



CIVIL ENGINEER CORPS
100TH ANNIVERSARY
MARCH 2, 1967

UNITED STATES NAVY
CONSTRUCTION BATTALIONS



SEABEES
25TH ANNIVERSARY
MARCH 5, 1967

SEABEES
IN
ACTION

SEABEE TEAMS

SEABEES IN CIVIC ACTION
THE NAVY PEACE CORPS

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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
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U. S. NAVY CONSTRUCTION BATTALIONS
"CONSTRUIMUS, BATUIMUS - WE BUILD, WE FIGHT"

"CAN DO!"



SEABEE TEAM

A compact, self contained, and expertly trained construction unit providing capable support for the U.S. Navy counterinsurgency effort.

WHERE:

Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Liberia, Central African Republic, South Vietnam, and Thailand.

DOING WHAT:

Building:

Airfields
Dams
Roads
Bridges
Schools
Hospitals
Public Buildings

Drilling:

Water Wells

Installing:

Water Distribution Systems
Sewage Disposal Systems
Electrical Distribution Systems
Saw Mills

Repairing:

Rock Crusher
Medical Equipment

Providing:

Medical Services
Disaster Recovery Capability

Training:

Heavy Equipment Operators
Truck Drivers
Electricians
Steelworkers - Welders
Carpenters
Brick Layers
Surveyors
Draftsmen
Plumbers
Construction supervisors

Teaching:

English
Sanitation
Personal Hygiene
First Aid

Seabee Teams

Seabee Teams are small, highly mobile, air-transportable units that can be deployed overseas on short notice to:

- Furnish technical assistance on engineering problems.
- Assist in the construction of a wide range of both civil action and socio-economic projects.
- Teach construction and mechanical trades to host country personnel.
- Conduct, as assigned, any counter-insurgency operations.

Teams are deployed on engineering missions to emerging nations that either require engineering and construction assistance or have been the victim of a natural disaster requiring emergency aid. At CNO request, a plan has been developed for the expansion of the program.

SEABEE Teams

FY 1965 saw SEABEE Teams employed on AID and MAP projects in South Viet Nam, Thailand, Costa Rica, Liberia, Central African Republic, and the Dominican Republic. Also, during FY 1965, select detachments of SEABEES were employed to assure the security of U. S. Embassies, Consulates, and other State Department facilities throughout the world.

The SEABEE teams demonstrated technical and military skills in accomplishing civic action and counter-insurgency projects such as well drilling, flood control, irrigation structures, earthen dams, rural roads, and military fortifications. All projects were slanted to provide on-the-job training for local nationals, exposing them to U. S. equipment, methods and construction know-how. The success of these Teams is measured by the continued requests for their employment by the Ambassadors in the countries where SEABEES have been utilized.

One Team, employed in South Viet Nam building fortifications and a small airstrip for an Army Special Forces unit, was attacked by superior Viet Cong forces. Despite heavy casualties, the Team responded heroically to the attack, resisting the enemy until additional forces and air cover were available for assistance. All members of the Team have been decorated for their actions under enemy fire, including a recommendation for posthumous award of the Congressional Medal of Honor.



SEABEE TEAMS IN AFRICA

Team 4-4 Men Praised For Work in Central Africa



DEHAVEN, Bul 2 and Corder, Bul 3 demonstrating use of transit to Liberian builder trainees.

DAVISVILLE, R.I. — Four members of Seabee Team 4-4 who served in Bangui, Central African Republic, training indigenous personnel and helping to rehabilitate an 85-kilometer stretch of road from mid-1965 until February 1966, were presented letters of appreciation from the American Ambassador in the Central African Republic for the work they accomplished during their stay in the country.

Receiving recognition were Joseph F. Ledger, SWC; Edward Voytko, CM2; Edward W. O'Niell, Jr., CM2; and Joseph R. Laliberte, BU3.

The men received the letters from CDR David M. Feinman,

Chief Staff Officer for COMC-BLANT and Commander 21st Naval Construction Regiment on May 17, 1966.

Attached to the letters from the American Ambassador was a congratulatory message from RADM Henry A. Renken, Commander Service Force Atlantic Fleet, and a letter from Commander Feinman which read in part, "The work accomplished by the men of Seabee Team 4-4 again exemplifies the Seabee 'Can Do' spirit in accomplishing the most difficult assignments in an outstanding manner. Your performance has indeed been a credit to the Seabees and the Navy. Congratulations for a job well done."

SEABEE TEAM AID LIBERIANS

The Seabees have carved out another large portion of good-will for the United States by building two heavy repair shops and constructing roads in Liberia.

Seabee Team 7-2, under technical direction of the Navy's Bureau of Yards and Docks, erected the shops at Wainsue and Tappita. Each shop contains 3,840 square feet of work space and offices.

The team used the construction projects as a basis for teaching Liberians equipment operation and heavy duty mechanics.

The most notable road project was construction of a 15-mile farm-to-market stretch from Foya Kemala in northwest Liberia to the Sierra Leona border.

The team worked in cooperation with the Department of Public Works of Liberia and the United States Agency for International Development.

SEABEE ROAD JOB

Thanks to a U. S. Navy Seabee Technical Assistance Team, citizens of the newly independent Central African Republic are finding it easier to visit their neighbors.

