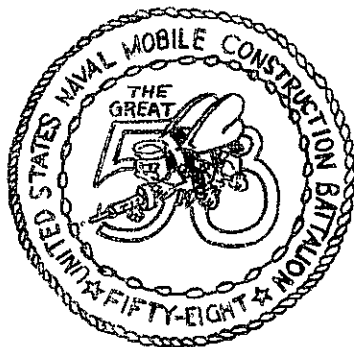


Fifty-Eight

Family-Gram



28 February 1967
Camp Haskins
DaNang, Republic of
Vietnam

Greetings:

As of this writing the rainy chill monsoon weather of which you've heard so much is slowly giving way to warm days with sunny skies. As a point of interest, the rainfall here in December was 25 inches (the average yearly rainfall for the United States), and the total since October has been about 60 inches. It's easy to see why we've been looking forward to the dry weather ahead.

Our workload continues to keep us busy. Among other projects, we're currently working on a large administration building at the First Marine Division, new office spaces for the 1st Force Service Regiment, the complete rehabilitation of 35 separate buildings for the First Marine Aircraft Wing, repair of local roads, and a civic action project rebuilding homes that were destroyed by a serious fire in a local Vietnamese refugee hamlet on February 2nd.

In an earlier letter, I described to you the internal organization of a Naval Mobile Construction Battalion. You may be interested in the overall command structure of the Navy's Seabees. The Navy's 17 Seabee Battalions are divided between the U. S. Atlantic Fleet and the U. S. Pacific Fleet, and report to what we in the Navy call "Type Commanders" - COMBANT and COMBOPAC. While the battalions are in homeport we have an intermediate level of supervision - the Naval Construction Regiment - to coordinate training. Homeport regiments are 21st NCR at Davisville and 20th NCR at Gulfport for Atlantic battalions, and 31st NCR at Port Hueneme for Pacific battalions. When deployed to Vietnam we report to the 30th NCR, which controls Seabee construction work, and has no interest in training. Headquarters for 30th NCR is right here at Camp Haskins. In Vietnam there is one more level of supervision, the 3rd Naval Construction Brigade, located in Saigon, which coordinates the overall construction load placed upon the Navy's Seabees.

I'm sure you know that March 5th is the big day for Seabees everywhere. We will be celebrating our 25th Anniversary, as well as the 100th Anniversary of the Civil Engineer Corps. Since March 15th is the First Anniversary of the recommissioning of Fifty-Eight, we are having a combined celebration. We are planning a full day of sports, recreation, and entertainment.

We all wish we could celebrate our First Anniversary at home, but here is where the work is that 58 was commissioned expressly to do. So, it is especially appropriate that we are in Vietnam serving our Nation at this time.

I am enclosing a special Anniversary Edition of BLAZE, our Battalion newspaper.

Sincerely,

W. W. DeGroot 111
Cdr, CEC, USN
Commanding Officer