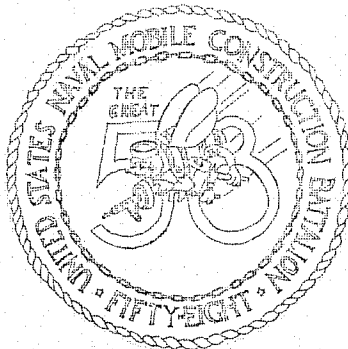


FIFTY-EIGHT



FAMILY-GRAM

23 August 1966
Davisville, Rhode Island

Greetings!

With August nearly over we find the time fast approaching for our Battalion military training period at the Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. The entire month of September has been set aside for this training, and almost the entire Battalion will be involved. We will fly from Quonset Point Naval Air Station, our neighbor here at Davisville, and arrive at the Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point, North Carolina. From there we will be bused to Camp Lejeune to begin our training.

The various areas in which we expect to receive training include unit defensive tactics, field communications, crew served weapons, field medical procedures, field cooking, individual combat training, and rifle and pistol qualification. In addition, we will conduct a week of field exercises in defensive tactics. Each man will receive individual training in map reading, compass reading, field fortification, mine warfare, camouflage and concealment, counter-guerrilla warfare, escape and evasion, and first aid. This training will prepare us for all possible situations we may encounter during future deployments.

As an insight into the Battalion, I thought I would explain the Battalion's organization. We are organized into five companies and four principal staff departments. The companies, lettered A, B, C, D, and H, contain all the construction and support personnel. "A" Company handles heavy construction and consists of the Equipment Operators and Construction Mechanics. "B" Company is in charge of camp maintenance and handles special projects. They have all the Utilitiesmen and Construction Electricians plus a portion of the Builders and Steel Workers. The remainder of the Builders and Steel Workers make up "C & D" Companies, our general construction forces.

"H" or Headquarters Company supports the rest of the Battalion with Yeoman, Personnelmen, Commissarymen, Stewards, Disbursing Clerks, Ships Servicemen, Storekeepers, etc. It is organized into military staff departments. They are (S-1) Administration, (S-2) Planning and Readiness, (S-3) Operations, and (S-4) Supply, plus the Medical and Dental Departments and the Chaplain's office. They give the Battalion it's "personality" through the administrative roles they fill. With this organization the Battalion constitutes an independently operating fleet unit.

This will be our last Family-Gram from Davisville until after our Camp Lejeune deployment. You can, however, expect to hear from me some time during September from Lejeune.

Sincerely,

W. W. DeGroot III
COR, CEC, USN
Commanding Officer