Members of Seabee Team 4-4 recently reported to the Navy's Bureau of Yards and Docks that 15 per cent of the road construction between Baoro and Bozoum two principal cities in the new nation, has been completed. This represents a two-mile stretch of roadway.

The team is part of a Seabee "hands across the sea" program in which construction aid and machine instruction is provided to newly emerged nations or those countries hit by a natural disaster.

Success of the program is shown by the fact there are many more requests for teams than there are teams available.

SEABEE TEAMS IN SOUTH AMERICA

Seabees Lend A Hand in Chile

Another chapter is being written in the book of the Navy's Seabees down in the little town of Talcahuano, Chile, where seven members of the famed Seabees are working—both as Seabees and as diplomats.

In 1960 an earthquake damaged two wharves at the Chilean Naval Shipyard in Talcahuano, and the Chilean Government requested technical assistance in repairing them from the United States. Shortly thereafter, Seabee Technical Assistance Team (STAT) One, commanded by Lieutenant L. D. Lawson, CEC, USN, arrived on the scene. This was the first deployment of a STAT, a new concept in military assistance.

STAT One has been on the job since July 1961, and plans to have it finished early next year. During this time, the Seabees have been combining technical assistance with grass roots diplomacy.

At present there are ten STATs in the Atlantic Fleet, three of which are now deployed on assignments. In addition to the team in Chile, there is one rebuilding a pier at Port-Au-Prince, Haiti, and another to train diesel mechanics and electric power linemen at Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. These teams are sent at the request of the local government, which furnishes labor forces and materials as may be available.

Manned by veteran Seabees, famous for their "can do" spirit, these teams are self-sufficient, self-contained construction teams, dependent only on local labor to erect anything from a pier to an airstrip.

Theoretically, the men assigned to these teams only give local workers technical assistance, but in reality they often have to pitch in with hammer and wrench to help get the job done.

In addition to their first goal of public works assistance, these teams are accomplishing a secondary purpose closely allied with the President's People-to-People Program. Psychologically, there is nothing that brings people closer than working together for a common goal. At the moment in Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and Chile, American sailors are working side by side with local citizens, teaching them American skills, sharing their problems, and eventually participating in the same accomplishment. This principle of human relations has proved to be a most valuable means of spreading better understanding.



James R. Morton, BUI, USN (center background), and Chilean workers check a form placed on a sheet-pile bulkhead at Talcahuano, Chile.



A member of U.S. Atlantic Fleet Seabee Technical Assistance Team (STAT) One supervises Chilean nationals during installation of a drainage line at the Talcahuano, Chile, Naval Shipyard. Wharves at the shipyard were destroyed by an earthquake. U.S. Navy Seabees are providing technical assistance in rebuilding the damaged port area.



Walter G. Bryzinski, SWI, USN (left), of STAT-1, keeps a watchful eye on the work as Chilean steelworkers install an anchor rod.

SEABEE TEAMS IN THAILAND

In early November 1965 Seabee Teams 0305, 0306, and 0508 deployed to Thailand at the request of the United States Operations Mission to Thailand (USOM) in order to support the Accelerated Rural Development Program (ARD) in the remote areas of Northern and Northeastern Thailand. All of the Teams were to be engaged in training and advising Thai personnel in the proper operation and maintenance of heavy construction equipment while constructing small earthen dams and all-weather laterite roads.

The Seabee Teams move into a rural area and set up house keeping in one of the local village houses. This requires the Team members to place screen wire over the doors and windows, put up water towers for showers, and install their own electric power generators. While some of the Team members are working on the living area, others are busy moving the heavy equipment from the nearest railroad to the jobsite so that construction operations may commence as soon as possible. Normally the first piece of construction equipment on the jobsite is a bulldozer, and it is immediately put to use in clearing land for a small airfield which can be used for logistic support. This is an easy task for the fast working Seabees and in only four to five days the first plane touches down. When this happens, the villagers show up from miles around and are exceptionally pleased that they are able to actually touch the huge bird that they have always seen so high in the sky. From this time on the villagers seem to be continuously amazed by the Seabees and their equipment. Giant trees that have always been chopped down by hand are no match for the big bulldozers of the Seabees. As more trees are pushed down, the road moves onward and when the Seabees and their Thai Trainees commence work on concrete culverts, the villagers are astounded by the concrete mixer. In many instances the local people are unfamiliar with concrete and have no idea what it is or what can be done with it. Some of the villagers, working as laborers, soon understand the advantages of concrete and before long it starts to appear around their homes.

As the road passes through one village after another, the Navy Corpsman who is a member of the Seabee Team uses his skills to great advantage. Daily sick call is held in the schools, the oldsters are visited in their houses, and before long the Corpsman is one of the most popular people in the area. Since the people are usually completely unexposed to modern medicine, the Corpsman is able to literally perform miracles with hot soapy water and the simplest slaves. The Corpsman works side by side with a Thai Sanitarian and together they attempt to teach the villagers how to clean up and prevent unsanitary conditions. This includes methods of installing privies at low cost, insect control, and general cleaning of the living areas. As the road passes through a village it is amazing to see the old fences come down and the new ones go up.

