



1969-70

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Peter Paillon Jr

NAV CAT 3

831

789-794
WATSONVILLE, CA

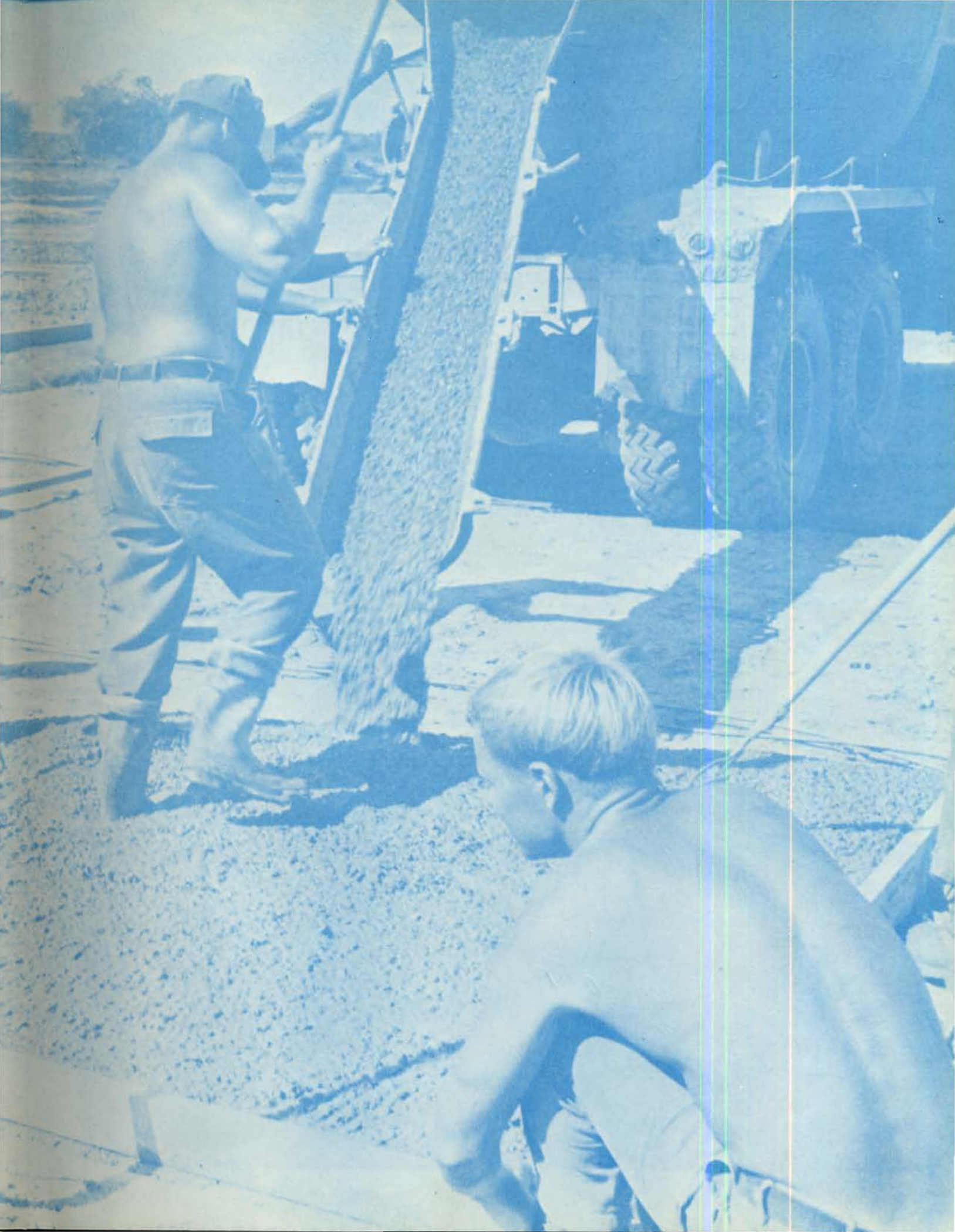
722-6184

1995

VALLEY RD

95076





EOC William Neal

UT2 Terry Wade
17251 Kettle River Blvd.
Forest Lake, Mn.
55025

cm3 Mike Miller
61 Andrew Ave
Islip Terrace New York
CBMU 302 Det Al India
Ben Luc 69-70

CM3 John W. Riley
Wofford Heights CA. 93285

CE2 - Patrick Cate
R#1 Box 5500
Winthrop Maine 04764

BU1 Robert Z. RAGDIGIAN
426 S. SUGGS RD.
APOPKA-FLA-32703

EO3 Joe Corcoran JAN-89
4422 N. 36th St #32
Phx, Az 85018

SW-3 Gary T. Bryngelson

NAVCAT-16 CRB 1971

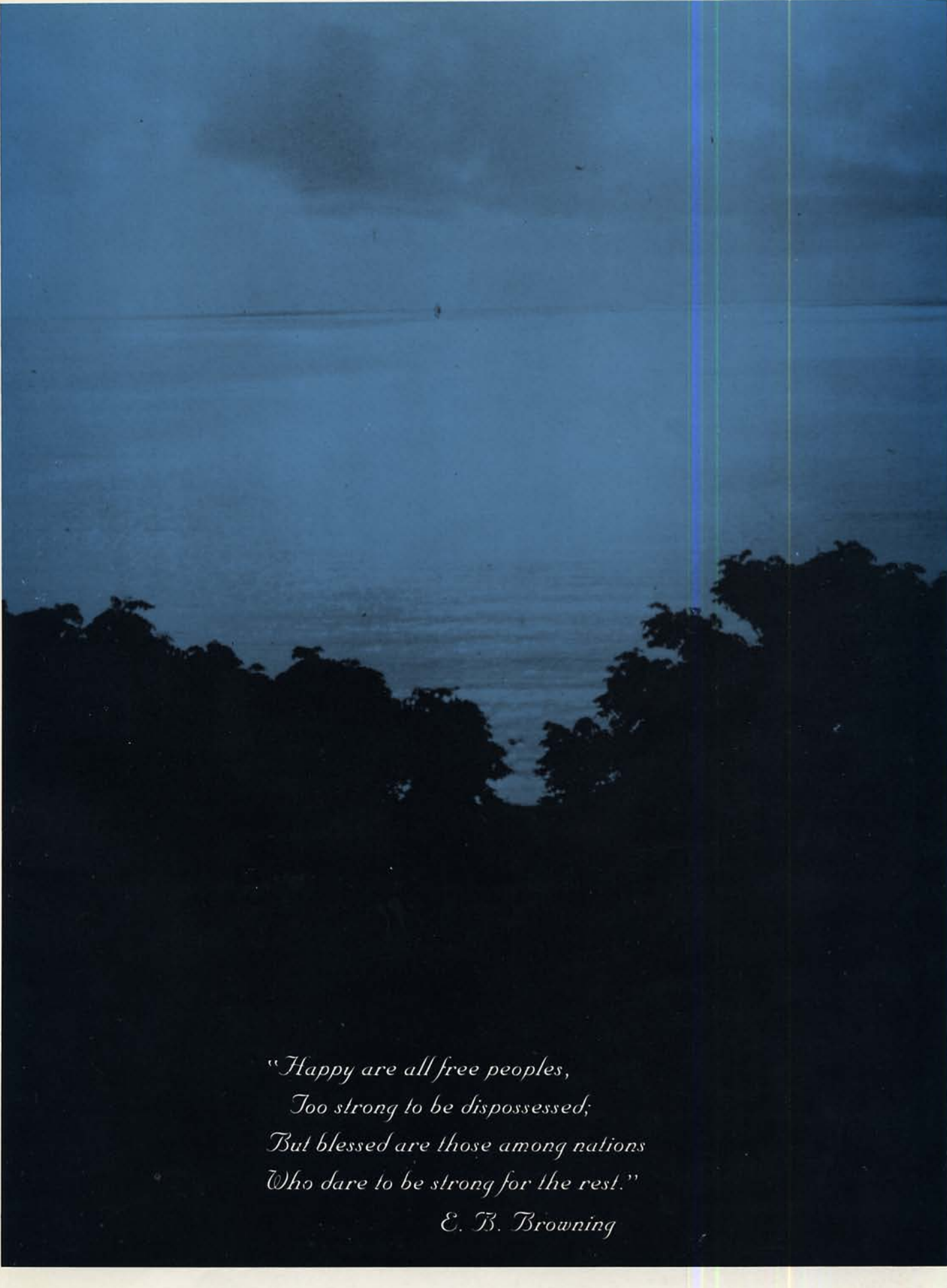
35586 Barbara Ln.
YUCAIPA CA. 92399

CE 2 Dennis Schmidt 69-70
941 OAK R. 190 Tr
Blaine MN 55434

UT1 R. L. (BOB) COCKER. II 70-71
33636 Mill Rd
Wilshawood, Ill 60030

EV' Vm McDougal
1282 Lewis Dr
Duxen, Utah 84404

EO3 Peter Piller Jr
NAU CAT TEAM 3
WATSONVILLE, CA 95076



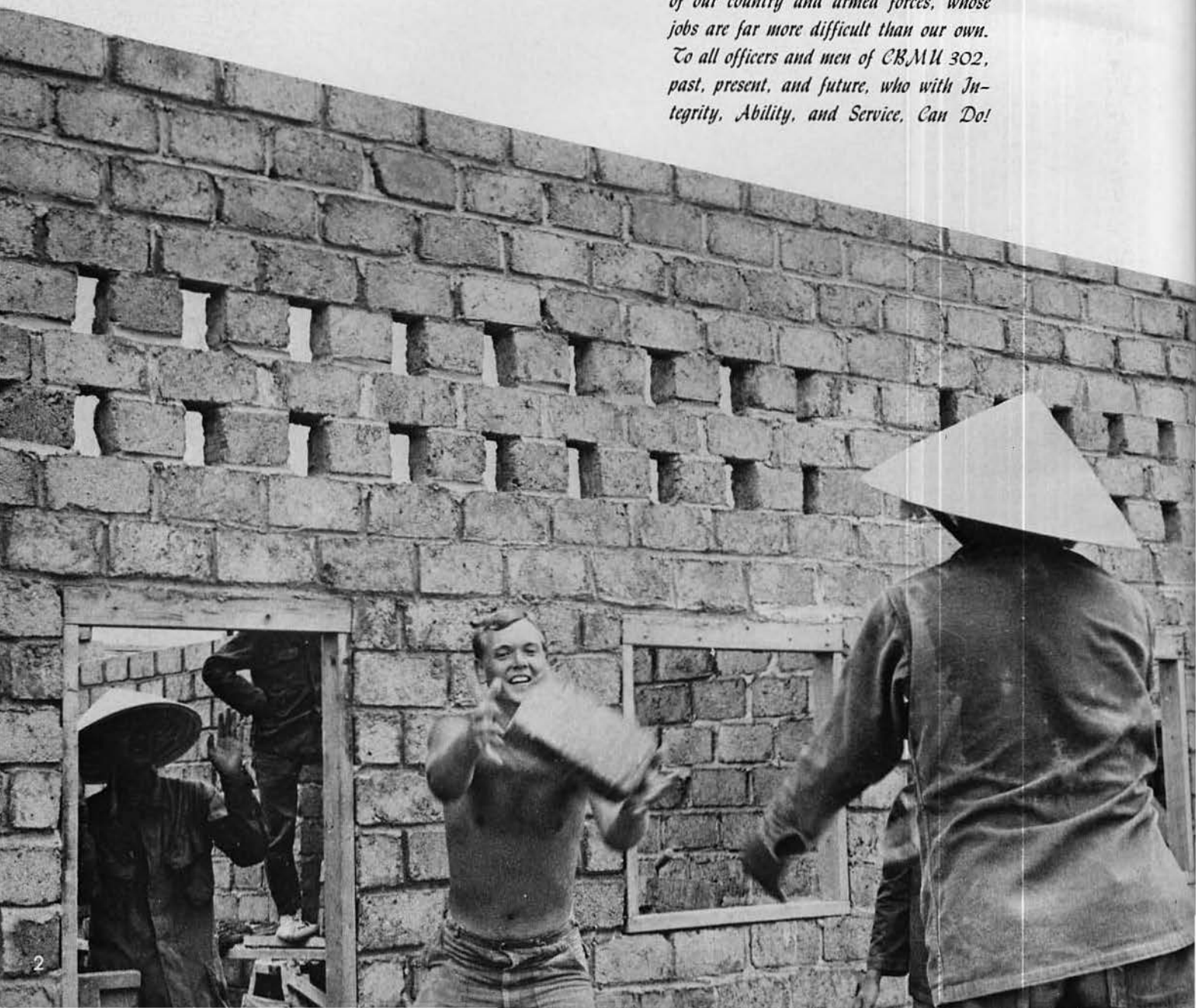
*"Happy are all free peoples,
Too strong to be dispossessed;
But blessed are those among nations
Who dare to be strong for the rest."*

E. B. Browning



Mission To provide maintenance/limited construction, Dependent Shelter construction support to Naval Forces Vietnam, maintain a self-defense capability and accomplish disaster recovery tasks as may be assigned.

Dedication This cruisebook is dedicated to our families and loved ones, who have done so much for us by remembering and praying for us. To the people of the Republic of Vietnam, who have inspired us by their devotion to freedom and ability to self-sacrifice. To all free world fighting forces in the Republic of Vietnam, for whom we have deep respect and great admiration, and with whom we have enjoyed warm camaraderie. To the leaders of our country and armed forces, whose jobs are far more difficult than our own. To all officers and men of CKMU 302, past, present, and future, who with Integrity, Ability, and Service, Can Do!





