OFFICERS, WITH MAJOR GENERAL C. G. GETTYS, CG AMERICAL DIVISION, U. S. ARMY, PRESENT, AND ALSO GUESTS FROM THE 3NCB/30NCR AND ADJACENT COMMANDS. THE AFTERNOON OF THIS DAY WAS DECLARED AS HOLIDAY ROUTINE.

22 DECEMBER 1968-REAR ADMIRAL J. W. KELLEY, CHIEF OF NAVY CHAPLAINS, CAPTAIN J. R. FISHER, COMMANDER 30NCR AND OTHER ADJACENT UNIT CHAPLAINS VISITED CAMP SHIELDS FOR THE DEDICATION OF THE NEW CAMP SHIELDS CHAPEL.

16 JANUARY 1969-CAPTAIN A. M. LALANDE, JR., OIC DIRCONNORTH, VISITED CAMP SHIELDS.

18 JANUARY 1969-MCB FIFTY EIGHT'S ADVANCE PARTY, CONSISTING OF SIX OFFICERS AND 94 ENLISTED MEN ARRIVED AT CAMP SHIELDS.

20 JANUARY 1969-CAPTAIN D. G. ISELIN, COMMANDER, NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALIONS, U. S. ATLANTIC FLEET, VISITED CAMP SHIELDS AND TOURED PROJECTS WITH NMCB SEVENTY-FOUR COMMANDING OFFICER, J. A. D'EMIDIO.

23 JANUARY 1969-CAPTAIN R. C. ENGRAM, DEPUTY MACV CONSTRUCTION DIRECTORATE VISITED CAMP SHIELDS AND TOURED THE BATTALION PROJECTS.

4. MAJOR PROBLEMS:

A. AS WITH MOST VIETNAM DEPLOYED BATTALIONS, MATERIAL PROBLEMS WERE OF PRIME SIGNIFICANCE, ESPECIALLY IN AN AREA REMOVED FROM THE MAIN POINT OF MATERIAL STAGING. UPON MANY OCCASIONS MATERIAL WHICH WAS AVAILABLE IN DANANG WAS UNAVAILABLE TO CHU LAI DUE TO LACK OF TRANSPORTATION CAPABILITIES. FURTHER SPECIALITY ITEMS WERE CONSTANTLY A PROBLEM, WITH PRIORITY PROJECTS SUBSEQUENTLY BEING UNREASONABLY DELAYED. A PRIME EXAMPLE OF THIS WAS THE CHU LAI RUNWAY LIGHTING PROJECT. IN THIS INSTANCE, ITEMS NEEDED WHICH WERE DELAYING THE JOB WERE: WATER TIGHT BUSHINGS FOR THE LIGHT CANS, CONSTANT VOLTAGE TRANSFORMERS FOR THE CANS, AND BASICALLY SPECIFIED SIZE WIRING FOR THE ENTIRE PROJECT.

B. THE QUALITY OF REPRODUCIBLE DRAWINGS RECEIVED WAS A CONSTANT PROBLEM. IN ORDER FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AGENCY TO SUCCESSFULLY PERFORM ITS MISSION IT MUST HAVE READABLE CONSTRUCTION DRAWINGS FOR ITS LINE COMPANIES. THIS MEANS THAT CLEAR REPRODUCIBLE DRAWINGS ARE A NECESSITY. TOO OFTEN SEPIAS RECEIVED BY THE BATTALION WERE MADE FROM OTHER SEPIAS, AS THE ORIGINAL DRAWINGS HAD BEEN SENT TO SIAGON. A SEPIA FROM A SEPIA WILL NOT REPRODUCE A READABLE PRINT!