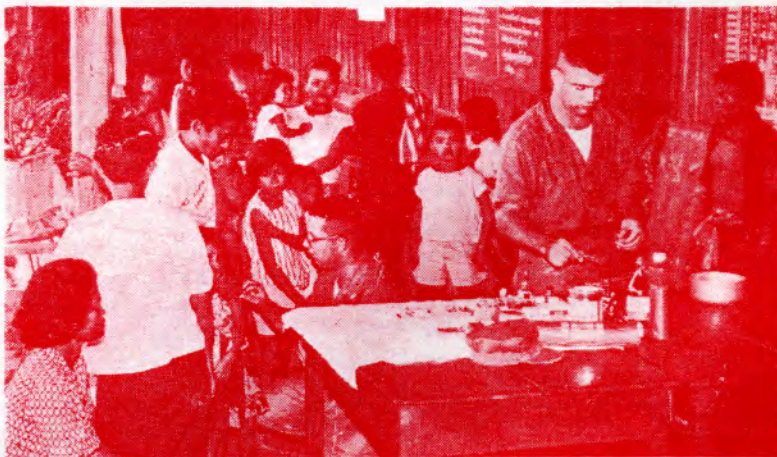
After working hours the Seabees continue to give their all in an effort to help their Thai friends and neighbors. When a well pump breaks, the villagers call on the Seabees for repair and the challenge is met with an attempt to repair it as soon as possible. In the evening hours the Seabees show movies and the whole village usually attends. Some people have been known to walk for fifteen to twenty miles just to see a movie. On the weekends the Seabees are again found hard at work. Clearing land, pioneering roads into small villages, grading school yards, and digging water storage ponds are typical recreation projects.

At present the Teams are on site and will continue to be until the end of June. Upon completing their job, they will depart Thailand but the Seabees as well as the people with whom they have worked will have many friends and lasting memories from the brief stay.

As the Seabees depart, their eight months of work



IN THEIR SPARE TIME, Daniel B. Buckley, HM1, and Fred T. Nelson, EAD3, repair a village water pump. The men are with Seabee Team 0306 deployed in Northeastern Thailand, in support of USOM and its accelerated rural development program. Along with Seabee Team 0508, the men are teaching and advising the nationals about the operation and maintenance of construction equipment. The Seabees and their students are building rural roads which give access to villages and small earthen dams which will provide water for thousands of villages during future dry seasons.



INOCULATION PROGRAM — LTJG Gary H. Scott, Officer in Charge of Seabee Team 0508 (left) and Linza K. Wood, HM2, give cholera inoculations to school children near Ban Si Yaek in Northeastern Thailand. This is part of the program initiated by corpsmen of Seabee Teams 0306 and 0508 to protect the children against cholera, rabies, the plague and smallpox. The Seabee teams also promoted a village clean-up drive.

pays off as they find the roads in good shape due to their improvements. Then as the final truck rolls out of town carrying the last bulldozer, it is felt that the Seabees are gone and soon will be forgotten. However, as was noted by earlier Teams, children can be seen playing with new homemade toys fashioned after the bulldozers and other Seabee equipment that they have seen for the last few months. This seems to indicate Seabees were well liked and will be remembered for a long time.

Seabee Teams Receive Praise

Working as 'Peace Corps' For Our Forces in Southeast Asia

Rural development is an effective way to stop the spread of Communism in underdeveloped countries.

Often referred to as the U. S. Navy's "Peace Corps," Seabee Teams have been active in rural development in Southeast Asia since January, 1963. Consisting of one Navy Civil Engineer Corps officer and twelve Seabees, a team is a highly qualified technical construction and civic action unit. The Seabee Team, outfitted with heavy construction equipment and a "will and want" to help the countries' rural population, is capable of independent operations in a foreign country.

Sixteen weeks of intensive training at Port Hueneme, California, precedes the team's deployment to Thailand or Vietnam. Once deployed, the Seabee Team becomes the construction force on civic action projects and the educators of tomorrow's Vietnamese and Thai construction men.

The team's tasks have been many and varied during the past three and a half years in Southeast Asia. A typical development story is provided by Seabee Team 0508 which returned to Port Hueneme in June, 1966, after 7½ months in a remote Thai village.

* * * * *

Seabee Team 0508, under the direction of Lieutenant (junior grade) Gary H. Scott, arrived in the village of Ban Si Yaek in the isolated northeast province of Kalasin in November, 1965. Its main assignment was to advise local personnel participating in the Thai government's Accelerated Rural Development Program (ARD) on how to build roads and dams and to train them in construction trades.

The ARD program is conducted in conjunction with the U. S. State Department's Agency for International Development (USAID). USAID programing in Thailand consists of people-to-people training and of self-help projects for residents of underdevelopd rural areas. Thais who participate are taught a variety of skills, learning how to use tools and to build things they need for themselves, their families and their communities.

For Team 0508 there were, as always, problems aplenty. There was no electricity in the village and few sanitary facilities. The water supply was limited. The members of the team were the only Americans in the area.

They spent the first few days fixing up the house in which they were to live during their deployment, and in preparing to work with the Thais in the ARD program.

The first major problem was water. The available supply was so dirty that the team's purification unit could not cope with it. During the months that followed team members travelled 11,000 miles hauling water — this figure would have been higher except that a local source of relatively clean water was eventually developed, and the purification unit put into operation.

After that came construction of a camp for the ARD personnel, and shops for the maintenance and repair of

road building equipment. The Seabees and Thais worked together, spending two weeks clearing the jungle and building access roads before the camp construction was started. Construction continued until the end of the team's deployment.