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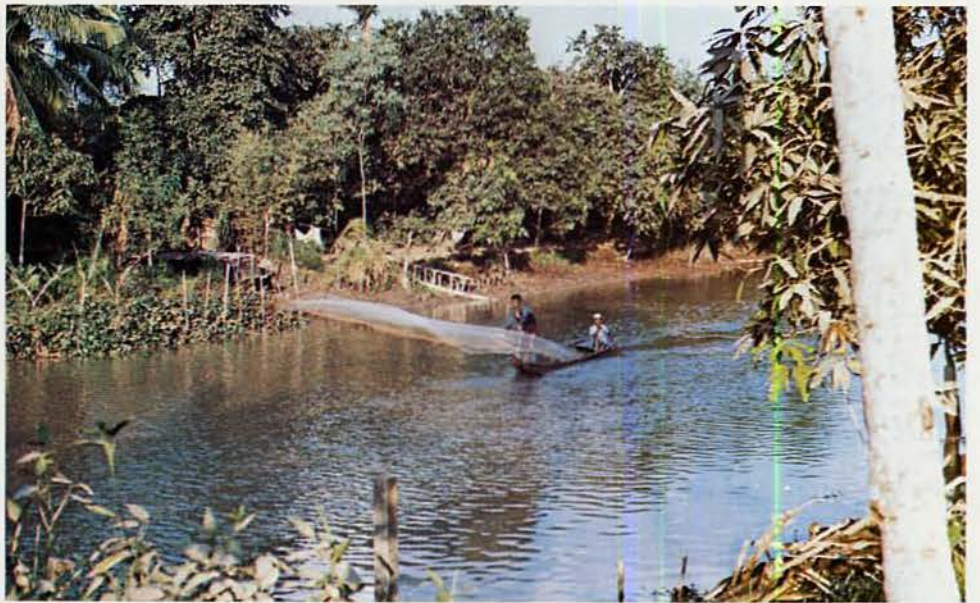
"People . . .



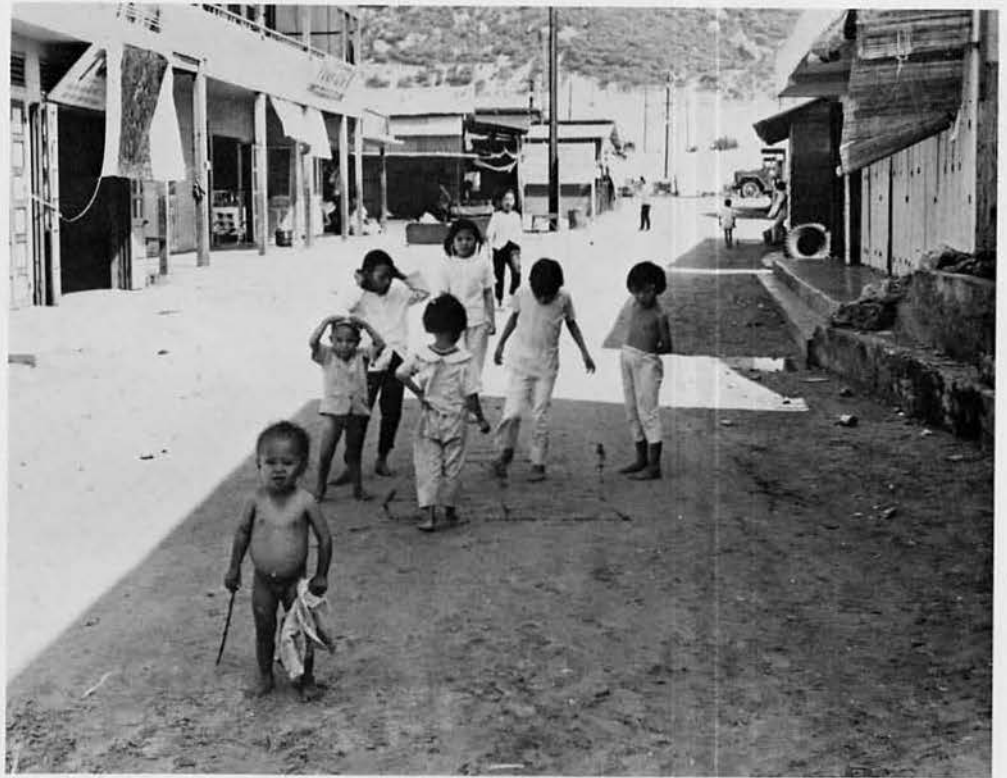
. . . are the reason"



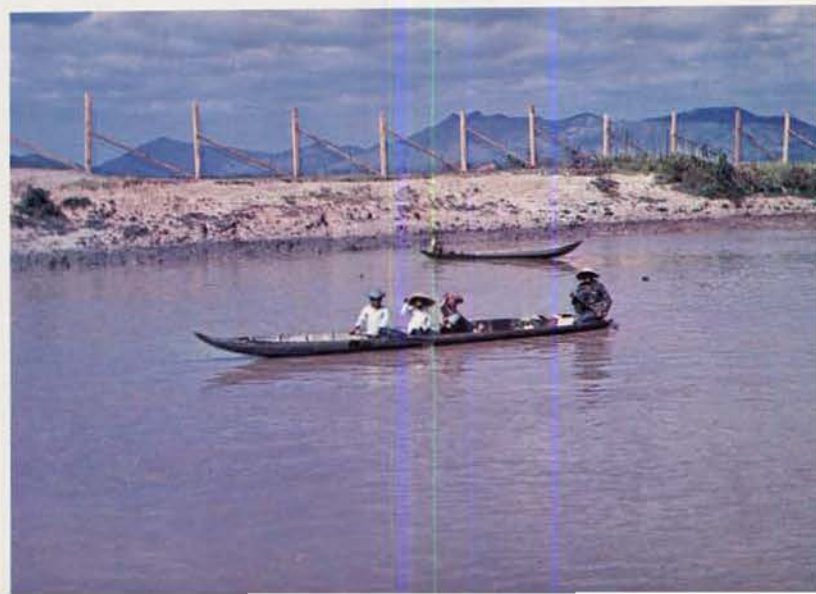
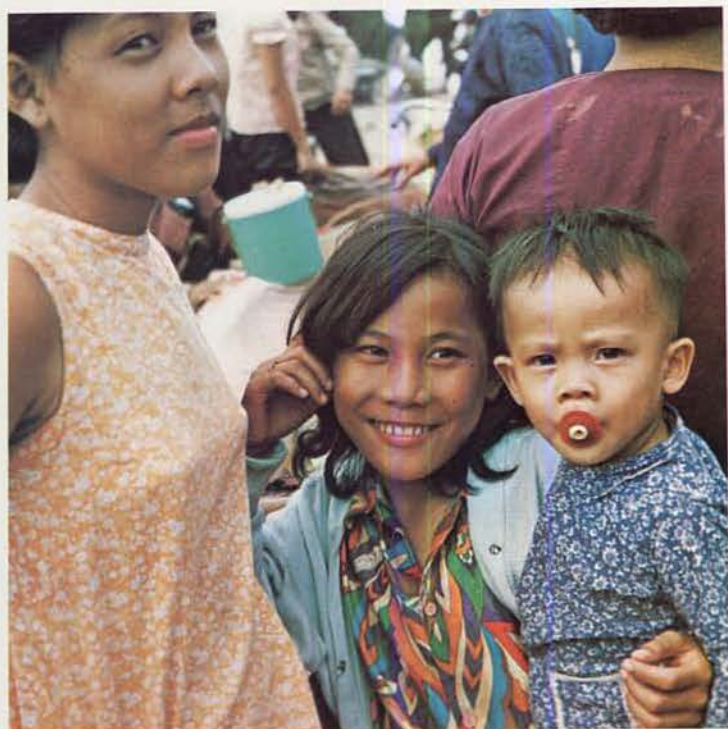












COMMANDING OFFICER



August 1969—August 1970

Haywood H. HARRELL

The major construction effort utilizing the associated skills and talents of Seabees in the task of Nation Building isn't supposed to be a piece of pie. Your initiative, determination of purpose and pride during the past year has been nothing less than superlative. You have done more, with less than any group in recent times. These aren't just my thoughts, for many others, other commands, other individuals, our fleet type counter-parts, all have expressed their admiration for such exceptional esprit-de-corps and individual pride as exemplified by each and every one of you.

I have spoken many times concerning our vital role in the Vietnamization Program. You who belong to the NAVCATS of CBMU 302 are the very backbone of a major segment of Vietnamization, namely the Dependent Shelter Construction Program. Every NAVCAT'S productive output in and around the Four Military Regions of South Vietnam has astounded most observers. The leadership of petty officers has been so strong as to overcome even that seemingly insurmountable task. For remember that the battalion you were a member of began with almost nothing.

I have always liked our 302 saying—"The man who says it can't be done usually finds himself being interrupted by a CBMU 302 Seabee doing it!"

I'm pleased to say that every member of this battalion has contributed a part of himself to the necessary and honorable task of helping others construct a revitalized and free nation.

"You have done Well!"

EXECUTIVE OFFICER



March 1970—

Myron B. SHERMAN

From a small Maintenance Unit to the largest Construction Battalion since World War II, all in 6 months. It happened that way because we were tasked with one of the highest priority missions in support of Vietnamization—Dependent Shelter Construction. At our peak, we've had 15 Naval Construction Action Teams (NAVCATS) deployed simultaneously throughout Military Regions 2, 3, and 4 (formerly corps), not to mention our deployed maintenance or training detachments and teams on one time minor construction jobs. We responded quickly and with a quality product. Our reward was the recognition and confidence by higher authority that we could get the job done. Accordingly when CBMU301, our sister unit, left country in September, 1970, we were given additional tasking for Dependent Shelter Construction in the first Military Region. Our sphere of influence now extends from the DMZ to Phu Quoc Island off the coast of the southernmost reaches of RVN.

Helping to administer and manage a Battalion of 1200 men, with nearly 30 detachments or teams deployed throughout all the Republic of Vietnam is, to say the least, a most challenging experience. What makes it worthwhile is having an important mission and having in the unit the finest men in Seabee greens to ensure the success of that mission. From the block layers, to the men in the shops to the Headquarters-type personnel, I extend to you my sincerest "Well Done". To those of you who have left the unit—I wish you every success in the future—to those of us who still have time remaining with the unit we're left with the continuing challenge of our Battalion Creed: "The man who says it can't be done usually finds himself being interrupted by a CBMU 302 Seabee doing it. Carry on!"

CHANGE of COMMAND

*LCDR H. H. Harrell relieved
LCDR H. W. Filbry as Com-
manding Officer of CBMU 302
in a change of command cere-
mony held on 16 August 1969
at the Naval Support Facility at
Cam Ranh Bay.*



LCDR Harrell assumes command



LCDR H. W. Filbry



LCDR H. H. Harrell

Battalion renders colors



LOOKING BACK . . . CBMU 302 officially became part of the Pacific Fleet on 31 March 1967 along with its sister unit CBMU 301, the first of their kind since the Korean War. LT M. H. Harper, CEC, USN, assumed command. The official commissioning ceremony of CBMU 301 and 302 was held on 7 April 1967 at Port Hueneme with Radm. Eli T. Reich acting as Commissioning Officer. Shortly thereafter, LT Harper departed for temporary duty with Commander Construction Battalion, Pacific and Naval Support Activity Saigon to plan the expected deployment of the unit to Vietnam. While awaiting deployment orders during June and July the Unit embarked upon a program of accelerated military training at Conejo Grade and Camp Pendleton, California. On 1 July LT M. H. Harper was promoted to Lieutenant Commander.

On August 12 COMCBPAC directed deployment of fifty men from CBMU 302 to the Naval Support Activity Detachment located at Cam Ranh Bay in the II Corps Tactical Zone. LTJG B. B. Emory, CEC, USN, Officer-in-Charge, departed with an advance party of fifty men on 16 August 1967. Their arrival on the nineteenth gave them the distinction of being the first Seabee Command to be deployed in II, III, and IV CTZ, and also the first Seabee Command to provide support for seagoing Navy Units and their advanced bases.

Prior to the dependent shelter project, CBMU 302's detachments were mainly for maintenance of U.S. and VN Naval Units here in II, III, and IV Corps. The Dependent Shelter project has quadrupled our unit size. Maintenance had varied from minor support of Naval base facilities to major construction, such as a PCF Overhead structure at NSF.

The Dependent Shelter program became the Battalion's main project in September of 1969.

In the vanguard of the Dependent Shelter program are the CBMU 302 Naval Construction Action Teams (NAVCAT), of which there are fifteen deployed simultaneously throughout the Republic of Vietnam. They consist of a large nucleus of Seabees with an augment of Seamen, Airmen, and Firemen, working side by side to build dependent shelters or to produce concrete block and latterite brick. Major concrete block plants are located at Saigon by NAVCAT 18, and at Cam Ranh by NAVCAT 16. Not only are these plants supplying the needs of CBMU 302, they are the primary source of the basic building material used by other battalions now beginning to enter the dependent shelter project.

In July of 1969, Mobile Team 30213 was established and deployed to install utilities in the medical building at VNNTC at Cam Ranh Bay. Team 30213 was established and deployed to assemble five NLP barges at Naval Support Activity Detachment, Cat Lo. 30214 was established and deployed to erect bunkered platforms at the ATSB Tuyen Nhon. 30215 was established and deployed to fulfill the requirement for electrical rehabilitation and improvements on Navy assets in the Saigon area. 30216 was established to assist the new VN Navy to develop a light construction capability to improve their self-sufficiency for construction in remote locations with emphasis on the use of locally available material.

August saw the small-scale pilot project, initiated at NSAD Ben Luc, adopt a ferro-cement dome concept for use in the shelter project. At the Naval Support Facility a new 20' x 40' forklift accessible armory was begun. 30206 returned from its deployment to Newport and Nha Be. 30211 returned to CRB from An Thoi. 30217 deployed to Newport to erect a pre-engineered building for covered storage; It measured 50' x 200'. 30218 deployed to Cat Lo to assemble two 3' x 6' NLP barges, 30213 returned to CRB from VNNTC upon mission completion, as did 30214 from Tuyen Nhon. On the 16th of August, command of the Battalion passed from LCDR H. W. Fibry to LCDR H. H. Harrell. The Cam Ranh Bay dependent shelter project was begun with three Southeast Asia Huts and two experimental models at 302 headquarters. Two teams, 30215 and 30210 returned to CRB from Saigon and Nha Be respectively upon completion of their missions.

During September, team 30218, after completing two 3' x 6' NLP barges, two 3' x 4' NLP tugs, and eight of twelve 2' x 5' NLP barges, was tasked with another six 2' x 5' NLP barges. 30220 began construction of VN dependent shelters at VNNTC with NAF personnel. 30217 returned from Newport upon mission completion, and 30219 was deployed to Qui Nhon as supervisors and advisors to the VN Navy.

During November, team 30218 at Cat Lo completed its deployment after constructing 16 NLP barges of varying configurations. 30222 was deployed to construct and begin operation of a concrete block plant at NAF, for use in the dependent shelter program. 30221 deployed to Dong Tam to rehabilitate structures for the Naval Advisors.

