

*reporting aboard letter*

U. S. NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION FIFTY-EIGHT  
FLEET POST OFFICE  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 09501

Greetings:

Welcome to the FIFTY-EIGHT Family. As you may already know, your "SeaBee" recently reported for duty with one of the most distinguished construction battalions to serve in World War Two. United States Naval Mobile Construction Battalion FIFTY-EIGHT was re-commissioned on 15 March, 1966 here at the U. S. Naval Construction Battalion Center, Davisville, Rhode Island.

The 58th Naval Construction Battalion was originally commissioned on 26 December, 1942 at Camp Allen in Norfolk, Virginia. The Battalion saw its first action in the Northern Solomon Islands, where it was awarded the Navy Unit Commendation, which stated in part; "for outstanding heroism in action against Japanese forces during the invasion and establishment of a fighter air base on Vella La Vella from 13 to 31 August 1943." Other action came at Los Negros in the Admiralty Islands, and in the invasion of Okinawa in 1945. Soon after this the Battalion was phased out and in May 1946 was de-commissioned after nearly 4 years of outstanding service.

In view of the outstanding service record of the 58th Naval Construction Battalion we have adopted "The Great FIFTY-EIGHT" as our motto. We pledge ourselves to live up to the great reputation achieved by our predecessors.

To be a truly great battalion we must be well trained. For this reason, we will be heavily engaged in both technical and military training during the next several months at Davisville. To supplement the letters you receive from your SeaBee, I will try to keep you informed of the activities of the The Great FIFTY-EIGHT by frequent Family-Grams. I trust that you will find them both interesting and informative.

Sincerely,

*W. W. DeGroot III*  
W. W. DeGroot III  
CDR, CEC, USN  
Commanding Officer

P. S. - Our latest Family-Gram is enclosed with this letter.