As soon as the right-of-way for the main road was arranged the ARD people went to work, learning new skills from the Seabees as the road progressed. The Navy equipment used in the beginning was replaced as the ARD group received its own rigs, and the Navy machines were assigned to civic action projects.

Soon after the work began, a U. S. Army detachment asked for help in building a light aircraft strip some 70 kilometers away over mountain roads. Since the Navy equipment was committed to the ARD program, it was available for the Army project only on weekends. So the Seabees used two weekends to haul the equipment to and from the site, where they completed a 1000-foot airstrip.

Soon after the airstrip work was completed a Peace Corps representative asked the Seabees and the Army personnel to play a benefit touch football game. It was played on a Sunday afternoon before 2500 spectators, and the proceeds were used to help pay transportation costs to the United States for Thai exchange students.

The Seabee Team completed several types of civic projects. In one village a soccer field was built at a school. Roads were graded. In another hamlet, a 1500-foot access road was constructed and several large stumps were cleared from existing streets. Schoolyards in two other nearby villages were cleared and graded. Several wells were repaired or further developed.

The operating room in a province hospital was repaired, and maintenance work was done on several of its fixtures. Two earthen dams were built at Ban Si Yaek — one 250 feet long, the other 300 feet.

The team's hospital corpsman held sick calls with the ARD first-aid workers in the morning, and in the afternoons he assisted the local medical officer by giving shots and taking part in a program to improve sanitation of the area with fabrication and installation of privies.

By the time the deployment ended the ARD program was well under way, and the Thai trainees were working with a minimum of supervision. The main road had replaced the previous cumbersome cart trail between two of the main villages, and other roads were being built branching off from the main road.

The ARD camp site was equipped with a mess hall, medical and office building, mechanic and tool shop, generator building, water tower, family living quarters and quarters for single men. There were pig pens and complete electrical and water distribution systems. Thai and U. S. officials who inspected it described the camp as the best planned and built in all Thailand.

As in Vietnam, the training of the Thais will have long-range benefits as the skills taught by the Seabees are passed from one man to another for the benefit of Thailand's people.

SEABEE TEAMS IN SOUTH VIETNAM

While the construction feats of our Seabees in Vietnam are not blazed in headlines, although they are often being called upon to defend what they've built, the Seabees are cementing relationships and promoting a feeling of good will and mutual understanding between the people of Vietnam and the U. S. that will live long after the shooting ends. Our Seabees in Vietnam are busily working to improve the living standards of the people by helping them to help themselves. (See accompanying photos.)



H. Sneed, EOI, USN, instructing Vietnamese trainees in the repair of a water pump.

Navy Corpsman Doctor For Hill Country People

Dalat (USN) — The strapping 6-foot Navy corpsman, carrying a rifle and wearing a flak-jacket, may be the closest thing to a doctor thousands of Vietnamese and Montagnard villagers in surrounding villages will ever know.

In the hill country 35 miles from Dalat, when you say doctor you are talking about Hospital Corpsman First Class Larry E. Andrews who answers to the name "Andy."

He is part of a 13-man Seabee team, located several miles from the nearest large city and other American forces. They build roads, bridges and schools for the people in this area, 160 miles northeast of Saigon. This is all part of the Navy's civic action program.

The village of Ta-Ly is typical of the villages Andy visits. In this collection of thatch-roofed shacks, boasting a single room wood-frame school house, he holds sick call. He repeats the process several times a week in other villages.

After removing his flak jacket and rifle and placing them within easy reach, Andy drags a home-made table into the village center. From a large, steel box he removes an assortment of pills, vitamins, and bandages. A crowd assembles and he holds sick call in the shadow of the cross of the village church.

He lances boils, dresses cuts, and dispenses medicine for dysentery, a complaint that attacks both Americans and Vietnamese. Or he may be confronted with a case of smallpox.



A VIETNAMESE CHILD with smallpox is treated by Larry L. Andrews, HMI, of Seabee Team 0507, during one of his sick call visits to the village of Ta-Ly.

Andy explained that white and black pills are unpopular because they are unhappy colors for the Vietnamese. After giving his patients various colors of pills, he's seen them off to the side swapping for the colors they like best. He said they really like the red, green and blue pills and call them "happy pills."

He treated a four-year-old child for smallpox during one of these visits. After he cleaned and dressed the ugly sores on the child's body, he attempted to explain to the parents the importance of getting the youngster to a hospital. The next day, he saw the "patient" playing in the dirt of the village street.

"I've been well accepted in this area by the local Vietnamese," Andy said. "We've had various village chiefs come to the Seabee camp time after time wanting to know when we would be coming back to their villages. Once they begin to believe in you and what you're trying to do there is nothing in the world they wouldn't do for you," he added.

He takes no armed escort with him on these village rounds. He said his visits are meant to be friendly.

"This duty is like nothing I've ever done before. I do carry a weapon for my protection as well as my patients' if it comes to that. It's a funny feeling being out here in the middle of nowhere. You never really know where the rear, front or flanks of this war are. You've always got to be on the alert," Andy said.

"When I first got here, about six months ago, there was no medical civic action program. So I went out to some of the villages in the mountains and saw some of the village chiefs. With them and some of the public health workers of their villages, we got together and set up some schedules," Andy recalled.