On 4 November, a detail of men from CBMU 302 made possible a significant increase in goodwill between the civilian population of Cam Ranh Village and U.S. forces in the area, by recovering the remains of a whale for interment in Cam Ranh Village's Whale Temple. The whale is a sign of good fortune in fishing villages. (See page 112 for details on the whale capture).

On 27 November, 30216 at Ben Luc began production of latterite cement bricks for use on their dependent shelter project. On 17 December, team 30227 deployed on 12 hours notice to NSAD Binh Thuy to cap aircraft revetments for dust control. 30225 deployed to Vung Tau on 21 December to fence in an ammunition storage area and provide security lighting. Enemy action increased in December at our detachments. Detail Delta at My Tho received 5 mortar rounds and several rockets on the second, and 2 more mortar rounds on the sixth. On the sixth, Detail Golf at NAF took one rocket. Detail Charlie at Cat Lo took 8 mortar rounds on the fifteenth and five days later Detail Delta took several rockets.

On 14 December, team 30223 deployed to VNNTC, Nha Trang, to install a laundry facility. 30224 deployed to NSAD Binh Thuy to construct a 40' x 96' Pasco building.

On 31 December 30226 deployed to Thu Doc to begin construction of 200 units of dependent shelters for the VN marines. On January fourth, Detail Juliett at Dong Tam commissioned the Public Works training school. On the thirteenth, team 30231 deployed to Nha Be to test the unit's first organic barge mounted flash desalinization unit. On the nineteenth, Delta Company was formed to organize the dependent shelter projects. On the 21st of January, Details Alfa, Charlie, Delta, Echo, Foxtrot, and India were disestablished and transferred to NSA Saigon, and on the 23rd, 30232 was deployed to An Thoi and tasked with 197 units.

Details Delta and Juliett at Dong Tam were the object of many rocket and mortar attacks during December and January. On the 28th of December, Detail Delta took 10 rockets, followed by 12 mortar rounds on the 19th of January. Detail Juliett took 7 mortar rounds on the 27th and 7 more on the 24th.

On the 29th of December, team





Aerial View of the NSF Dependent Shelter Project

30228 deployed to Dong Tam to rehabilitate 2 Public Works Training School buildings. Team 30230 went to Dong Tam to build Dependent shelters, and team 30229 deployed to Vinh Gia.

On the 30th of January, representatives of Cam Ranh Village formally presented a scroll and plaque to the command, commemorating the assistance rendered in transporting the whale remains for the village in November 1969.

Team 30261 at Hon Khoi was the first of our detachments to be supplied by overland convoy, being just north of Nha Trang. During February, 98 PCS personnel were received from NSA Da Nang and CBMU 301 for use on the dependent shelter project. Enemy action during January and February began at Thu Doc, where 6 rounds small arms fire were taken on the 27th of January. Dong Tam took 6 mortar rounds on the 29th, and 4 more on the 14th of February and began again on the 25th with 7 mortar rounds, while on the 18th our Headquarters took 3 rounds. 30225 returned to CRB as did 30229 upon mission completion. Team 30228 merged with 30230 at Dong Tam. 30234 deployed to Tinh Bien to construct base facilities, and 30235 began work on the YR-9 berthing ship.

On the 26th of February the first VN family moved into its shelter at NAVCAT 2. Detail Golf at NAF took 12 rockets on the 7th of March and again on the 12th; VNNTC was hit by four mortar rounds on the 10th while Dong Tam also took incoming rounds. Teams 30223, 30234, 30219 returned to base camp upon mission completion.

Team 30265 was deployed to Nha Trang for dependent shelter construction, as was 30262 to Binh Ba. On the 14th of March, LCDR Myron B. Sherman became XO of 302, relieving Lt. Paul F. Jacobs; and the initial draft of NAVCAT non-rated personnel were received.

On the 15th of April, graduating ceremonies for Base Maintenance Training School at Detail Juliett, Dong Tam. Special awards and graduation certificates were presented to VN trainees. On the 31st of March the headquarters repelled a suspected sapper while at Dong Tam the next night, 13 rounds of mortar fire were taken, and fourteen more on the fifth and seven more on the 16th. Detail Golf at NAF took 50 rockets and mortar rounds, and sustained a sapper attack on the eighth.

On the 19th of May, 30235 completed the assigned construction and returned to base camp. Three days later 30268 was deployed to An Khan to construct VNN dependent shelters. On the 20th, C and D companies were rearranged so that C Company covered all of our II CTZ operations and D Company our III, and IV CTZ Operations. Team 30238 was subjected to a sapper attack and a barrage of 18 mortar rounds. 30230 took 120 mortar rounds, suffering damage to a tool room.

Team 30229 deployed to Ben Luc to fabricate an AMMI Dry Dock. 30261 completed assigned construction and returned to base camp, being the first dependent shelter project completed.

During June, NAF came under rocket and mortar and a sapper attack on the 4th and 10th. Detail Juliett at Dong Tam also became the object of mortar and sapper attacks on the 6th and 10th. VNNTC was hit by rocket fire. On the 28th, 30216 at Ben Luc repelled a grenade attack by exchanging fire with the enemy.

Today one finds 302 Seabees still maintaining and performing minor construction projects.

The shelter program consumes much energy, but CBMU 302's contribution towards the turnover of U.S. assets has several other aspects. One of these is in connection with the Protein Project operated by Coastal Task Force 115. Pigs, chickens, and ducks are being raised on an increasing scale in order to supplement the diet of Vietnamese sailors. The barns, pens, and pond were engineered and built by CBMU 302.

CBMU 302's NAVCATs have been progressing at an unbelievable rate in spite of a determined enemy. We build, we fight, we get the job done.

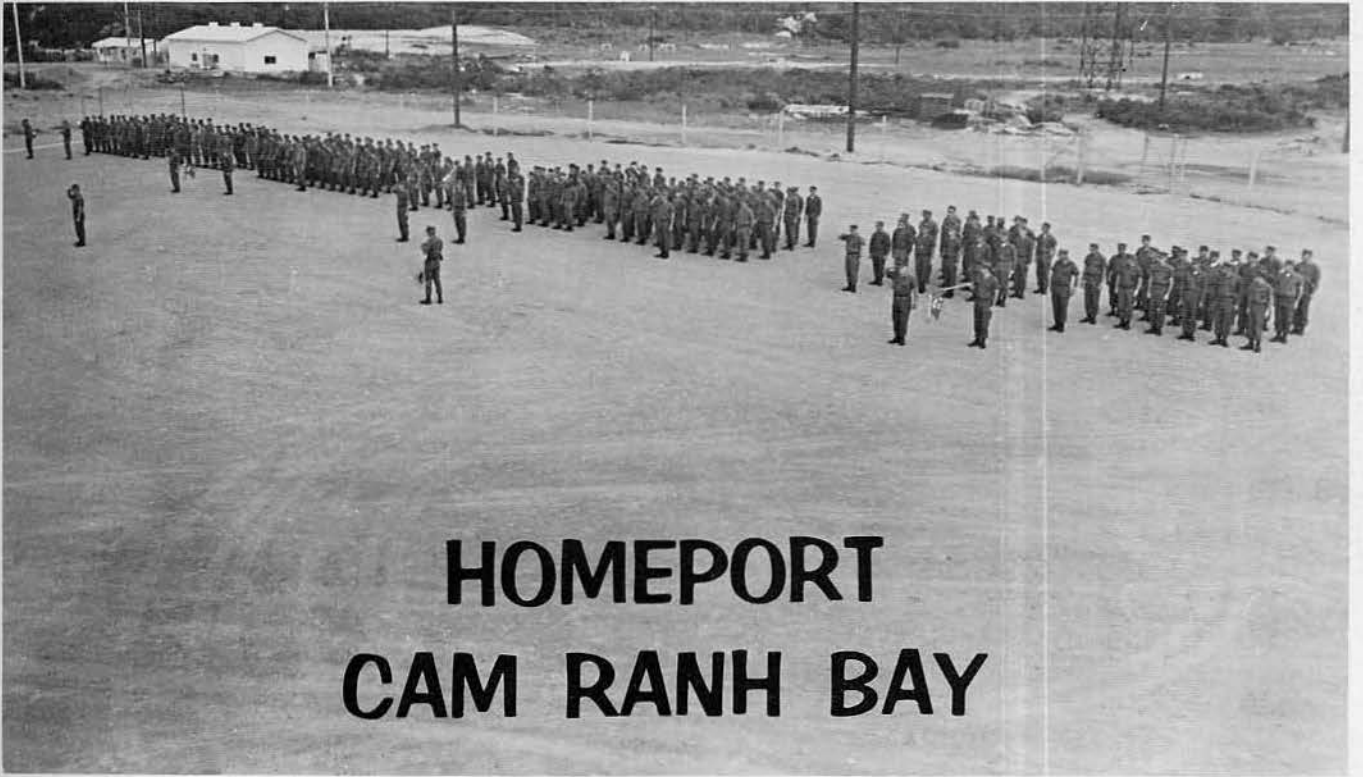
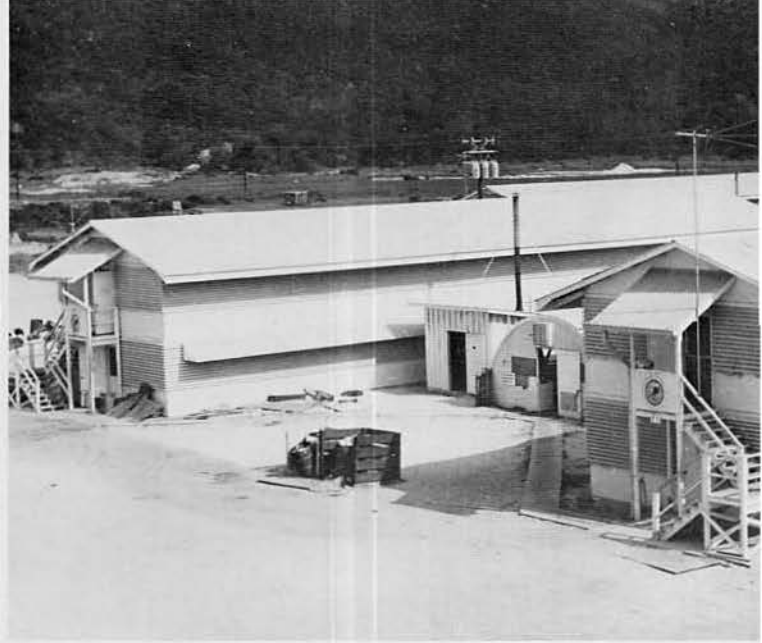
The Protein Project





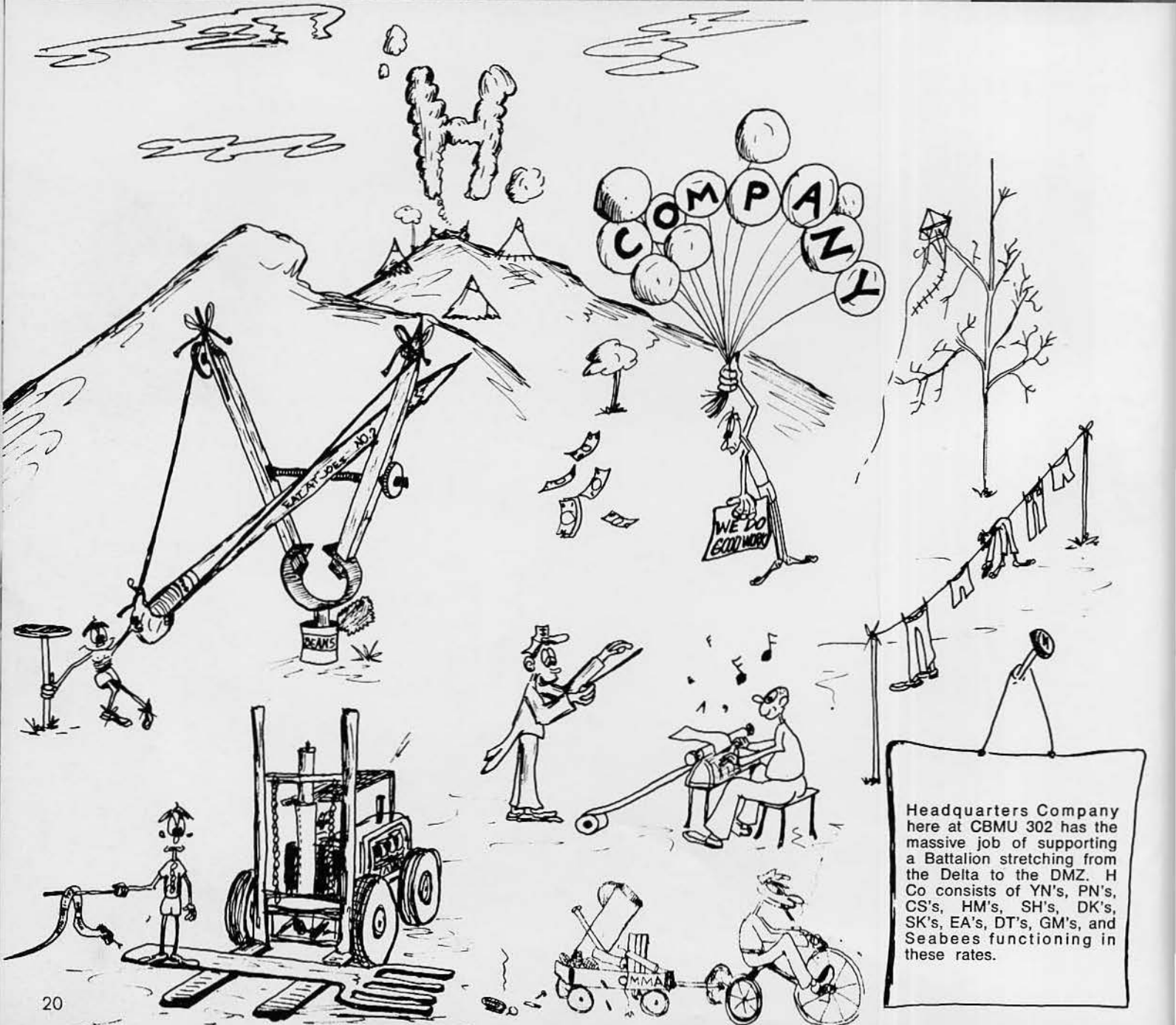
**Military Readiness . . .
a
CONSTANT NECESSITY**



