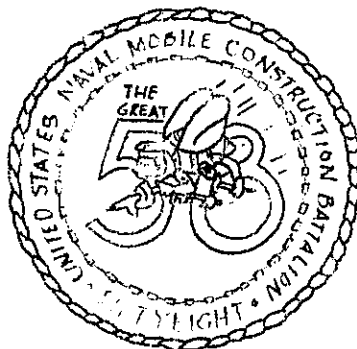


FIFTY-EIGHT



FAMILYGRAM

Camp Haskins North
DaNang, RVN
29 June 1968

Greetings,

This is my first Familygram to you since assuming command of "The Great FIFTY-EIGHT" on 31 May 1968. I want you all to know how proud and happy my family and I are joining the FIFTY-EIGHT Family.

Much has happened during the past month so I'll endeavor to bring you up to date on events.

First, the Change of Command took place at the Republic of Korea Marines Parade Ground at 1000 hours (10 AM) on the 31st of May. The day was bright and sunny (and HOT). Many distinguished visitors attended including Lieutenant General Chae Myung Shin, the Commander of all South Korean forces in Vietnam. Also attending was the Senior Seabee Commander in Vietnam, Rear Admiral J. V. Bartlett and our immediate boss, Captain J. V. Fisher, Commander of the 30th Naval Construction Regiment. In addition the Commanding Officers of most of the Seabee Battalions in country attended. During the ceremony Commander DeGroot was awarded the Korean Medal of "Order of Military Merit" for the outstanding support that he and the Battalion had provided the Korean Marines at Hoi An. To celebrate the occasion the day was declared a holiday with refreshments and steak served to all hands.

Commander DeGroot departed from DaNang for the U. S. on 2 June and after a short visit to Davisville has arrived at home in the Norfolk, Virginia area.

The next significant event was the predeployment visit from 4 to 10 June of the Commanding Officer of the Battalion that will relieve us. He was accompanied by several members of his staff. This is always a welcome time as it indicates that an arduous deployment is drawing to a close.

During this period the Battalion deployed a construction detail to the Saigon area "down South" in the III Corps Area. This detail is working on a joint Army, Navy, Air Force and Army Republic of Vietnam project to provide housing for the many Vietnamese refugees whose homes were destroyed during the TET and May attacks on Saigon and the surrounding areas. Most of the men in this detail come from

Delta Company, however, as this letter goes to the printer, plans are being finalized to add Seabees from Alpha, Bravo and Charlie Companies so that the unit will total approximately 110 men.

With the Hoi An project (Korean Marine job) progressing toward completion on schedule, the main body of the Battalion redeployed from Hoi An back to Camp Haskins, North during the period 20-23 June. A construction detail composed of men from Alpha, Bravo, Charlie and Headquarters Companies remains at Hoi An to finish up the work in that area.

The Battalion has been assigned another project "down South". This project is at Vung Tau on the coast about 50 miles southeast of Saigon. The detail is made up of men from Bravo and Charlie Companies.

The Quarry detail at Nam Hoa continues to produce rock in an outstanding manner. To increase production however, plans are being formulated to assign additional men and equipment to the Quarry detail.

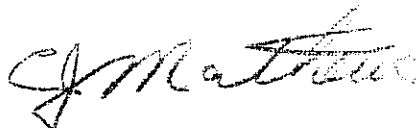
Morale remains high as the Battalion nears the end of this very busy deployment and the men make plans for homeport.

Many of our shipmates (many of whom are plank owners) will leave the Battalion for other duty and in some cases, return to civilian life prior to the Battalion's redeployment to Davisville.

We wish to thank those of you who leave our FIFTY-EIGHT Family. Your support of your Seabee has been materially responsible for the Battalion being able to accomplish its mission of combat construction support for our customers the U. S. and Korean Marines and our next door neighbor, the U. S. Army's Air Cavalry.

To all of you who remain in the family, my thanks for your continued support of your Seabee, keep up the good work, and write him as often as possible.

Sincerely,



C. J. MATHEWS
Commander, CEC, U. S. Navy
Commanding Officer