C. TOWARD THE END OF THE DEPLOYMENT THE BATTALION STARTED A MEDIUM SCALE EARTH MOVING PROJECT, THE 312 EVACUATION HOSPITAL SEWAGE LAGOONS. FOR THIS PROJECT 24,500 CUBIC YARDS OF EARTH WERE REQUIRED TO BE MOVED IN FIVE WEEKS. BECAUSE OF LONG LATERITE HAULS AND AN EXISTING ROAD PROJECT UNDER CONSTRUCTION, LARGE CAPACITY HAULING VEHICLES WERE A NECESSITY IN ORDER TO COMPLETE THE PROJECT PRIOR TO DEPLOYMENT BACK TO CONUS. THE ONLY SUITABLE VEHICLES WERE THE EUCLID TS-24 WHICH BECAUSE OF PRIORITY ROAD PROJECTS IN THE DANANG AREA, WERE PULLED FROM THE BATTALION. THIS LEFT ONLY 3 MRS TYPE EQUIPMENT AND 8 DUMP TRUCKS. BECAUSE OF ENSUING RAIN THE PROJECT WAS ONLY THREE DAYS FROM COMPLETION AT THE TIME OF TURN OVER TO MCB FIFTY-EIGHT WHEREAS WITH THE PROPER EQUIPMENT THE JOB WOULD HAVE BEEN COMPLETE.

5. FACTORS OF SUCCESS:

A. THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE DEPLOYMENT, AND CONSIDERING THE MONSOON SEASON, NMCB SEVENTY-FOUR WAS BLESSED WITH REASONABLY GOOD WEATHER. ONLY IN ISOLATED CIRCUMSTANCES WERE PROJECTS SIGNIFICANTLY HINDERED BY RAIN.

B. ONLY 19% OF THE BATTALION UPON DEPLOYMENT CAME FROM THE DPPO RANKS. HOWEVER, THIS SMALL PERCENTAGE CONCEALED MANY INVALUABLE PERSONNEL. THE RESULT OF THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE SUCCESS OF THE DEPLOYMENT CAN ONLY BE TERMED AS OUTSTANDING.

C. BECAUSE OF THE HIGH SPIRIT IN WHICH THE BATTALION DEPLOYED, THE MEN OF NMCB SEVENTY-FOUR WERE EAGER TO SHOW WHAT THEY COULD DO. THOSE WHO WERE MAKING THEIR SECOND DEPLOYMENT WERE OUT TO SHOW THAT THEY COULD AND WOULD "DO IT AGAIN." THOSE WHO WERE MAKING THEIR FIRST DEPLOYMENT WERE OUT TO PROVE THEMSELVES THE EQUALS OF THE "OLD TIMERS." THE RESULT WAS A COMPETITIVE SPIRIT WHICH BOUYED THE MORAL OF THE TROOPS AND LED TO HIGH QUALITY, FIRST ORDER CONSTRUCTION. COOPERATION BETWEEN THE COMPANIES AND STAFFS IN ATTAINING A COMMON GOAL, THE BATTALION MISSION, WAS EXCELLENT.

D. THE BULK OF NMCB SEVENTY-FOUR'S WORK WAS WITHIN THE CHU LAI COMBAT ENCLAVE WHICH GREATLY REDUCED INTRA BATTALION LOGISTICS PROBLEMS.

E. THE LIAISON OFFICERS PROVIDED BETWEEN THE BATTALION AND THE 30NCR WERE THE HIGHEST CALIBER OF NAVAL OFFICERS. THEY CONTINUALLY EXHIBITED THEIR CONCERN FOR THE WELFARE OF THE BATTALION AND ITS SUCCESS IN ITS DEPLOYMENT, ANTICIPATING ITS EVERY NEED. THEY WERE VIEWED BY ALL AS "PART OF THE COMMAND."

12. INDIVIDUAL AWARDS & UNIT RECOGNITIONS:

A. THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUAL AWARDS WERE PRESENTED DURING THE DEPLOYMENT, WITH SUCH PRESENTATIONS BEING MADE AT BATTALION FUNCTIONS WHEREEVER POSSIBLE TO INSURE FULLEST POSSIBLE RECOGNITION FOR INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENTS:

(1) BRONZE STAR:

- A. EO1 DANIEL J. ANDERSON, USN
- B. EO3 BRADFORD C. TESMER, USN
- C. *CWO RAYMOND H. BECKER, CEC, USN

(2) JOINT SERVICE COMMENDATION MEDAL:

- A. YN2 JIMMY C. SCOTT, USN

(3) NAVY COMMENDATION MEDAL:

- A. *LCDR ROBERT W. DEAN, SC, USN
- B. *LCDR GERALD W. JACKSON, CEC, USN
- C. *LT WILLIAM B. GROVER, CEC, USN
- D. *LT JAMES D. HUBBARD, CEC, USN
- E. *LTJG ALVIN D. BAKER JR., CEC, USNR
- F. *LTJG MICHAEL P. PENTI, CEC, USNR
- G. *BUCS LEWIS D. RUMP JR., USN
- H. *SWC DOUGLAS R. LOMBARD, USN
- I. *EOC LELAND B. RENNICKS, USN
- J. *UTC ROBERT E. SIMPSON, USN