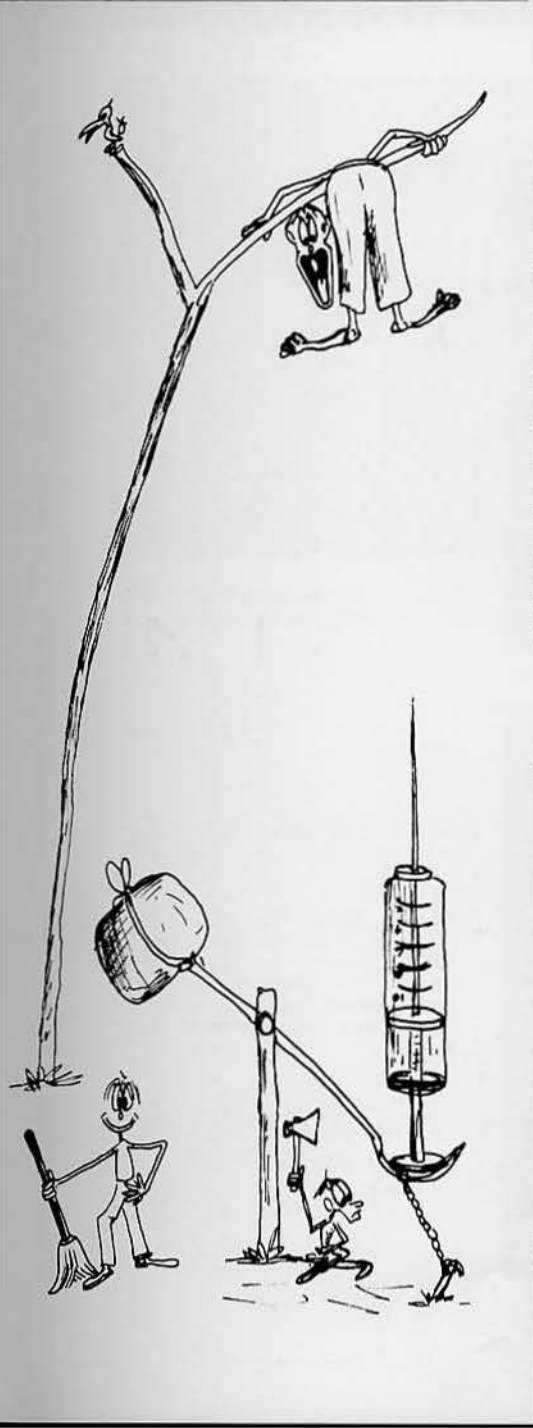


**HOMEPORT
CAM RANH BAY**





Headquarters Company here at CBMU 302 has the massive job of supporting a Battalion stretching from the Delta to the DMZ. H Co consists of YN's, PN's, CS's, HM's, SH's, DK's, SK's, EA's, DT's, GM's, and Seabees functioning in these rates.



ADMIN / PERSONNEL DEPT.



H Co. Commander
LTJG David Kelly

The Administration Office is composed mainly of Yeomen or Seabees functioning as Yeomen. They handle the Officers' records, all of the command's correspondence, all of the legal matters of the Battalion, and awards for all of the detachments.

The Personnel Office is in charge of all of the enlisted men's records, arrangements for arrivals and departures, advancements in rate, and the educational material necessary for advancement, and the USAFI courses.



Admin. Supervisor
YNC Monty Burkey



Left to Right, top: YN1 Brent Haynes, YN2 William Kerr, CMCN James Hines, YN2 William Morgan. Bottom: YN3 Stephen Shaner, YNSN David Ruth, SN Joseph Marino, HM3 Dan Corpany.



Left: PN3 Alan Torbit,
PN2 Karl Parsons.



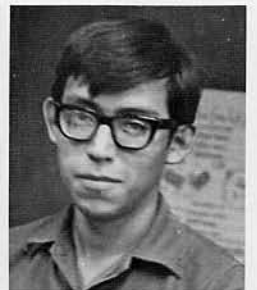
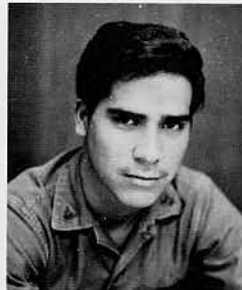
Left: YN2 Dale Stiede,
YN3 Dave McDaniel.



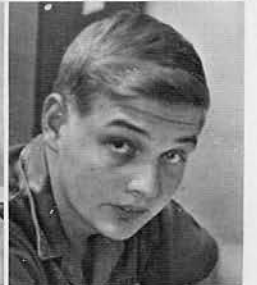
PN1 Mike Orr



Right: PN3 James Silva, PNSN
John Beitz, PNSN Ken Oatman.



Right: HM3 Alan Barger, PN3
Lee Traupel, PNSN Richard Rot-
tenberry, HM3 Thomas Brown.





Above: PN3 Dick
Bernsten, HM3
Gerald Cook.



Left: ET2 George
Rockers.



LCdr. Eli H. Campbell
Chaplain



HMC Arthur Evans
Career Counselor



CUCM Richard N. Allard
Senior Enlisted Advisor

Senior Enlisted Advisor
BUCS Richard H. Sage

Safety Chief
CEC William Sheridan

Security Officer
Lt. Ernest Taylor





OPERATIONS

Operations is the first step of any project. In the capable hands of the Engineering office, designs, drawings, bills of material and job orders are issued. Projects are then scheduled and coordinated by the office.



LTJG Ronald E. Kear
Former OPS Boss



LT Fred Seymour
Former OPS Boss



Left: EA1 Ron Wright
EA2 Bruce Biasetti



Left: EA3 Dale Smith
EA2 Mike Morris





LTJG Phillip Mattson
Resources Control



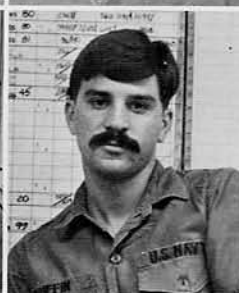
LT Karl Anderson
Engineering Officer



LTJG Terry Johnson
Dependent Shelter Officer



Left: EA3 Guy Granfors
EA3 Paul Severin
EA3 Howard Oliver



Left: EA3 Gavin Duncan
EA2 Conrad Mowczko
EACN Richard Griffen

No Pics: EA3 Harry O'dell
EACN Phil Miles



LT Edward Hartford
Present OPS Boss



Right, Back Row:
EA3 Robert Lombardi
EA3 Roy Bartholomew
EACN Douglas Johnson
EA3 Gerald Wilson
EA3 Sammie Voss
EA3 Willy Giles

Middle Row:
EA3 Paul Warner
EA3 Bobbie Miller
EA2 John Upchurch
EA2 Douglas Greene
EA2 Tony Donato
EA1 Richard Franson

Kneeling:
EACN Edward Sandoz
EA3 David MacDowell
EA3 Jerry MacKenzie
EA3 Richard Ivins
EA2 Conrad Mowczko



SUPPLY DEPT.

The Supply Department, consisting of Storekeepers, Disbursing Clerks, Cooks, and Ships Servicemen, provides the materials and services necessary for all of our operations throughout the country.



Left to Right from top: EA3 Hubert Renew, SK3 James Charles, SK3 Jerry Crofoot, SN Michael Anderson, SK2 David Cowan, SKSN Kim Miller, SKSN Joe Tchorzyk, SK2 James Hardesty, SK2 Guy Fulcher, SK2 Stephen Nelson, SK2 Charles Skelton, TN Bactad, SKSN Leonard Bornyek, SK1 Billy Cannon, SK3 Victorino Gonzales, SK1 Feliciano Carbon, SK1 Samuel Curry, SK3 Charles Clark, SK3 Joe Hildman, SN Mike Marker, SKSN Spencer Groshong, SK3 Thomas Rabago, SK3 Clarence Jones, SN John Marsh, SK3 Dennis Russell, SK3 Ron Waxham, SK1 Augusto Crelecia, SKSN Sam Miller, SKC Jesus Clarino.



SUPPLY OFFICERS



LTJG William Underwood



LT Douglas Jordan

SUPPLY CHIEFS



SKC Johnny Richards



SKC Jesus Clarino

SKSN Carl Warner, SK3 Ron Horak, TN Artemio Apurillo, SK3 Don Caruso.



SK3 John Murphy, SK3 James Wettergreen, SK2 William Bryson, GMG2 Robert Beck.



No Pics: SK3 Jerry Chapman, SK3 Don Divenuti, DK2 Eddie Mittelstett, SK3 Russ Hutson, DK3 David Durham.



PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Public Affairs Office publishes and distributes the unit newspaper, the FamilyGram, prepares Fleet Hometown News Releases, and provides photographic coverage of the Battalion's functions.



CRUISEBOOK STAFF

UT3 Joe Schurkamp:
Editor, Layout,
Photographer,
Art.
CSSN Scott Thompson:
Editor, Layout.
EA3 Francisco Hermoso:
Cover.

FAMILYGRAM STAFF



Top to Bottom from left:
JO2 Margarito Israel—Editor
EA3 Francisco Hermoso—Layout
CS3 John Orton—Reporter

From right:
CM3 Marc Johnson—Reporter
PHAN Richard Linton—Photographer
EA2 James MacDermott—Reporter

LT (DC) John Tucker
DT2 Dale Voice assisting



HM2 Jerald Brown

HOSPITAL CORPSMEN

The Hospital Corpsmen provide medical and dental care for the men, and organize Med-caps to needy villages.



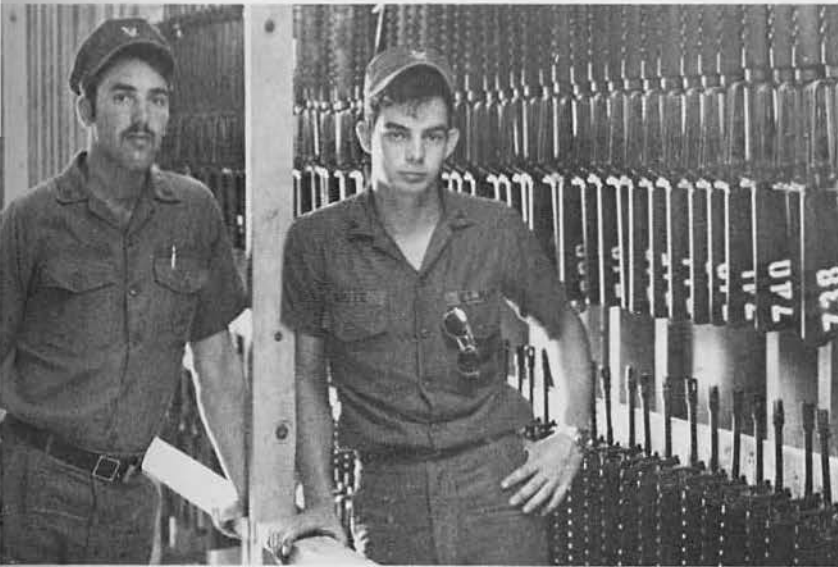


CTR

Top from Left: UT3 Mike Brown, BU3 Jimmy Doering, BU3 Steve Scheftic, CE3 Tony Hornsby, CE2 Pat Cote, CE2 Don Cowdray, No Pic: BU2 Willis Boss.

COOKS

Above Left to Right: CSSN Scott Thompson, CS2 Shelby Appleton, CS2 Larry Brock, CS1 Jerry Craig, CS2 John Watts.



GUNNERS MATES, ARMORY

Above: GMG2 Greg Singleton, GMG2 Chris White. Below, Left to Right: UT3 Ken Rich, UTCN Larry Varwig, SW2 Alan Hinton.

