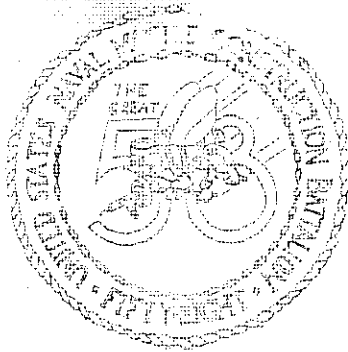


MMCB Fifty-Eight



Family Gram

29 May 1967
Camp Haskins, Danang
Republic of Vietnam

Greetings:

As we wind up the final weeks of our deployment to Vietnam, our thoughts naturally turn to home. Before we center our attention on our trip home and the ensuing months, I'd like to very briefly review our accomplishments in the last seven months. This period has seen our newly recommissioned battalion deploy to a combat zone, be tasked with a construction load, and mature into an effective, efficient military construction force. Throughout this period we have worked on a wide variety of construction assignments, ranging from heavy road building to finish carpentry. We have worked on 146 projects, placing approximately \$1.7 million of construction material or the equivalent of approximately \$5 million of finished work. It has certainly been a satisfying deployment. We have received numerous compliments for the quality and quantity of work produced and, of equal importance, many favorable comments on the "Can Do" spirit displayed by our Seabees. It has been a personal pleasure to see the energy and enthusiasm with which our Seabees have worked right down to the end of the deployment. Our latest "BLAZE" is enclosed, which is full of our reflections on the deployment.

Our first action upon returning will be to allow a leave period for those who desire to take it. At the completion of the first 30 days, we will commence formal training to increase the proficiency of our Seabees in specific skills. We will also conduct military training, both at Davisville and Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, in preparation for our next overseas deployment. There will be some time for leisure during the training cycle. After working 65 or more hours per week here in Vietnam, I will provide as much liberty in Davisville as is possible. However, the months ahead still call for continued hard work towards our standing pledge to be "The Great Fifty-Eight".

Our preparations for returning to Davisville are well underway. An advance party departing on 6 May included the men required to set up our training schedule along with men who will be commencing various schools in early June. A second group of men, who for the most part will be entering Seabee Team training 1 July, departed 23 May. All indications are that the Battalion will be back in the States soon too. I hope that as many of you as possible will be on hand at Max Kiel Gymnasium in Davisville to greet us. An Information Center is set up at Davisville to inform you of the arrival time of your Seabee's flight. The telephone number is 401-294-3311, extensions 460/462. I urge you to use this source of information to the utmost, as it will have the most accurate information available.

I wish that upon our return I could personally meet with all of you to convey to you my appreciation for the job your Seabee has done. Since that would be impossible, let me take this opportunity to tell you that you have every right to be proud of him for his service to our country.

Sincerely,

W. W. DeGroot 111
Commander, Civil Engineer Corps, U. S. Navy
Commanding Officer