0505 TEAM GAVE VIETNAMESE "NEW LIFE"

When a flood of disastrous proportions struck Ninh Thuan Province, Republic of Vietnam, in December 1964, Seabee Team 0505 was called in for flood relief work, bridge repair and housing relocation.

They had just finished the largest circular sawmill in Vietnam at Quang Tri (north of Da Nang) after arriving in-country the first of November.

An advance party of two men arrived in Phan Rang village the day following the flood. Finding their living quarters chest deep in water, theirs was the unpleasant task of cleaning house as the water receded. They also unloaded incoming aircraft carrying their light equipment.

Meanwhile, the rest of the team had convoyed from Quang Tri to Hue Phu Bai, about 50 miles south, to await airlift. New Years' Day found the team reunited at Phan Rang after convoys with artillery, forward observers, air cover, and up to one company of escort troops for security. The trip was made in ten heavy vehicles at 15-20 mph.

Their work started immediately. After analyzing tabulations of past flood surveys, it became obvious to the provincial government that the first voluntary resettlement, called the "New Life Hamlet" program, should be initiated in the areas where the Seabees were working. These areas contained the greatest concentration of people made homeless by the highest flood waters in 40 years.

A 17-acre site was selected and prepared. The site, high in the pine-covered sand dunes above



Bridge being surveyed for repair by Seabees. This bridge typifies severity of flood damage in Ninh Thuan Province.



Mr. Thoai, deputy province chief and Boy Scout leader, accepts MCB FIVE plaque from Officer-in-Charge of Seabee Team 0505 during fete held in honor of the Seabees. Duranceau, HMI, (r.) is interpreting.

the seacoast, was leveled and 1.5 miles of road constructed. The New Life Hamlet provides space for the resettlement of 340 families.

A feeling of genuine mutual respect and admiration between the Seabees and Vietnamese was fostered by participation in sports and voluntary work and assistance given by people living in and near the Seabee work sites.

A particular expression of friendship recalled by Lt. Cdr. Lowell H. Ruff, Officer-in-Charge of the team, came on the Vietnamese New Year, Tet.

The deputy district chief, Mr. Mai Xuan Nga, along with several village elders, visited the Seabee house. To the Vietnamese, it is especially important that the family be together for the celebration of Tet. These men, aware that several of the Seabees were married, brought gifts to make the holiday more festive.

Another example was the comment of one venerable old man who lived near a large bridge project. In talking with the Province Chief (who was on one of his frequent inspection trips), the old man assured the chief "that the Seabees need not fear the Viet Cong," as the people of the village would "protect them."

He said that even if the Viet Cong did capture the Seabees, the people would pursue the Viet Cong and "free our friends the Seabees."

When 0505 got ready to return to their parent battalion, MCB FIVE, at Port Hueneme, Calif., the local troop of Boy Scouts entertained the team on their last night in Vietnam. The Province Chief, Lt. Col. Dinh Viet Lang, and his department heads attended the party and each praised in turn the work and spirit of the Seabees.



By completing one section at a time and working across on the completed portion, Seabees overcome the swift current.

Ingenious Pile Driver Aids Vietnam Farmers

When you have to build a bridge across a river with a swift current, what do you do?

You drive piles.

What do you do if you don't have a pile driver?

Why, you make one, of course!

You do, that is, if you're a Seabee with Seabee Team 0507, working in the Republic of Vietnam since November 1965.

When the 13 men of 0507 arrived in Tuyen Duc Province, approximately 125 miles northeast of Saigon, they were given the job of constructing a bridge across the Da Nhim River. The people of the province built bridges, only to have them washed out every year for the past eight years during the monsoon seasons.

Since the river was never dry and the current was usually swift the only logical method of construction was to drive piles. The only thing wrong with this was that there just was not a pile driver available. This didn't stop these men.

A 10-ton crane was borrowed from a Vietnamese engineer battalion, and working with such materials as scrap steel, concrete and barbed wire picket stakes, the Seabees fashioned a pile driver.

The leads of the pile driver were made of sheet piling welded together to a length of 26 feet. The shell for the hammer, also made of sheet piling, was filled with scrap steel and concrete and tipped the scales at 2,400 pounds.

A catwalk extending from the base of the crane's boom out to the leads was constructed of wire picket stakes. The connection between the catwalk and the pile driver was adjustable to change the angle of the boom. All connections between the crane, pile driver and catwalk were bolted, making assembly time 10 minutes.

The piles used were hard wood logs, 29 to 32 feet long. Thirty-six piles were driven in the river bed to an average depth of 14 feet to bedrock and not once did the Seabees have any trouble with their makeshift pile driver.

Today, the deck of the bridge is 16 feet above the river bed so that even during the rainy season it is above water. Ox carts of the local farmers should be traveling its length for some time, just because some hardheaded Seabees remembered an old tradition: "If you don't have it, and can't get it -- make it!"

VIETNAMESE GIRL GETS NEW CHANCE

It's a very ugly and dirty war.

As in all wars the brutal consequences are felt not only by those engaged directly in the conflict, but come to rest on those innocent individuals who are guilty only of trying to exist amidst the wreckage and violence of their ravaged homelands.

The Viet Cong terrorists are not particular where they hit or who their victims happen to be. Such was the case recently in Tay Ninh, Republic of Vietnam, a small town located in the upper Mekong Delta region of Vietnam.