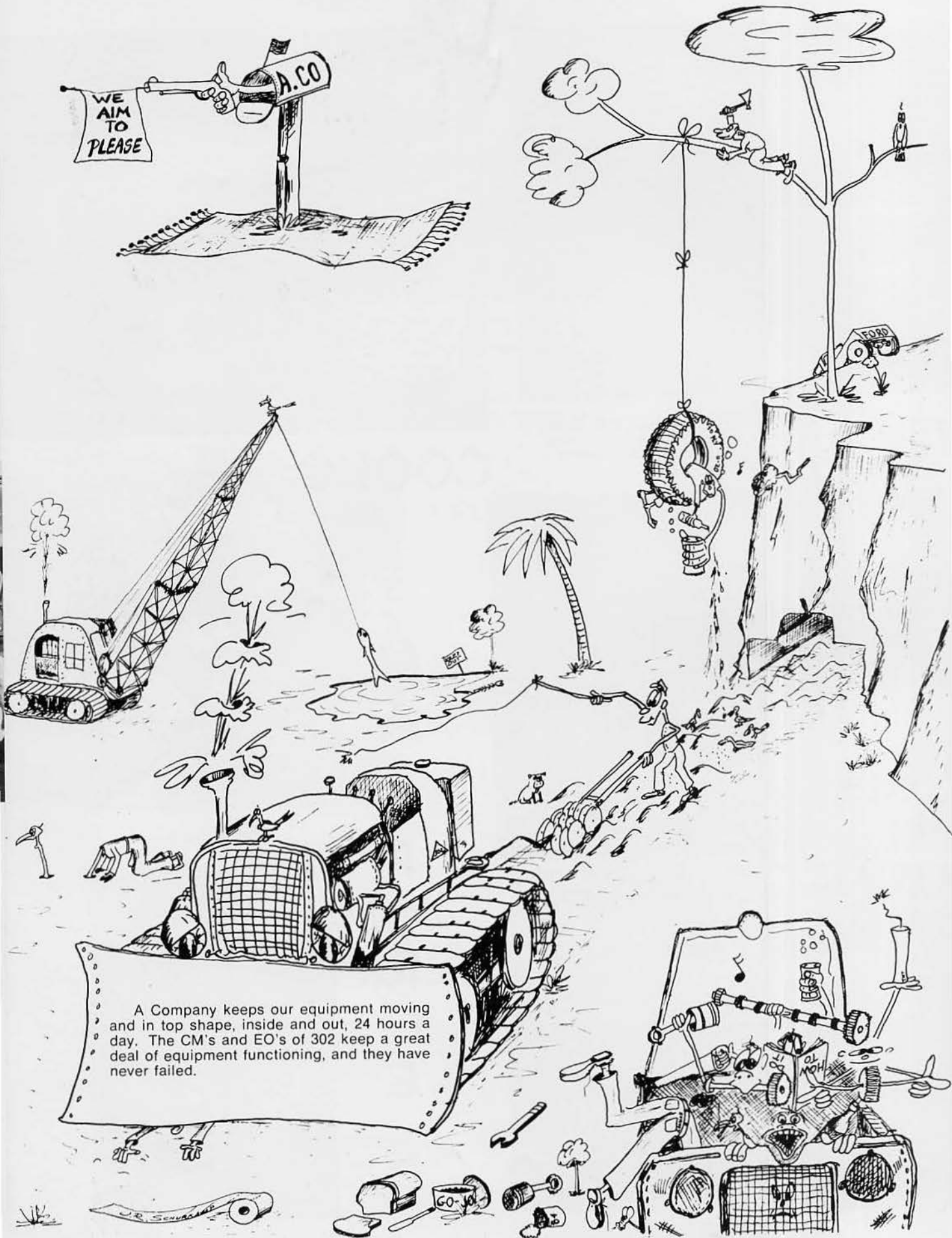


MR1 Don Phifer

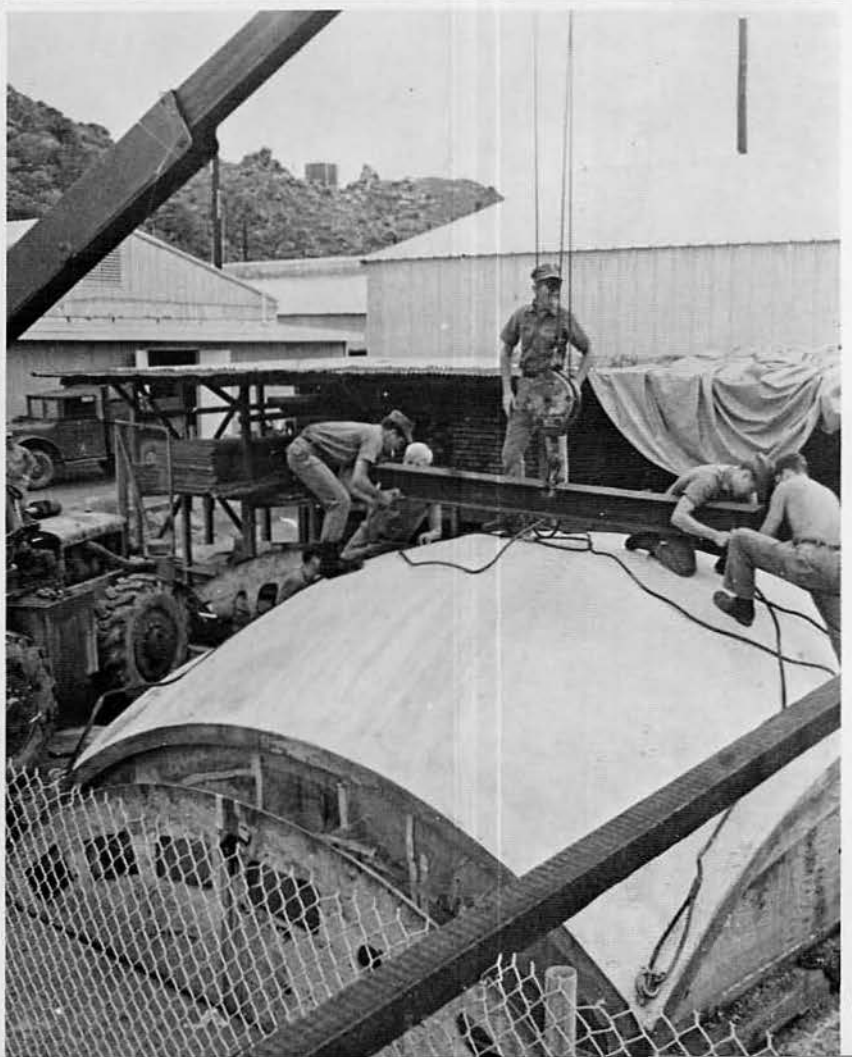
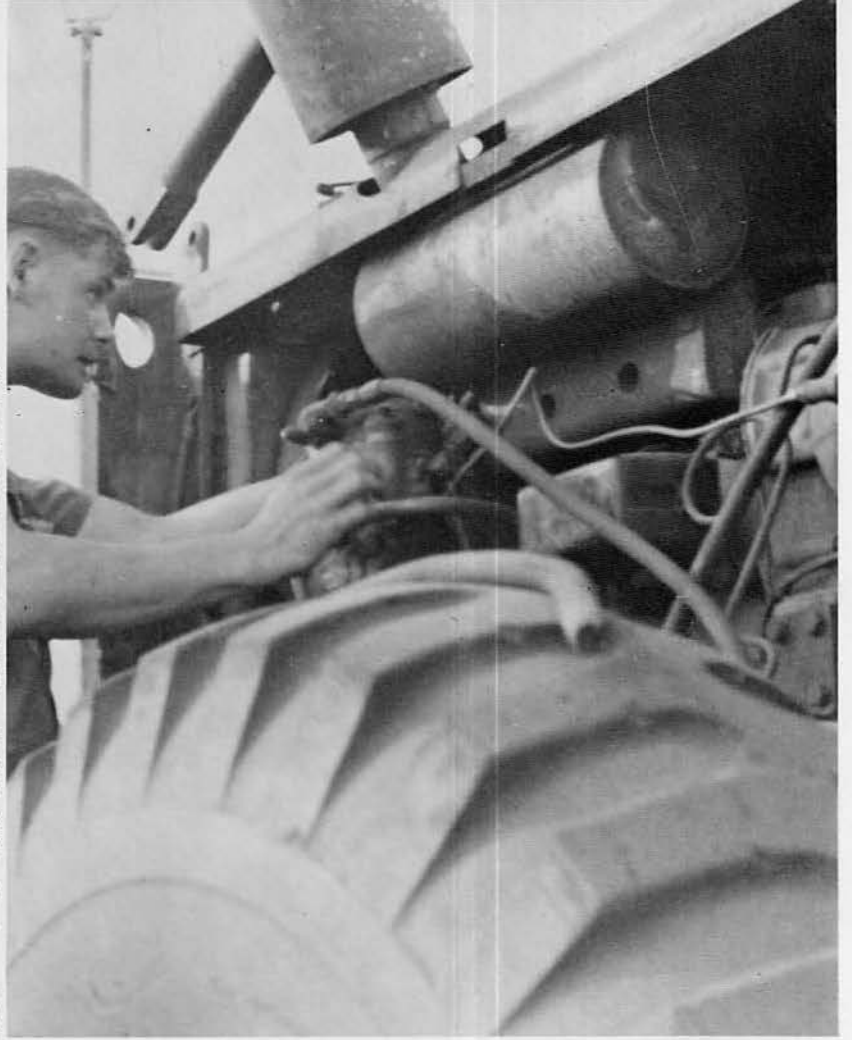
BM1 Harold Mosher



M A A F O R C E



A Company keeps our equipment moving and in top shape, inside and out, 24 hours a day. The CM's and EO's of 302 keep a great deal of equipment functioning, and they have never failed.





LT Frank Hartman



EOCS Walter Kingren



CMC Clark Millison

MECHANICS

Our Mechanics are the men who keep our rolling stock rolling, and our equipment in top shape for the job to be done.



Back Row, Left to Right: CM3 Harry Walley, CM3 Ted Nicely, CMCN Leo Crawford, CM3 Larry Smith, CMCN Larry Weber, CM3 Walter Giles, CMCN Robert Foye, CM1 Terry Green.

Middle Row: SKSN Steve Kruskamp, CM2 Melvin Pannel, CM3 Dennis Wheaton, CM3 John Watling, CN Tom Richards, CM3 Richard Decker.

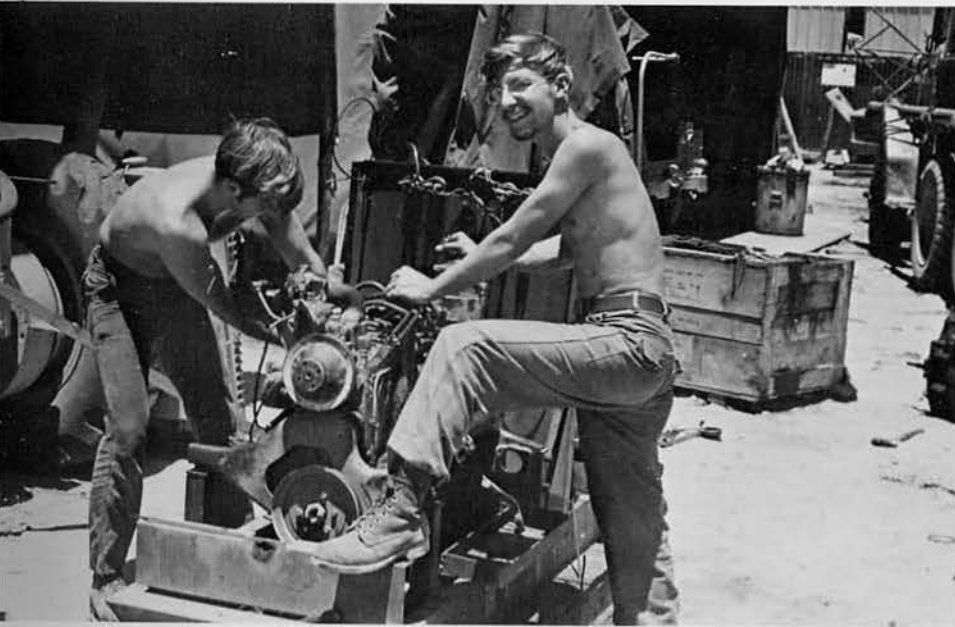
Front Row: CM3 Duane Gerken, EO3 Bruce Decker, CM3 David Korponic, CMCN Mike Shaw, CMCN Gerald Hubbs, CM3 David Stappenbeck.





Below, Left Row: CM1 Duane Wonsey, CM2 Jerry Stirewalt, CM3 Ted Mottashed, CMCN Dennis Starner.

Right Row: CM1 Ed Fayette, CM2 Sam Cash, CM3 Sterling Ramsey, CM3 Ed Peters.





Left: CN Thomas Richards, CM3
Chester Mazur, CM3 Walton
Humphrey, SN Mike Marker.



Left: CMCN Art Page, CM3
Ralph Fey.





EOC Donnie Young

The Equipment Operators prepare the sites for construction, dispatch vehicles, operate all construction equipment, and perform convoy duties when necessary.



Back Row, Left to Right: EO2 Robert Breneman, EO2 Arthur Moody, EO2 Arthur Stevens, EO3 Thomas East, EOCN Gerald Cook, EOCN Ellis Beck, EO2 Andrew Guillory.

Front Row; EOC Donnie Young, EO2 David Hubbard, EO3 K.E. Nystrom, EOCN Bruce Campbell, EO2 Robert Morris, EO3 Tim Dilling, EOCN John Freil, EO3 Tom Ward, EO3 James Disson, EOCN Tim Hendrix.





Left: E01 Ransom Greene, E01 Bill Moshenek, E03 Ken Nystrom.

Left: E02 Louis Brueggeman, E02 Eldon Williams, E03 Ed Avery.

E03 David McMeen, E03 Archie Robbins, EOCN Jose Gonzalez.

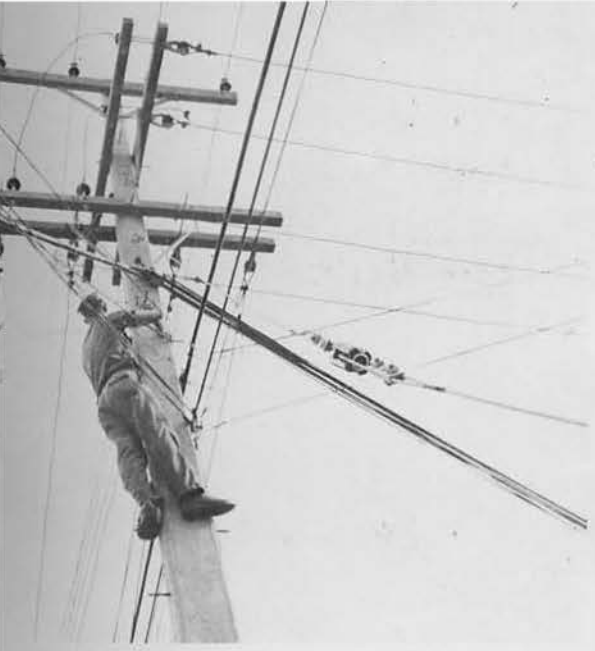


Below, Left to Right from Top: CN Samuel Roldan, EO3 Wes Westcott, EOCN Mike Wise.

Second Row: EO3 Bruce Decker, EO3 R. W. Ward, EO3 Joe Brinkerhoff.

Third Row: EO3 Roger Linden, EOCN Harry Griffen.





