

Photos by PHC M. L. Shedd
and CN M. H. Chamberlin



Koreans load a howitzer used in support of allied forces in the area (above left) and an MP smartly salutes a passing vehicle in the MCB-58 compound.



'BEES and the BLUE DRAGONS

Some 20 miles south of DaNang, Vietnam, the small provincial capital of Hoi An is getting a new neighboring community that will dwarf it in size. The developing community is a cantonment for the 8,000 man 2nd Republic of Korea "Blue Dragon" Marine Brigade.

Builders of the 14 separate camp sites comprising the cantonment are the Seabees of U. S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 58, led by Commander Charles J. Mathews, CEC, USN, commanding officer.

In Vietnam since December 1967, the battalion encamped originally at Camp Haskins, DaNang, while they constructed a road over sand dunes and rice paddies to the camp site. Then they moved to the new site, set up their own camp, and turned to building the cantonment for the ROK Marines.

Where there was once only scattered trees and barren sand, there now stands over 700 buildings—to be increased to a total of 1400, with a collective area of 550,000 square feet. Complete facilities will include electrical and water systems, helicopter pads, connecting roads and protective berms.

Around 50,000 man-days will be required and cost will exceed \$1.25 million for this project, said to be the largest ever assigned to a single Seabee battalion in the Vietnam War.

The international nature of the undertaking is noticeable as Seabees from 11,000 mile distant Davisville work, live and relax with the "Blue Dragon" Marines from 2,000 mile distant Korea in a spirit of mutual respect and increasing understanding as they carry out their part in the war to preserve this tiny Asian republic.



Seabees help ROK Marines aboard for a lift home after a hot day on patrol.

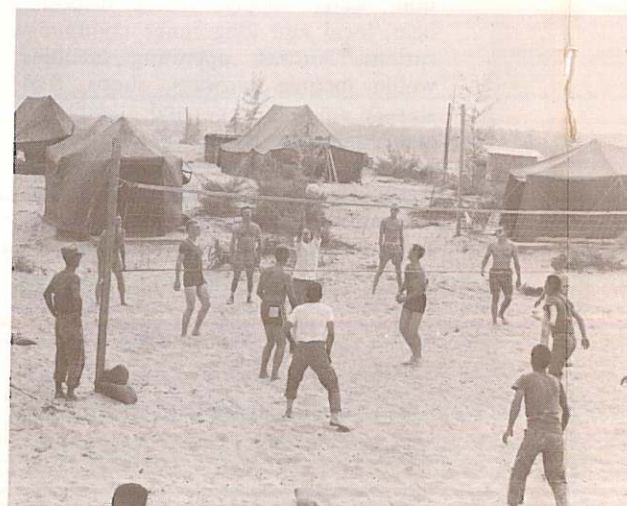
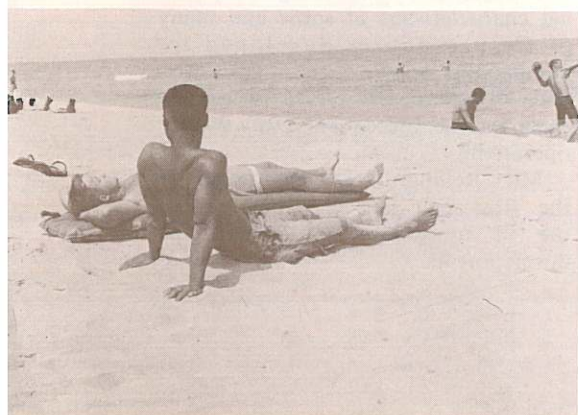


Members of MCB-58 drill team are inspected by Brigadier General Kim Yun Sang, commanding general of Korean Marine Brigade, then put on impressive rifle drill demonstration.

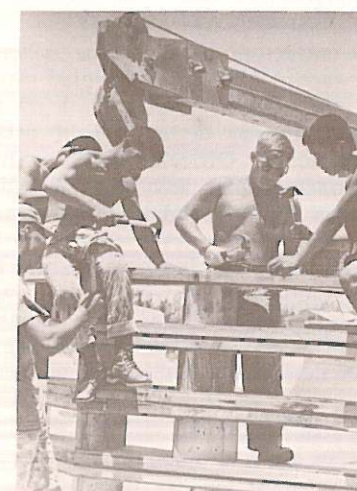
Entertainment provided by Korean troupe brings B. Q. Kramer, Lewisburg, Ohio, to stage to dance with Korean songstress.



ROK Marines and Seabees get equal pleasure on a beach where they can enjoy the cool South China Sea.



Volleyball games between teams of Korean Marines and MCB-58 officers provides amusement and helps solidify relations of cooperating forces.



Korean Marines take time from their break to give Seabees a hand with their construction work.

"The Ageless Tortoise—1600 o'clock 26 March 1968 and The Powerful Dragon" reads this tabloid of Chinese characters signifying long life, strength and endurance. Seabees installed the token at a Korean-style cornerstone-laying ceremony.

