



CIVIL ENGINEER CORPS
100th ANNIVERSARY
MARCH 2, 1967

"!CAN DO!"

SEABEE NEWS

U. S. NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALIONS

Public Affairs Office



SEABEES
25th ANNIVERSARY
MARCH 5, 1967

! JOIN THE SEABEES - SERVE THE WORLD!

Release No. 261-69
8 October 1969

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Joint COMCBLANT/CBC Public Affairs Office
Davisville, Rhode Island

More than 700 members of U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Fifty-Eight will return to Davisville Seabee Center this week after completing an eight-month tour in South Vietnam.

The first flight arrived at 2 p.m. today with the second flight due to arrive on Oct. 10.

The third aircraft is scheduled to arrive at noon on Oct. 11 and will be met by local Custer F. civic groups and military officials headed by Capt/Krickenberger, Jr., Commander Construction Battalions U.S. Atlantic Fleet and Capt. Charles C. Heid, Commanding Officer, Seabee Center, Davisville. Aboard this flight will be the battalion's Commanding Officer, Cmdr. Charles J. Mathews.

The last flight is scheduled to arrive on Oct. 13. Families, relatives and friends of members of the returning battalion are asked to call 267-3046 and 267-2206 for exact time of arrival of each flight.

Mobile Construction Battalion 58 was engaged in military construction work for American and South Vietnamese armed forces since their departure eight months ago. Their return marks the end of the third tour in Vietnam.

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NAVFAC 10-5720/1 (7-67)

! CONSTRUIMUS, BATUIMUS - WE BUILD, WE FIGHT!

The Seabees were stationed sixty miles south of DaNang at the Chu Lai Combat Base. However, their work took them from the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) in the north to the Mekong Delta in the south. They completed construction projects throughout South Vietnam worth over two million dollars.

During the battalion's tour in Vietnam, two men lost their lives due to enemy action; Steelworker Third Class, John S. Staff of Belle Vernon, Pa.; and Builder Constructionman, Robert A. O'Connor of Chicago, Illinois.

The construction effort of MCB 58 took the shape of bridges, airfields, roads, concrete airplane shelters and many more. A detail of one hundred Seabees operated a rock crusher along the DMZ to provide critical road building rock in that area. A road paving team joined with Marine Engineers to pave twenty miles of Highway 1, north of Chu Lai. Another group of men restored five spans of the Song Tra Bong Bridge south of Chu Lai. In the Mekong Delta, a platoon of men cleared river banks for River Patrol Forces. And, fifty miles south of Chu Lai, at Duc Pho, another detail tore up and replaced an airfield of steel matting while repairing the base of the field. In the Chu Lai Combat Base, "58's" Seabees completed two giant aircraft hangars, forty concrete-and-steel airplane shelters, a dental clinic, freight and passenger terminal facilities, a fuel depot, access roads, power line systems, and various other facilities for U.S. Army and Marine units.

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In addition to construction work, the Seabees made medical and dental assistance available to villagers, taught English classes in Saigon and Chu Lai, provided material and technical assistance on construction projects, and even sponsored swim parties for Vietnamese orphans under the Civic Action Program. A training program in construction equipment operation and maintenance was conducted for the Army of the Republic of Vietnam.