COMPANY COMMANDERS



ENS Anthony Gegauff

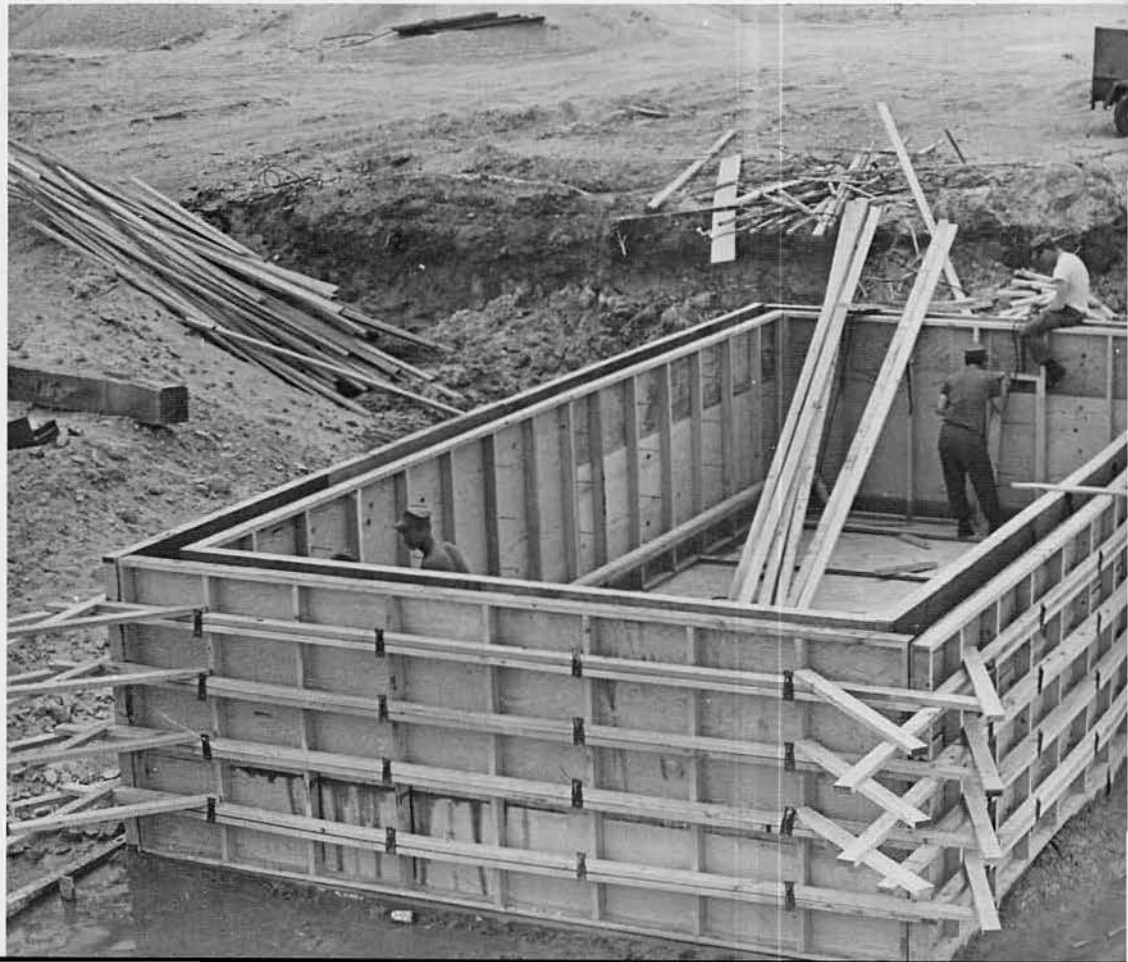


LTJG Charles Fehlig



B Company

B Company Yeomen:
EA3 Roy Bartholomew
SWCN Thom Crum
UT3 Hermano Mosquera
EA3 Kerry Burke





BUILDERS

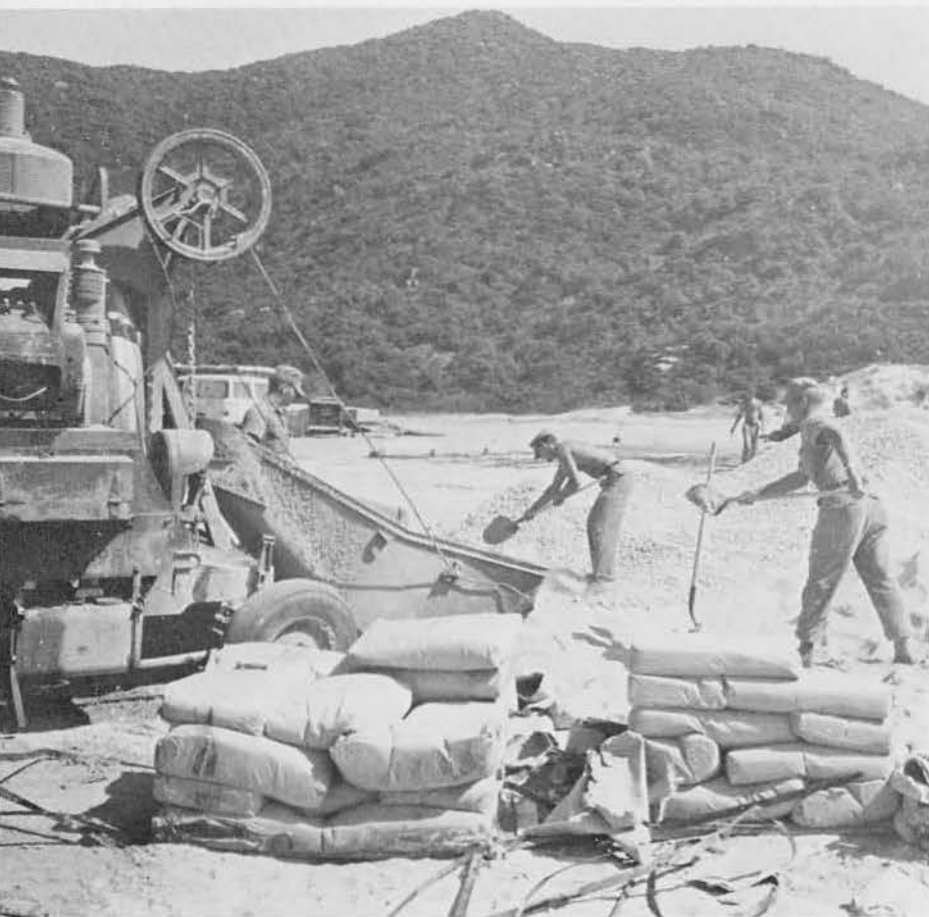
The Builders perform the construction of all buildings, be they wooden, prefab, or masonry, from foundation to roofing.

Right, Top Row: BU1 Rick Di-Genova, BUCN Danny Hodge, BU3 Tony Walzer.

Middle Row: BU3 Bob Hlebowicz, BUCN Jerry Carter, BU3 Warren Arnold.

Bottom Row: BU3 James Supon, BUCN Richard Seymour.





Above, Left to Right: BU2 George Jenkins, BU2 Don Grand, BUCN Tom O'Neill, BU3 Bob Hlebowicz, CN Al Zuercher, EA3 Dick Sevier, BU3 Gil Armijo, BUCN Tom Daisy, BU1 Pappy Bagdigian.



Below, Top Row: CE1 Don Conradson, ET1 Phil Harris, CE2 R.W. Beckstrom.

Middle Row: ET1 Joe Schembre, CE3 Wyman Adams, CE3 Bill McBride, CE3 Howard Finch.

Bottom Row: CE3 Rick Turtura, CE2 Steve Wentzel, ETN3 Gary Stanley, CE3 Roy George, CE3 Ken Ketcherside.

ELECTRICIANS

The Construction Electricians provide electrical facilities and lighting; they perform their own installation and maintenance.



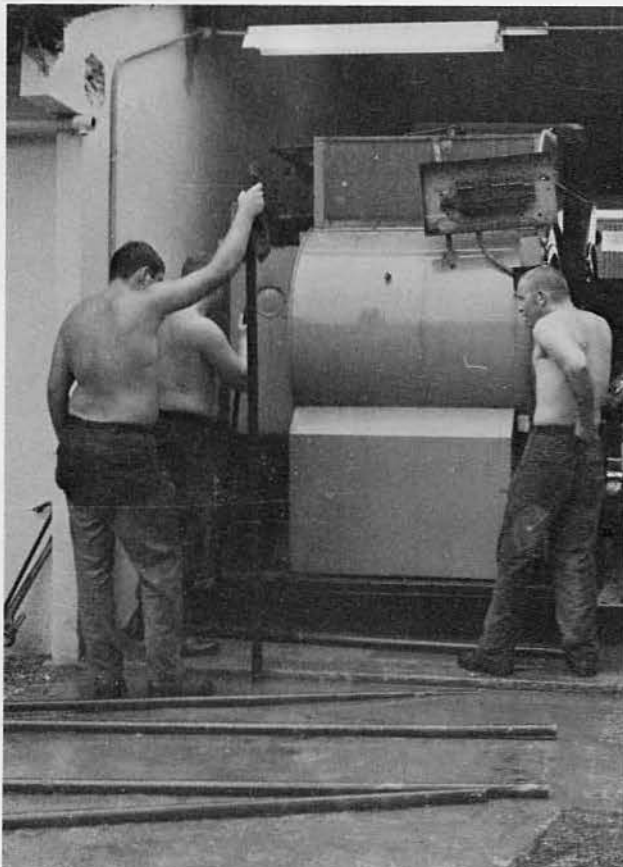


Left: CE2 Bill Fazekas, CE2N John Osweiler, CE3 Gary Goch-nour.



UTILITIESMAN

The Utilitiesmen perform plumbing, sewage, boiler, refrigeration, and water purification services for the Battalion.





Above: Senior Chief UT2 Donald Parmer,
UT3 Dan Kopel, BUCN G. Ramirez.

Below: UTCN John Pennington, UTCN Terry Riker, UT1 Tom Tomlin, UT3 Joe Pletcher, UT3 Jeff Rawes, UT3 John Weatherston.



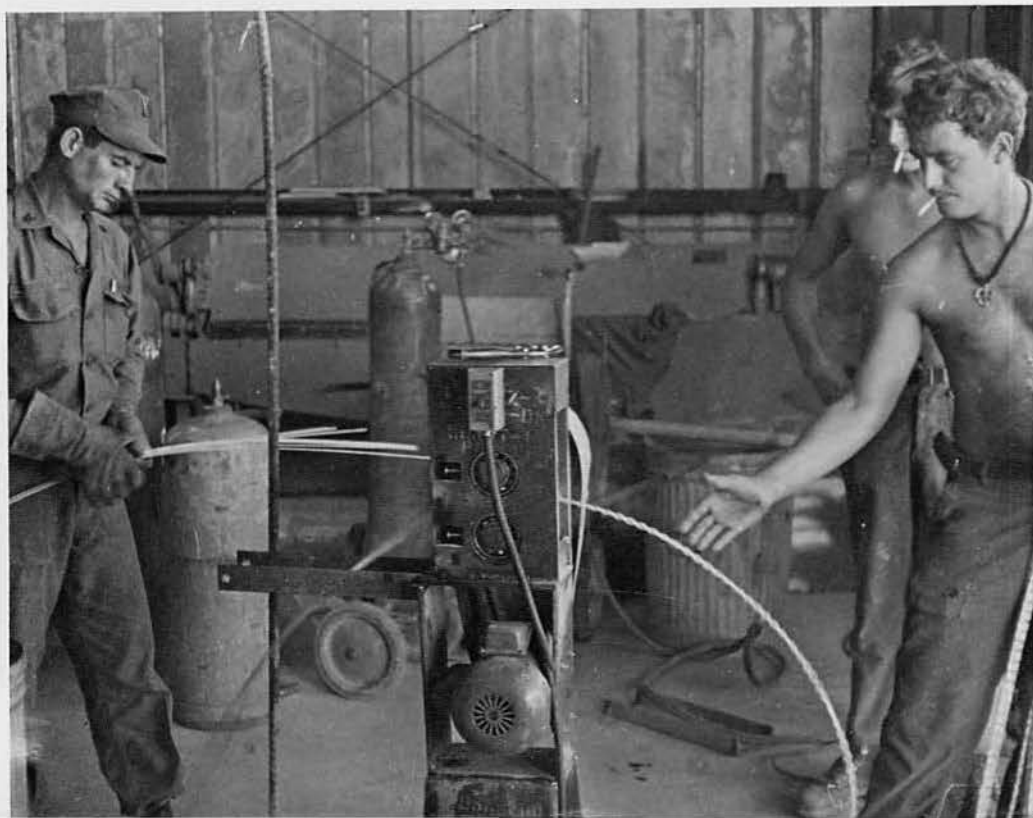


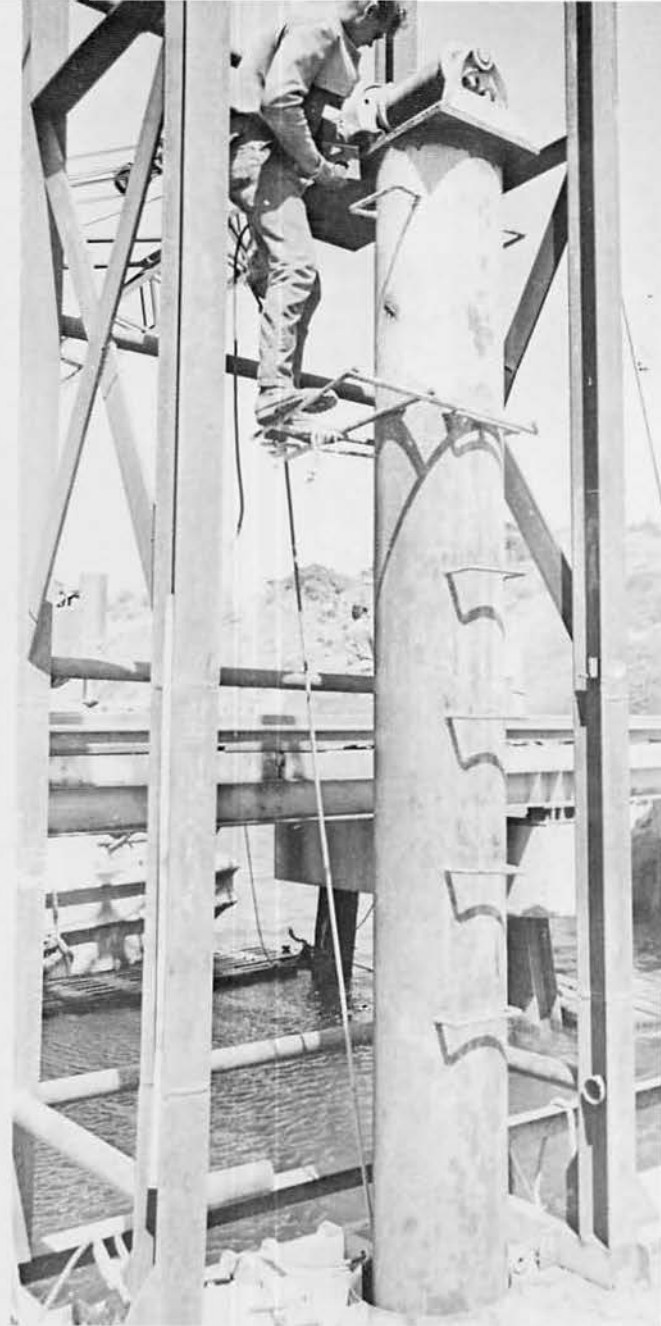
STEELWORKERS

The Steelworkers perform construction of metal buildings, welding, sheetmetal work and many other makeshift tasks.

