



SKILLED HANDS—MCB-58's drill team puts on show. Rt: Korean troops take break and help Seabees on job.

Seabees Work With Korean Marines in Vietnam

LOCATED SOME 20 miles south of Da Nang, near the provincial capital of Hoi An, are two military units. One is composed of professional soldiers, the other is equally professional in its own trade—building. These two are the 2nd Republic of Korea Marine Brigade, and the U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 58.

When NMCB 58 returned to Vietnam in December 1967 for its second deployment, it was assigned the job of building a cantonment for the 6500-man Blue Dragon Brigade of the Republic of Korea Marine Corps which, with its attached support units, totals close to 8000 officers and enlisted men.

When completed, the cantonment will include 14 separate camp sites, more than 1300 structures, complete electrical and water systems, and helo pads, as well as connecting roads and berms.

The Seabees and Korean Marines

have worked side by side from the day the project first began.

The Korean Marines provide security patrols and artillery support while the Seabees provide roads, buildings and fresh water. They play softball and volleyball together, drink each other's beer and tell each other about their girl friends, family and home.

They share rides on each other's vehicles and watch each other's movies. On Sunday afternoons, a popular place is the beach where Seabees and Korean Marines can be found enjoying themselves in the South China Sea.

They also share the same oppressive heat, dust and mosquitoes prevalent in the Hoi An area.

Bit by bit, despite language difficulties, they learn more about each other. As the cantonment grows day by day, so does the understanding and friendship between the Seabees and the Korean Marines.



HOI AN TOGETHERNESS—Seabees and Korean Marines play volleyball. Center: Sign of the times. Rt: Support for water tower is erected. Above: Traditional Korean style cornerstone laying ceremony includes placement of tabloid.