A VC mortar attack -- fear, jarring explosions, panic -- and finally, when silence returned, a pretty young Vietnamese girl with no legs.

Crutches, artificial limbs and wheel chairs are practically non-existent in this area of Vietnam and are considered to be precious objects. Many unfortunates who have lost the use of their legs are reduced to crawling. This was the the future this young woman had before her.

Then in January, 13 American men came to Tay Ninh to work in support of the U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) rural civic action program. These men are members of the Navy's "Peace Corps" -- teams made up of Seabees whose mission is the construction of roads, bridges, school houses, medical facilities and other projects to enable the Vietnamese to raise their standards of living.

Their team is Seabee Team 1006, which means that it is the sixth such group to come out of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion TEN. NMCB TEN was the first Seabee battalion to deploy to Vietnam, last May, and in 23 days had an airfield operational for Marine jet aircraft.

Some of the team members hearing of the girl's plight, decided there was something they could do, and they wasted no time in setting about doing it. With a few scraps of angle iron, some sheet metal, and three old and discarded bicycle wheels, Herbert Sneed, E01, USN, Cherokee, N.C., and Clinton E. Proctor, CM2, Meeker, Colo., went to work and in a short time had built a very serviceable wheel chair.



Clinton Proctor, CM2, USN, demonstrates use of wheel chair for victim of VC terrorism while her mother (right foreground) looks on.

In South Vietnam

Seabee Team 1007 Builds Friendship

In a one-month period, a group of Americans in Vietnam wired and installed sanitary facilities in a house; wired a complete mechanic's shop; hauled 1,141 yards of fill to a storage area and spread it; completed a road by hauling fill, grading, ditching, and cutting walkways on both sides of the road; hauled 78 cubic yards of fill to a refugee camp; graded 1,875 square yards for the site of new houses at the same camp; graded 7,500 square yards for a football field at a Vietnamese recreation center; graded 224 square yards at a new school playground.

They also widened one-and-one-tenth miles of road from 16 to 32 feet by removing trees and stumps and grading, ditching and cutting a 10-foot walkway on either side; constructed and installed bulletin boards; put up clothes lines; installed sinks, screen doors and shelves; constructed a defensive bunker — but then the list could go on almost indefinitely.

Was this a battalion of engineers? No. A company, then? No, again. It was Seabee Team 1007, made up of one CEC officer, 11 Seabees and one hospital corpsman, who are engaged in civic action work in Tay Ninh Province, Vietnam, under the sponsorship of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). One of four such teams now in Vietnam, Seabee Team 1007 is composed of men picked from MCB-10 and extensively trained to perform their civic action tasks in Southwest Asia.

The work completed above was accomplished as planned projects to be completed during the normal 12-14 hour day, six-day work week of Team 1007. The seventh day of the week is set aside for special projects for which the members of the team have seen a need. Typical of these special jobs is one which they completed during the period mentioned above.

The Vietnamese Army in Tay Ninh Province needed an outpost near one of the smaller villages in the area. The need was urgent, as this particular village had been the object of repeated harassment by the Viet Cong. The Seabees of 1007 heard about it and volunteered to construct the outpost. The following Sunday the men with some of their equipment, including a front loader and a bulldozer, were on

their way to get the job started.

They started at dawn and before very long the strange noises of the heavy equipment brought curious early rising villagers, out to see what was going on. As word spread back to the village that American Seabees had come to construct a defensive outpost, the entire population of the village came out to watch wide-eyed as the strange, powerful machines began to change the appearance of the area.

Knocking down trees and pushing great heaps of underbrush before it, the bulldozer soon had an area cleared on which to locate the outpost. By early afternoon the Seabees had constructed a triangular earthen berm seven-feet high and 100-feet long on each side. But the job had just begun. Crawling down from their equipment the men of Seabee Team 1007 took up shovels and began filling sand bags with which to reinforce the berm. Soon a couple of the bolder villagers shyly stepped forth and indicated they too knew how to handle a shovel and would like to help.

Before long the people of the hamlet, including women and children, were matching the industry of the Seabees, filling, carrying and putting the sandbags in place, stringing barbed wire and casting glances at the Americans to see if their efforts were receiving the approval of the Seabee construction experts. The broad smiles they received in return indicated that they were doing just fine.

As the shadows grew long the men of Seabee Team 1007 stood back and surveyed the results of their "day of rest." Beside them, equally proud, were their Vietnamese friends and fellow workers, all greatly impressed by the amount of work that could be accomplished when everyone worked together under expert direction.

The Seabees packed up their equipment and returned to Tay Ninh City. At last report, Viet Cong incidents in the area of the tiny hamlet were very few and rapidly declining. The protection afforded by the new outpost has taken care of that problem. Equally important, a new bond of international understanding and good will between the Vietnamese and American people has been forged through the efforts of the Seabee Team 1007.



ROAD DEDICATION — Members of Seabee Team 1007 are introduced to Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Cao Ky during the dedication of a village road which was completed by the Team at Tay Ninh. Shown, left to right, are LTJG A. C. Gunn, the officer in charge of the Team; Prime Minister Ky; J. F. Lawson, UTP2; C. E. Lowery, CMH2; B. Y. Bottoms, EOH2; T. A. James, EO1; G. A. Petcavage, HMI; R. L. Welch, BUL3, and M. E. Dewald, EASCN.