SW2 John Hardesty

SW3 David DeBussher



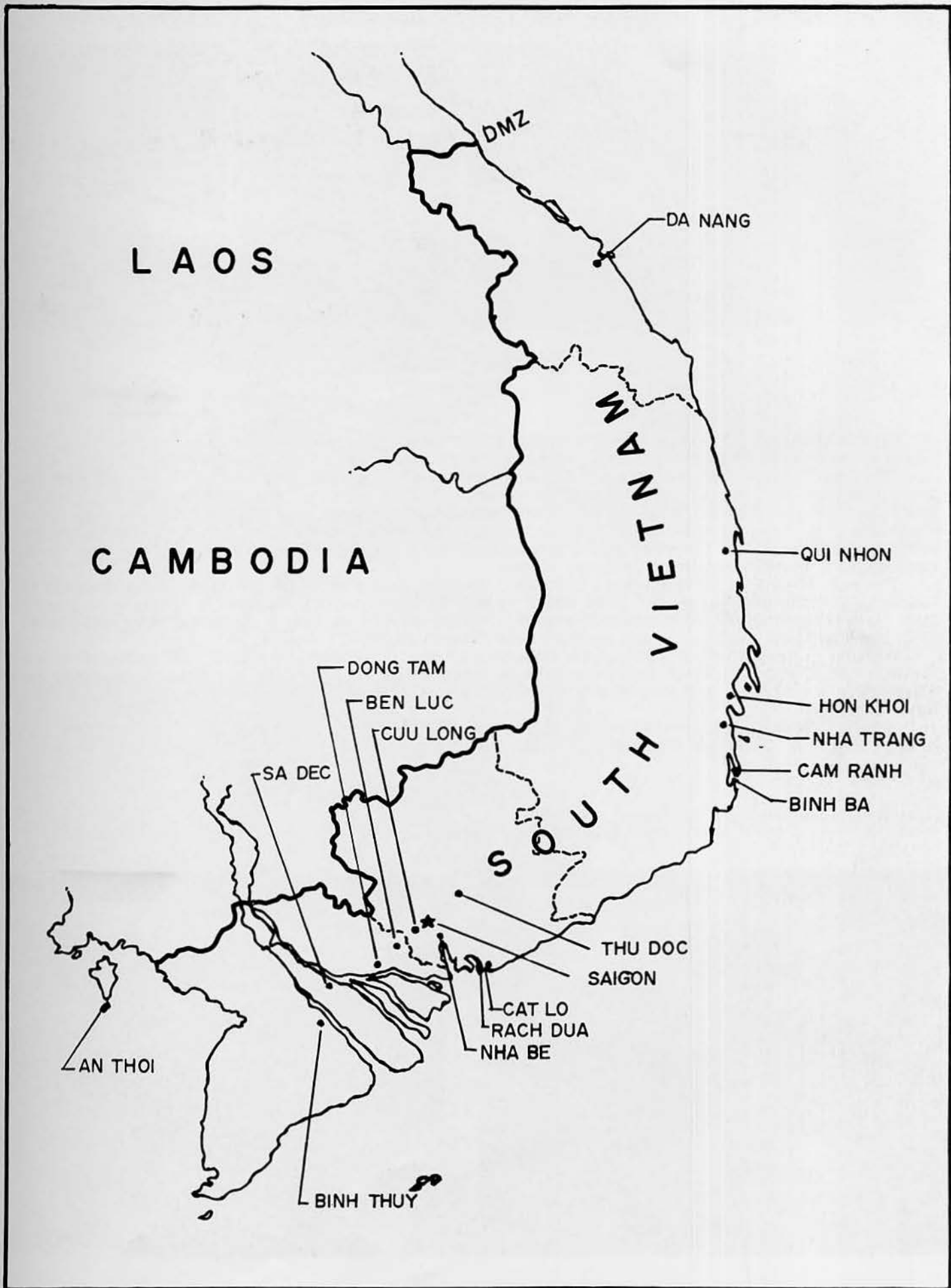


Below: SW2 Harry Conn, SW2 James Bussard, SW3 John Gaiter, SW2 Robert Palmberg, SW2 Jim Rock, UT2 Earl Brown, SW2 Ron Wilson, SW3 Linden Webb



"C" COMPANY





LAOS

CAMBODIA

DMZ

DA NANG

QUI NHON

HON KHOI

NHA TRANG

CAM RANH

BINH BA

DONG TAM

BEN LUC

CUU LONG

SA DEC

SOUTH VIETNAM

THU DOC

SAIGON

CAT LO

RACH DUA

NHA BE

AN THOI

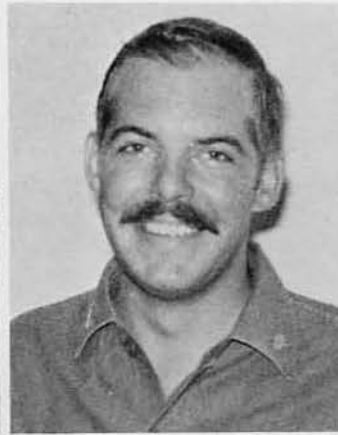
BINH THUY

LT F. A. Seymour

LTJG E.B. Rucker

LTJG Tom Kearns

LTJG K. L. Alexander



"C" Co. Commanders

Charlie Company came into being in September of 1969. Its original mission was directing the activities of all maintenance unit detachments and mobile construction teams in II, III, and IV Corps.

The first Company Commander was LTJG K. L. Alexander. The next was LTJG E. B. Rucker who retained this position until the Battalion was reorganized in May. Under LT F. A. Seymour, Charlie adopted its present mission of directing all mobile construction in II Corps, including the NAVCATs, the NAF Block Plant, and the remaining maintenance dets at Nha Trang, Qui Nhon and NAF. LTJG T. M. Kearns is presently in charge of Charlie Company and is ably assisted by a crew of expeditors and yeomen who reside topside in the twin Charlie/Delta Company offices.

The men of Charlie Company have completed projects over a range of 300 miles in the Republic of Vietnam. At many different remote sites, teams as well as maintenance detachments deployed to accomplish tasks which required the Seabees to use their military as well as their professional skills and earned them many nights in the bunkers and citations from COMNAVSUPPACT Saigon.

Working in more civilized areas of the Republic, Charlie Company teams have built a chapel for the Naval Air Facility at Cam Ranh Bay, provided new office space for NAVFORV in Saigon, constructed the block plants at both sites, and completely rehabilitated a yr-9 repair ship into berthing spaces for Vietnamese Naval Personnel.

Charlie Company at present is deeply involved in providing 870 dependent shelters for the Vietnamese Navy at Hon Khoi, Qui Nhon, Nha Trang, Binh Ba, NAF Cam Ranh Bay, and NSF Cam Ranh Bay.

Expeditors, Yeoman and Crew



QUI NHON

Detail Alfa is a Public Works detachment consisting of three CM's who provide vehicle maintenance.



CAT LO

Detail Charlie at Cat Lo is a 9 man detachment engaged in vehicular maintenance and minor construction tasks.



Below: CM2 Ronald Rosamond, CMCN Daniel Jenkins, EOCN Harold Shook, EOCN Glenn Fose.





Above, Left to Right: CM3 David Stappenbeck, EO3 William Alpiche, Boy-san, CMCN Norman Nelson, EACN Albert Hertel, Pop, BU3 Warren Nelson.



Above: CM1 G.N. Cosway
 Above Right: CMCN Ken Mader
 Right: CM3 Ted Mottashed



Right: CM3 Mike Richter
 Below Right: CM3 Earl Strater
 Below: CMCN Art Page



DONG TAM

Detail Delta at Dong Tam constructed a fire main system, a public works building amid many mortar and rocket attacks.



EOC William Neal



UTC G.H. Williams

Below: SW3 William Niemyer, UTCN Dan Kopec, EOC William Neal, EOCN Harold Shook, BUCN Frank Spencer, CM2 Ron Hyde, CM3 Dave Korponic, BU2 James Payton, UT3 John Weatherston, CECN John Osweiler, EA2 Frank Havens, EO3 Robert Mattison.

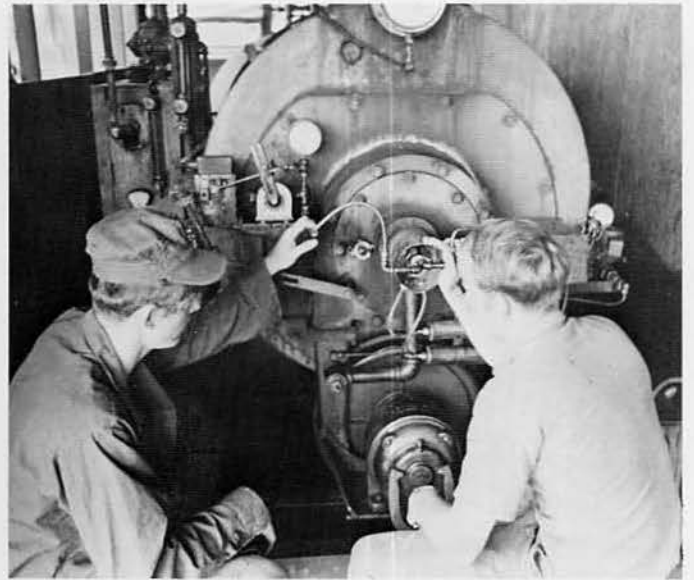


Right: BU3 Buzz Parkin, BU3 Roger Moore, CM3 Danny Calander, CE2 Ray McConnel



Right: BUCN Bill Froman, UT3 John Dilonno, CN Bob Fisher, UT3 Leon Merrow





Left: Roger & Squirrel, EA3
Larry Demry, CMCN Hollis Hale,
CMCN Dave McWilliams



Left: BU3 James MacIntire,
BUCN G. Ramirez, BUCN Nevin
Roberts





Above: CM2 Norman Sinnott, BU3 J. Hayhurst, CE1 William Maloney, CM3 James Miller, BU3 David Schafer, CE3 Tom Larkin.

SA DEC

Below: CM2 Larry Brotzman, BU3 James Devore, CM3 Mike Miller, CM3 Mike Campbell, FN Ralph Quade, FN Gary Webb



Located at one of the most beautiful spots in Vietnam, Detail Echo at Sa Dec is a small 5 man team which provides maintenance and repair of facilities and structures, utilities system and transportation equipment and perform limited construction tasks at the employment site.

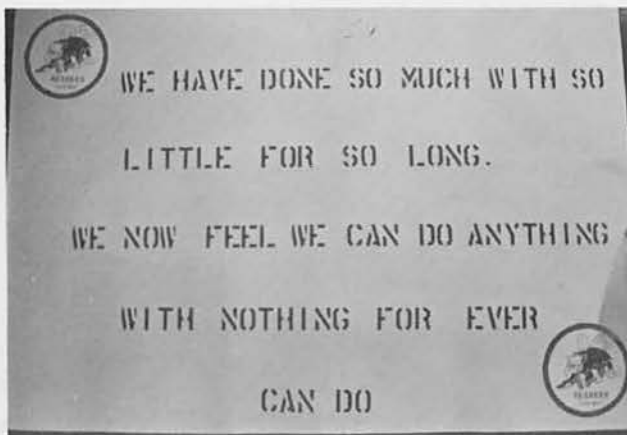




SWC Daniel O'Shea

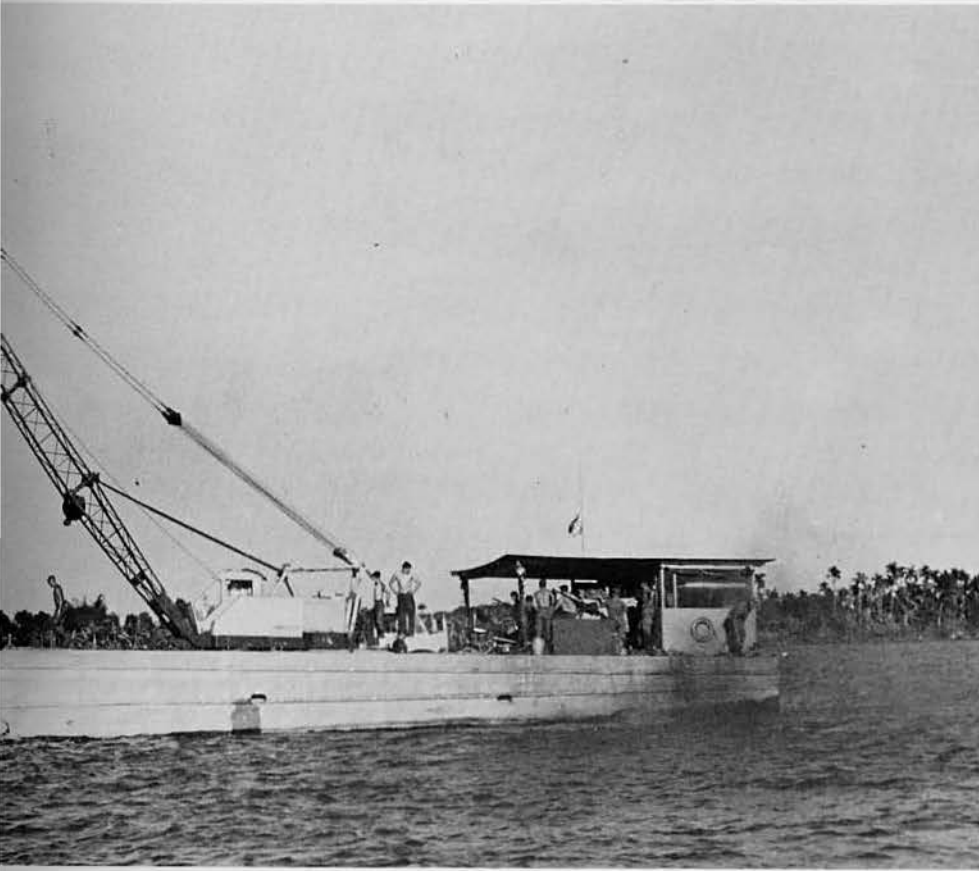
BINH THUY

Detail Foxtrot at Binh Thuy is a 15 man team that provides maintenance and repair of facilities and structures, utilities system and transportation equipment, and performs limited construction tasks at the employment site.



Below, Standing: CN Ramon Alfonso, BU3 Paul Iman, CE2 James Marlowe, SWC Daniel O'Shea, CE2 John North, EA3 George Hodge.
 Kneeling: CMCN Jesus Ceja, UT2 John Pacheco, CMCN Terry Gunia, UT1 Leon Maka, CM2 Walter Gordon, CMCN Thomas Bielat, BU3 Vaughn Tucker.