(4) NAVY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL:

- A. EO2 DEWEY D. DEGENHARDT, USN
- B. *LTJG GEORGE J. ESSER, CEC, USNR
- C. *LTJG LARRY D. LENZ, CEC, USNR
- D. *CUCM SIMON P. GRAY, USN
- E. *EQCM EDDIE M. JONES JR., USN
- F. *SKCS GORDON L. PRUETT, USN
- G. *LTJG EDWARD T. POST, CEC, USNR
- H. *BUC DALE E. BUSH, USN
- I. *BUC WARREN O. HAYNES, USNR
- J. *EOC ODICE E. OAKS, USN
- K. *EO1 JAMES W. GREEN, USN
- L. *EO1 JULIOUS F. REEVES, USN
- M. *CM1 ALLEN A. MACROBERTS, USN
- N. *BU1 LEROY E. COOK, USN
- O. *CM1 GLENN H. SMITH, USN
- P. *SW1 DALE I. GERDTS, USN
- Q. *YN2 JIMMY C. SCOTT, USN

- R. *CS2 JIMMY L. BURTS, USN
- S. *UT2 VINCENT BRIGAGLIANO, USN
- T. *BU2 WILLIAM E. NIMS, USN
- U. *CM2 RICHARD C. COON, USN
- V. *HM3 JAMES A. CRONE, USN
- W. *CN WAYNE A. BALL, USN

(5) PURPLE HEART:

- A. E03 SAMUEL H. DEAN, USN

(6) ANTARTIC SERVICE MEDAL:

- A. CN JAMES W. MILLS, USN

(7) MERITORIOUS UNIT EMBLEM:

- A. CECN FRANKIE L. BRUCE, USN

(8) GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL: 8

(9) EXPERT RIFLE MEDAL: 67

(10) EXPERT PISTOL MEDAL: 6

(11) NUMEROUS LETTERS OF COMMENDATION.

* INDICATES NO AWARD CITATION FOR THIS DEPLOYMENT PERIOD HAS BEEN RECEIVED AT THE TIME OF THE BATTALION'S REDEPLOYMENT TO CONUS.

B. THE FOLLOWING UNIT RECOGNITION WAS RECEIVED BY THE BATTALION FOR ITS SECOND EIGHT MONTH DEPLOYMENT PERIOD TO THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM;

CINCPACFLT-COMSERVPAC

MESSAGE CENTER

UNCLAS

1. UPON YOUR DEPARTURE FROM A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL DEPLOYMENT AT CHU LAI, I WOULD LIKE TO ADD MY PERSONAL THANKS TO THOSE OF YOUR CUSTOMERS AND SENIOR COMMANDS FOR A JOB WELL DONE.
2. AT THE CAM LO ROCK FACILITY EACH SEABEE OF DETAIL VICTOR PARTICIPATED IN A VERY SUCCESSFUL ROCK CRUSHING OPERATION WHILE THOSE AT CHU LAI DID AN EXCELLENT JOB IN SUPPORTING MAG'S 12 AND 13 WITH VARIOUS UPGRADING AND NEW CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS, NEW TANK CONSTRUCTION AT THE CHU LAI POL FARM, AND SUPPORT PROJECTS FOR NSAD CHU LAI INCLUDING TWO NEW FRESH WATER WELLS. NOT TO BE OVERLOOKED ARE THOSE MEN SENT TO THE NORTHERN I CORPS TO ASSIST IN THE MER PROGRAM AT DONG HA AND QUANG TRI. TO THE SOUTH A SMALLER GROUP CONTINUED WORK ON THE CORDS HOSPITAL AT QUANG NGAI.
3. AT EACH LOCATION NORTH, SOUTH AND AT CHU LAI YOU HAVE COMPLETED ASSIGNED TASKS IN OUR TRADITIONAL "CAN DO" MANNER. ONCE AGAIN I BID FAREWELL TO YOUR BATTALION AND REITERATE A PERSONAL "WELL DONE". RADM W. M. HEAMAN SENDS.