



THE DAVISVILLE YARDARM



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HOME OF THE ATLANTIC SEABEES

They Silently Fade Away

Two Seabee battalions turned in their flags last Monday. They have gone from the scene but they are remembered for their illustrious accomplishments which are recorded in the history of the Navy's construction forces.

Deactivation of Mobile Construction Battalions SIX and FIFTY-EIGHT on November 17 closes log books that reflect the highest traditions of naval service.

One of the early entries in the MCB-6 log (then called Naval Construction Battalion 6) is that the battalion followed the Marines into Guadalcanal on September 1, 1942, thereby becoming the first Seabees to engage in the combination of building and fighting which made "Can Do" a catch phrase around the world.

Naval Construction Battalion 58, too, was engaged in the support of combat forces early in World War II. The achievements of SIX and FIFTY-EIGHT are recognized as dedication of the highest order.

The glorious accomplishments of Seabees have continued through the years in peace and in war. Despite adversities of climate and, in many instances, the constant peril of hostile action they have done the work that was assigned to them. They earned a reputation as a unique kind of service-men who never failed to accomplish their missions.

This shining record of construction for the support of combat forces, born and nurtured in the spirit of professional engineers and skilled tradesmen during World War II, has been further developed until today the Seabee battalions are entrusted with some of the largest and most complex construction projects.

In a television appearance earlier this month, President Nixon stressed the necessity for American forces to remain in Vietnam for awhile lest we sacrifice those human rights which hold promise of worldwide peace.

Under the banner of "Constructus, Batimus," (We build, we fight) the modern day Seabees have been called "Builders of Democracy and Defenders of Peace." With specialized Marine military training, these professional constructionmen are equipped to defend what they build.

The urgency has passed now and the Seabees are being withdrawn down at Fort Huachuca and Gulfport as well as here at Davisville. But they have proved they are indispensable and we have a feeling that the potent force of Seabee "Can Do" will be with us a long, long time.

Simple Ceremonies Mark Deactivation of Two MCBs

A Navy Admiral saluted Davisville Seabees for their outstanding performance of duty and extended the Navy's "Well Done" during brief deactivation ceremonies of Mobile Construction Battalions 6 and 58. The ceremonies were held here in the Max Kiel Memorial Gymnasium on Nov. 14.

Rear Admiral James V. Bartlett, CEC, USN Vice Commander Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Washington D.C. in his address to the two battalions said: "A lot of people regard an occasion such as this as a sad one, but I look at de-commissioning of two real live organizations as something that does not put you permanently to rest by any means. You are simply going to an inactive period."

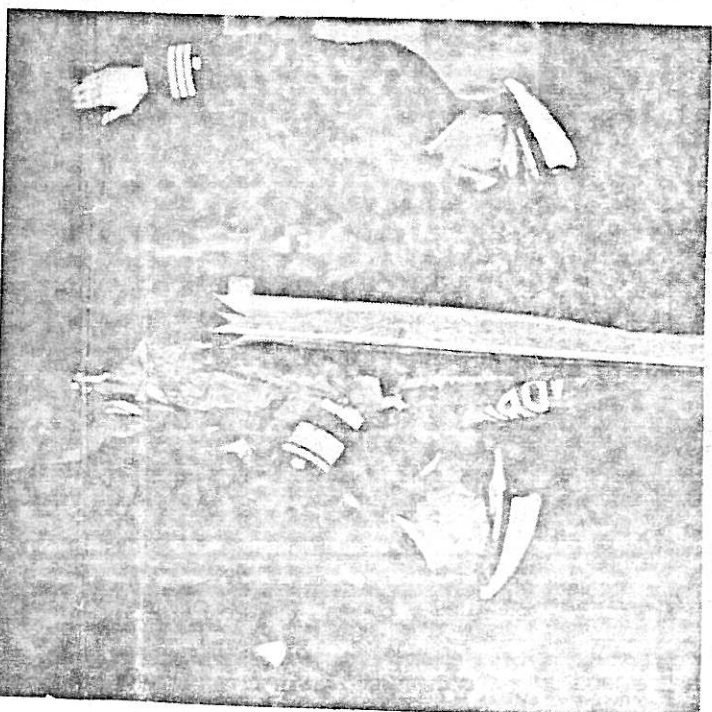
He went on to say how both battalions were deactivated after serving in World War II and later were reactivated when the need arose for Seabees. He used the example of MCB 6 which was re-commissioned in 1961 during the Korean conflict and that of MCB 58's re-commissioning in 1966 during the Vietnam war.

"During the period of deactivation, these battalions didn't die, they just were deactivated," the Admiral said. He cited the officers and men of both battalions for their outstanding service since World War II and in particular the several tours in Vietnam where both served. He concluded his remarks as he stood back from the speaker's stand, extended a hand salute and said, "I salute you."

The deactivation of the battalions came as the colors of each were passed from their respective Commanding Officer to RADM Bartlett to Capt. Ouster F. Krickenberg, Jr., Commander Naval Construction Battalions, U. S. Atlantic Fleet to Capt. Charles C. Heid, Commander 21st Naval Construction Regiment at Davisville.

ly as possible in other activities in the area or in private industry.

"Reduction-in-force notices were issued to the affected employees on November 17 in order that separations may become effective on December 17. Interviews are being conducted by the Civilian Personnel Office for those receiving reduction-in-force notices to provide placement assistance and to explain each employee's rights under the regulations. Employees are requested not to contact the Civilian Personnel Division until called. In this way, each individual employee will be given personalized attention. Every effort will be expended to place the employees affected in accordance with existing Department of the Navy and Civil Service Commission rules and regulations."



The MCB-6 flag is handed to Admiral Bartlett by the battalion's Commanding Officer CDR Hugh A. Crisp, symbolizing the deactivation of the unit.

The colors were then given to Construction Electrician Second Class Kenneth Futoma of Long Island, N. Y. who represented MCB 6 and Construction Electrician Second Class Robert W. Dodd of 585 Willett Ave., East Providence, R. I., representing MCB 58. MCB 58 was commanded by Cdr. Charles J. Mathews, CEC, USN, and MCB 6 was headed by Cdr. Hugh A. Crisp, CEC, USN.

A representative group of more than 100 officers and enlisted men from the battalions were in formation during the ceremonies.

Chaplain Robert B. Luebke during his invocation said, "Each man passes on to other endeavors carrying with him the indelible mark of a proud and glorious past and the consciousness that he has served with integrity and honor among the finest in this nation."

The Seabee band provided music.

Both battalions closed their records for official purposes on Nov. 17. MCB 53 which recently returned from Vietnam will be deactivated on Dec. 10.



Commander Charles J. Mathews, Commanding Officer of MCB 58, hands his battalion flag to Admiral Bartlett.