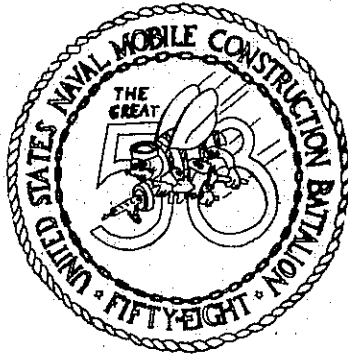


MCB Fifty-Eight



Family-Gram

29 November 1967
Davisville, Rhode Island

Greetings:

This letter to you will be brief since the latest edition of our Battalion newspaper is enclosed. The *Blitz* tells a complete story of what we have been doing these past months in homesort and, of course, I also covered the subject in my last Family-Gram. I can only add my own evaluation that this has been a good six months for our Seabees and their families. We have been able to give maximum leave and liberty and still complete our training program.

We are now looking forward to our second deployment to Vietnam. Already our Advance Party has arrived in Vietnam and the main body is ready to depart. We have an eight month's deployment ahead of us and a lot of work to do in support of the United States military effort. We also expect to be engaged in a vigorous civic action program in support of the local Vietnamese people. Although we do not expect any conflict with the enemy, our men are well-trained to defend themselves. I want you to be assured that the safety and welfare of your Seabee is uppermost in our minds.

May I urge you to give your continued love and support to your Seabee. He will be working long and hard hours and when his day's work ends, he will look forward most eagerly to hearing from you. Please write him regularly. Send letters, tape-recordings and packages. I know that some of you will also have some trying days before the deployment ends. I urge you to seek help from the many resources available to you in your home community if the need arises. Do not worry us needlessly, but, if a real emergency arises, please get in touch with the local Red Cross Chapter and let them inform us. If emergency leave is called for, we can send your Seabee on his way home in a few hours.

If I may personally be of any assistance, please write me, or, if any of the members of my staff, Chaplain, Medical Officer or Company Commander, may help, do not hesitate to write them. We want to be able to keep your mind at ease in so far as possible, knowing, of course, that this also will help to keep your Seabee happy.

I will be writing to you again soon after we arrive in Vietnam.

Sincerely yours,

W. W. DeGroot 111
Commander, Civil Engineer Corps
United States Navy