VIETNAMESE TRAINEE is supervised by D. L. Morrison, EO1, of Seabee Team 1007, during construction of the road at Tay Ninh.



CIVIC ACTION — Kenneth F. Brusoe, SWC, presents members of a refugee village with rice donated by the U.S. Navy's psychological warfare section in Saigon.

CBPAC Detachment

Small Outfit Does A Big Job

ONE OFFICER and five men —how much can they contribute to the U.S. effort in South Vietnam?

In the case of the six-man staff of the Construction Battalions, Pacific Detachment in Saigon, the answer is: "A staggering amount."

It is the detachment's job to give direction and logistic support to four 13-man Seabee teams who are engaged in Vietnam rural construction projects in support of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) civic action program.

LCDR Dorwin B. Wile is officer in charge of the Detachment. His duties entail the exercise of operational, technical, administrative and troop control for COMCBPAC and U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, over all units and personnel assigned to his Detachment. He must also provide liaison with USAID in coordinating and developing programs for Seabee teams, and coordinate all administrative and logistic support provided by other commands.

In short, LCDR Wile directs an operation that last year alone saw many miles of roads and bridges constructed and repaired, school houses and medical facilities built and repaired, airstrips developed, and hundreds of acres of jungle land cleared for refugee resettlement centers. Also, the complete construction of several Special Forces military camps in the provinces for the Army of the Republic of Vietnam, which include barracks, mess halls, sanitary facilities and defense earthworks and fortifications.

Assistant OinC

Second in command is Roy C. Necessary, Jr., SWCS. Senior Chief Necessary, a veteran of 18 years of service with the Seabees, recently came to CBPAC Detachment RVN from MCB-11.

His principal duties, aside from assisting the OIC, include control of the Detachment's administrative, supply and fiscal operations, no small task when one considers that the Detachment has under its control approximately 100 pieces of transportation and construction equipment from jeeps to bulldozers to road graders and five-ton dump trucks. This equipment needs continuous care and parts replacement, so that the 52 men who use this equipment throughout Vietnam are at all times able to carry out their tasks with little time lost due to breakdowns or lack of materials.



WORKS FINE — Ralph H. Bell, CMC, test out a piece of heavy equipment which has just been overhauled.

Detachment Storekeeper

Butter and bullets, screws and scrapers, nails, pens, hammers, pumps, parts — you name it and George C. Hines, SK1, has it or can get it. Hines, the Detachment storekeeper, is responsible for ordering, receiving and shipping to the teams in-country all parts and materials; he arranges for in-country air transportation of all personnel, equipment and support material; he establishes and publishes supply stock levels at the Seabee warehouse at Tan Son Nhut Air Field in Saigon.

When not occupied with those tasks he maintains repair parts kits for the equipment assigned to the Detachment and prepares written instructions for the operation of the Detachment Supply system.

A man of many talents, Hines is also the Detachment's number one communicator with the Seabee teams in the field. Contacting the field units twice a day by voice radio, Hines is advised of their needs and takes action to see that their requirements are met. In the course of his duties Hines prepares hundreds of supply requisitions each month, oversees the handling of literally thousands of tons of cargo and the loading of countless aircraft.

Equipment Support

"Hey Chief, what's wrong with this truck? I can't seem to get it started." — That, or similar questions are quite familiar to Ralph H. Bell, CMC. Chief Bell is the chief petty officer in

charge of equipment support for CBPAC Detachment. He is responsible for the readiness and care of all equipment assigned to the Detachment pool.

Chief Bell maintains control of all equipment manuals and forms, establishes local Saigon area procurement contracts and purchases locally, all repair parts, tools, materials and services. The chief makes numerous trips into the hinterlands of South Vietnam visiting the various in-country Seabee teams on-site, inspecting their equipment and ensuring it is up to standard, and advising the teams of current changes in maintenance procedures.

Supply Expediter

"I can get it for you cheap." That may not always be the case, but Robert L. "Charlie" Box, EO1, can usually do what he says. Box is the Detachment equipment support expediter.

His primary function is as an assistant to the equipment support chief, and as such he is mainly concerned with getting things done and procuring necessary items in the Saigon area. Box makes and maintains close contact with local Saigon businesses in order to procure such goods as bottled acetylene and oxygen, gasoline and diesel fuel, photograph developer, etc., and ensure that equipment and machinery being repaired by local establishments is repaired efficiently and economically. In the course of his duties Box has done everything from getting a Seabee's name

tag sewed on his uniform by a local tailor to hauling a concrete mixer by aircraft from one location in Vietnam to another.

Yes, if it can be obtained 'cheaply' in Vietnam, Charlie Box is the man to see.

Paper, Paper, Paper

Although the Navy is waging a war on unnecessary paper work, there are still minimums that must be maintained in this field. And at the bottom of the stack of paper in the CBPAC Detachment is Ronald E. Ackerman, YN1, who has spent the last two years in Vietnam. Ackerman is responsible for setting up and maintaining liaison with other agencies in Saigon. To insure correct handling of administrative and personnel procedures for all Seabee units assigned to the CBPAC Detachment in Vietnam, he handles correspondence, messages, and files on over a hundred different subjects.

He obtains maps used by the Seabee Teams in their respective areas of operations and does occasional public information work for the Detachment. As an indication of the magnitude of this job, in 1965 nearly 1,000 pieces of unclassified formal correspondence were mailed from Ackerman's office, and the Detachment's incoming correspondence runs three to four times that amount.

How much can six men contribute to the U.S. effort in South Vietnam? Ask any member of the four Seabee teams depending on these men and you are sure to get this answer: "A whole lot."



LCDR D. B. Wile
Officer in Charge



PLAY TIME — HM2 James Keenan of Seabee Team 1106 looks on as Vietnamese orphans experiment with newly constructed playground equipment.

Seabee Team Brightens Lives of RVN Orphans

Life can be hard on children in a war-torn country, especially when they are orphaned by circumstances they can neither control nor comprehend.

The 42 Vietnamese orphans who are cared for by five Catholic nuns in an old war-scarred orphanage at Vinh Long, about 210 miles southwest of Saigon, are typical examples.

No church organization supports them and the only funds to provide them with food, shelter and clothing, come from the salaries the nuns are paid for teaching local children and from the few contributions they receive.

Things are better for the children now, however, since members of Seabee Team 1106 (in Vietnam for a six-month period in support of USAID's Rural Development Program) learned of their situation.

After just one visit to the orphanage the Seabees took the children into their hearts. A lack of playground equipment was quickly rectified when the men constructed a set of brightly colored, candy striped swings and a teeter-totter from pipe, wood, and other surplus materials.

Word of the impoverished con-

dition of the Vietnamese youngsters reached Santa Clara, California, where Girl Scout Troop No. 71 gathered toys, clothing, cookies, and other items and forwarded them to the Seabee Team.

Soap and mosquito netting were provided by the U.S. Naval Advisory Group's Psychological Warfare section in Saigon and these articles also found their way to the orphanage by way of the Seabees.

That was only the beginning. At the present the Seabees are building more and larger beds as well as school desks to meet the needs of new children being brought in.

The men have adopted the motto, "The Seabees take care of their own — and others too." It is being demonstrated in a meaningful way in Vinh Long today.

SEABEES PIT GOOD DEEDS AGAINST IDEOLOGY



FIRST DOLL -- A smile lights up this little Vietnamese face when she gets her first doll.

FIRST SHOT ← This Vietnamese is no youngster, but not too old to get his first inoculation against disease as administered by a Seabee corpsman.

By **LYLE NELSON**
Military Writer

Seabees, the famed Navy engineers, are deeply committed in Vietnam, where they are building military installations in a hurry.

But they find time to fight the other war, the battle to convert those Vietnamese people who think life would be better under communism.

Seabee civic action teams constantly move about the countryside like country parsons, trying to do good and bring cheer.

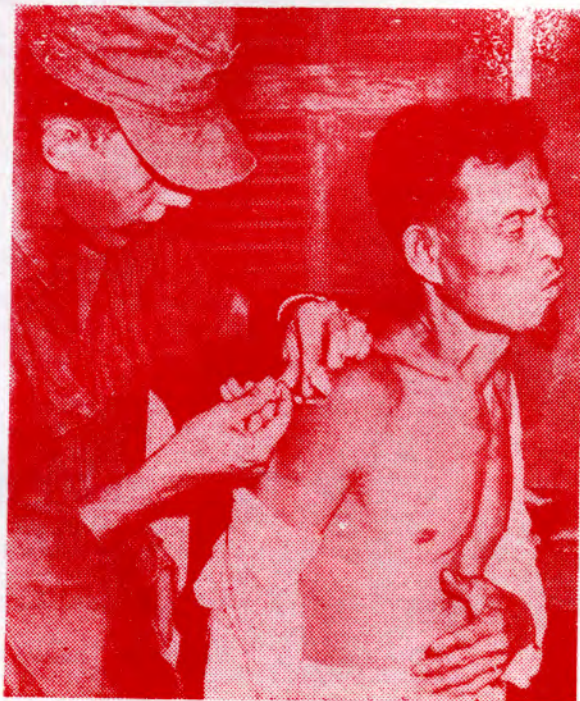
In one month recently Seabee teams:

—Gave 3,384 persons medical and dental treatment at Da Nang.

—Distributed 2,000 bars of soap at Thoi Son.

—Sank a 10-foot well and put a new roof on the church at Chu Lai.

—Unloaded scrap lumber and gave English lessons at Hue.



—Gave garbage to the pigs and distributed Girl Scout supplies from Canton, Ohio, and Port Hueneme, California, at Da Nang.

—Gave out 400 bags of candy, sprayed for insects and distributed CARE packages at Dran.

—Widened a road to a Buddhist temple at Thoeng, Thailand, cut drainage ditches and gave 450 cholera-typhoid shots.

The Seabees were born in World War II and now have eight battalions in Viet Nam.

Each battalion has 776 men. Seabee teams of 13, under the sponsorship of the U.S. Agency for International Development, are all over Viet Nam and Thailand performing civic action tasks.

They think it is one way of turning Viet Nam away from communism.



GOOD FOR LAUGHS -- This Vietnamese mother gets a kick out of the stretch in a pair of American hose. The only trouble is that she doesn't wear shoes. Sometimes the wrong things get delivered to Viet Nam in U.S. enthusiasm to help the people there.

NEW CLOTHES -- This Vietnamese boy has received clothing once worn by an American boy.

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