CE3
Anthony
Polichetti



CE2
Richard
Smith



CMCN
Gerald
Jones

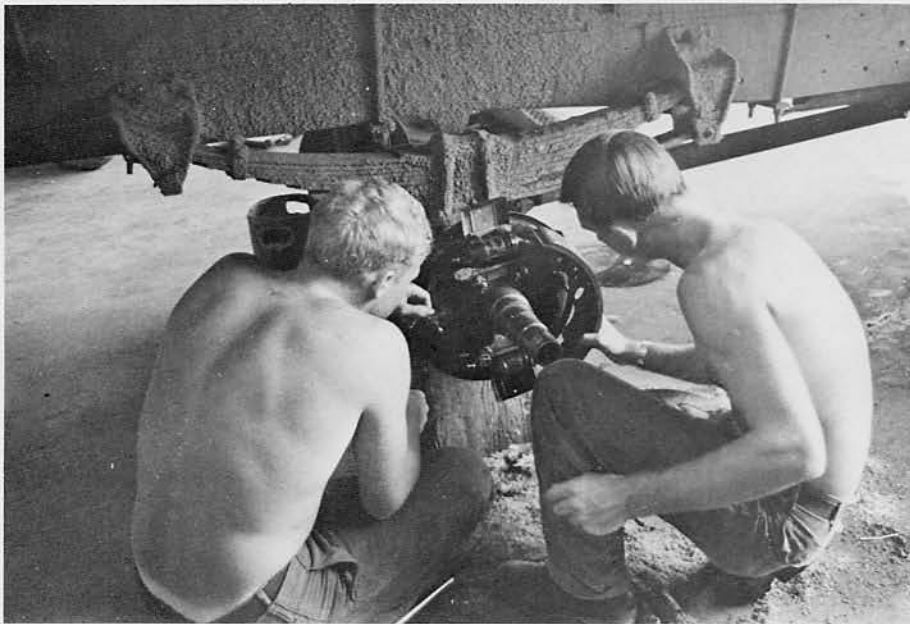


BEN LUC

CMC Daniel Medley



Detail India at Ben Luc is an eighteen man team that provides maintenance and repair of facilities and structures, utilities system and transportation equipment, and perform limited construction tasks at the employment site.



Left, Standing: SW1 Fred Weston, UT2 Bill Martino, EA2 Harry Dubke, CMCN Ron Hettler, BUCN Richard Barrett, BU2 Steve Smith, CMC Dan Medley. Kneeling: CM3 Kenneth Wilson, BU3 Bill Tresko, CE2 Gerald Jones, BUCN Dick Borino.



Below from top left: CM3 Loren Roper, UTCN Ron Bayer, UT2 Archie Sumrall, CM2 Jerry Parker, CM3 Harold Smith, CM3 William Miller, UT3 Tom Meyers, CE3 John Blatt, EOCN James Fortier, CE3 Patsy DiNardo, CMCN Ron Hettler.





LTJG S.P. Hunter



EOC Walter Van Dorn



UTC Albert Lancaster

Going away party for Chief Lancaster, LTJG Johnson presides.



Left: UT1 Don Gay, CE3 Tim Majaski, UT3 Doug Fisher.

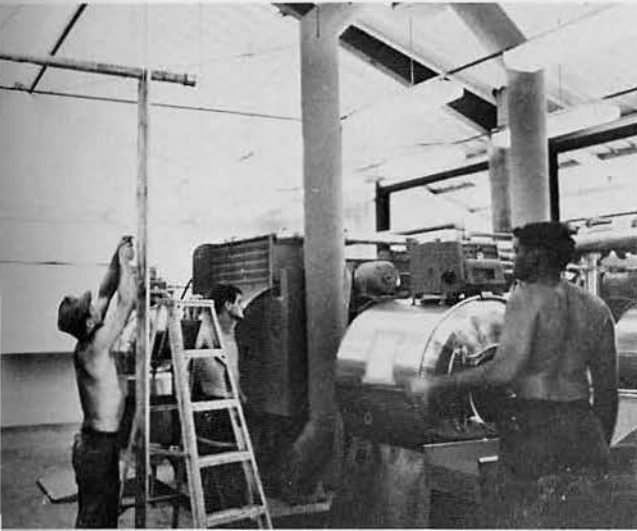


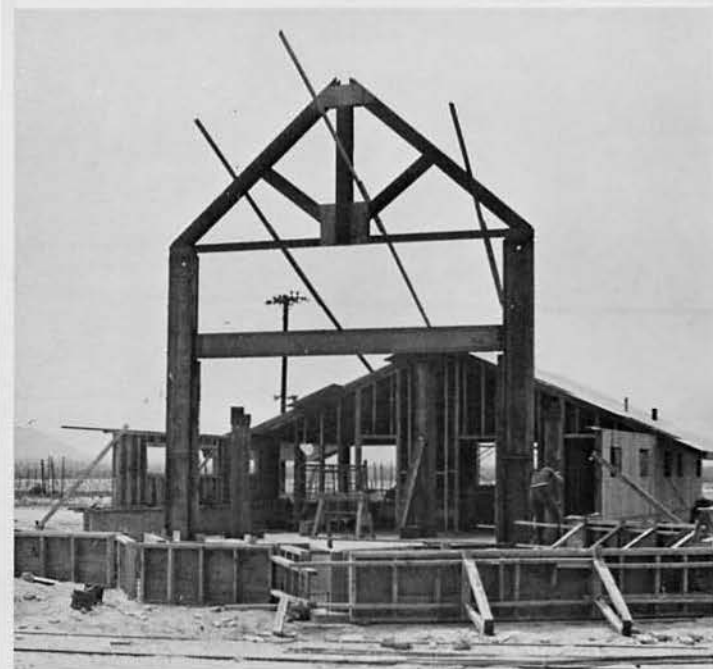
Left: UTCN Mike Allen, UT2 Robert Creagh.



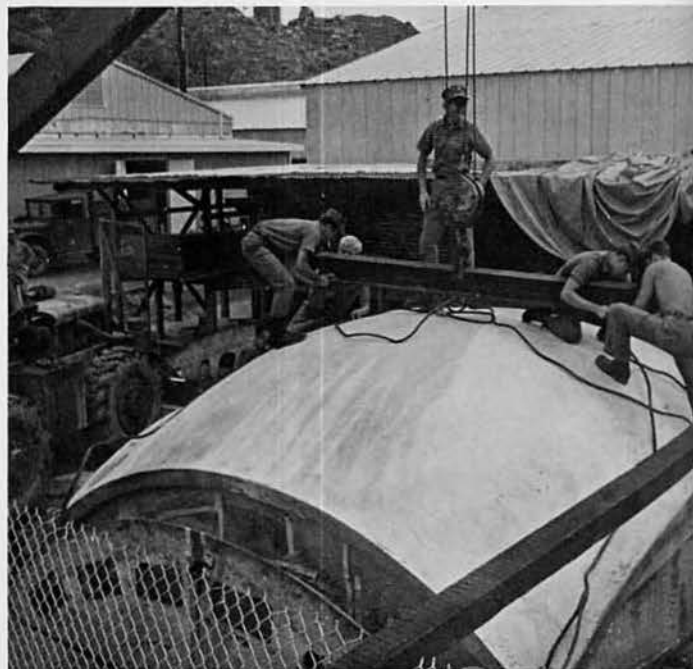


NAF Detail Golf: EOC William Neal, BU2 Daniel Serik, BU2 Lloyd Chambers, BU3 Michael Moore, BUCN Richard Bzydra, CE2 John Hudas, CE3 Tim Majaski, CM2 John Auster, CM3 James Denton, CM3 Earl Carter, CMCN Leo Crawford, CMCN Gerald Taylor, EA2 Richard Keeler, SW2 Joseph Clanton, SW2 Frederick Spencer, UT2 Bob Creagh, UT3 Thomas Fowler, UT3 Marlo Behne, BUCN Dane Martinez





T E A M S



Whereas Mobile Teams perform basically Advisory functions, detachments are small units deployed to accomplish any special immediate tasks.

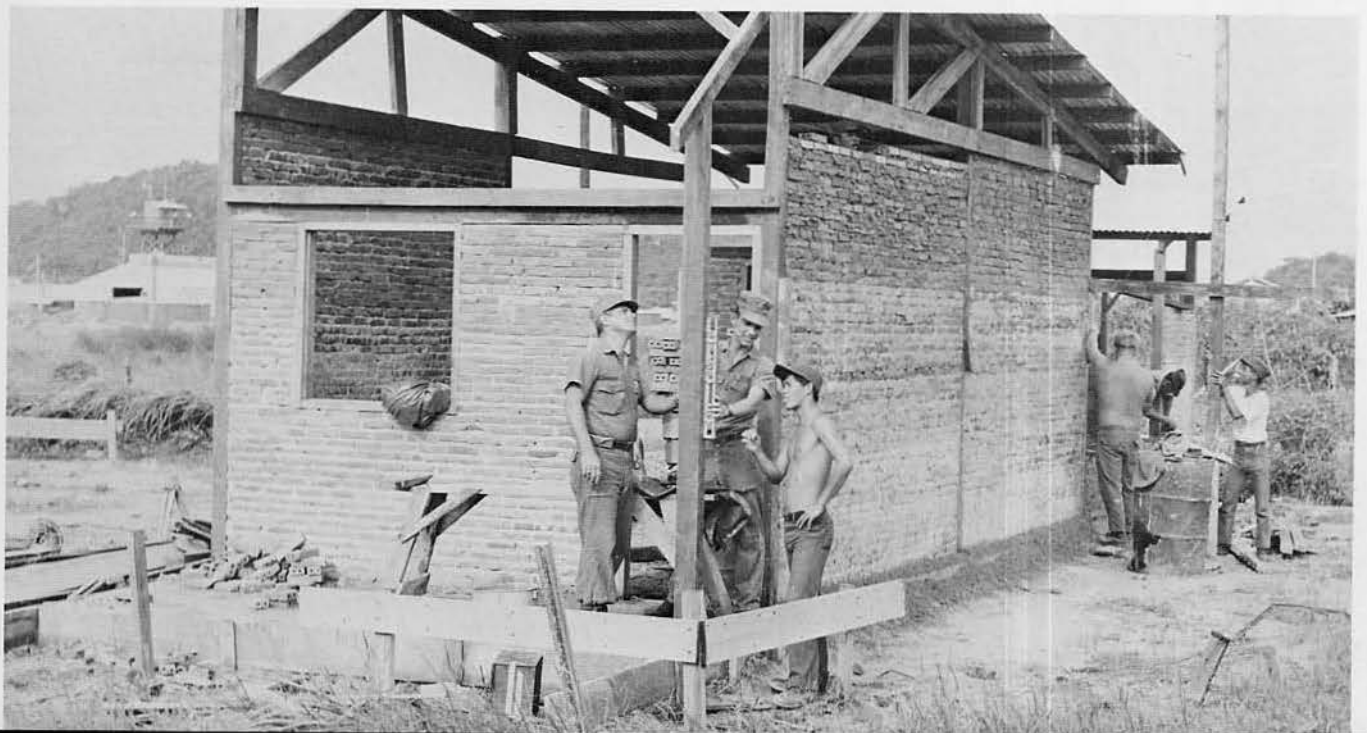


TEAM 30211

An Thoi

30211 was tasked to act as technical consultants and provide assistance to Vietnamese personnel in the construction of thirty units of Dependent housing, consisting of wood frames, brick walls and metal roofing.

Right Standing: UT2 Burt Burbank, BUC
Ron Larrivee, BU2 Joseph Cavanaugh.
Kneeling: CE2 Leroy Hilber, BU2 William
Miller.



TEAM 30213

VNNTC, CRB

Team 30213 was deployed to install two electric outlets, three electric water coolers, replace a water heater, relocate a lavatory, and install a sterilizer, deep sink, x-ray tank, a compressor for dental work and install two water faucets at the medical building.



Before



After

TEAM 30214

Tuyen Nhon

BU2 Willis Boss
 BU3 Kenneth Trotter
 BUCN William Peck
 BUCN Stephen Wells
 BUCN Howard Davis

The Tuyen Nhon team was deployed to construct a bunkered platform.

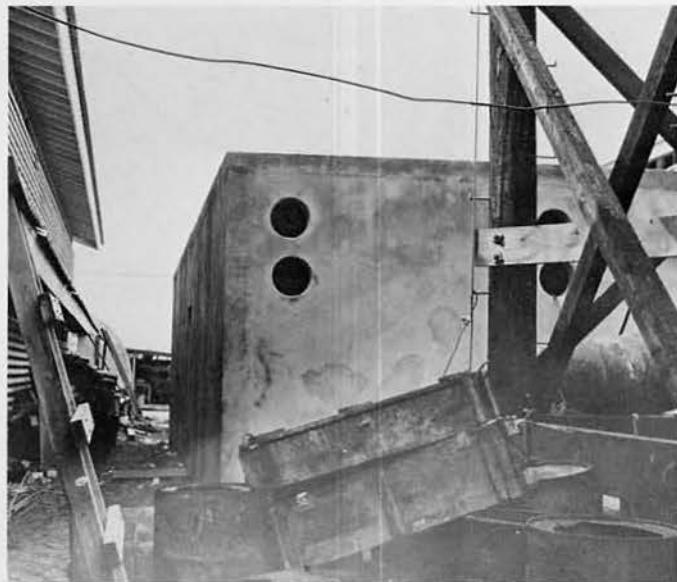


TEAM 30217

Newport

Team 30217 was deployed to erect a pre-engineered building (less lighting) on an existing foundation at Newport, Republic of Vietnam.

Team 30217—SW2 William Cade, SWCN Terry Jordan, UT3 Barry Litman, UT3 Mike Boone, SW2 Ronald L. Wilson, SW3 Harry Carroll, SW3 Glenn Gronevelt, SW3 Thom Crum, SWCN Kenneth Decker, EO2 Harold Cole



TEAM 30218

Cat Lo

Team 30218 was tasked with assembly of two 3x6 NLP Pontoon assemblies at NAVSUPACT Detachment Cat Lo, to maintain a self-defense capability; and to accomplish disaster recovery tasks as may be assigned by Public Works Officer NAVSUPACT Saigon.

Team 30218: SW2 James Rock, SW2 Bob Smith, SW3 Bob Smith, SWCN John J. Lancour, SWCN Carl Hodges, EO3 Bill Alpiche.

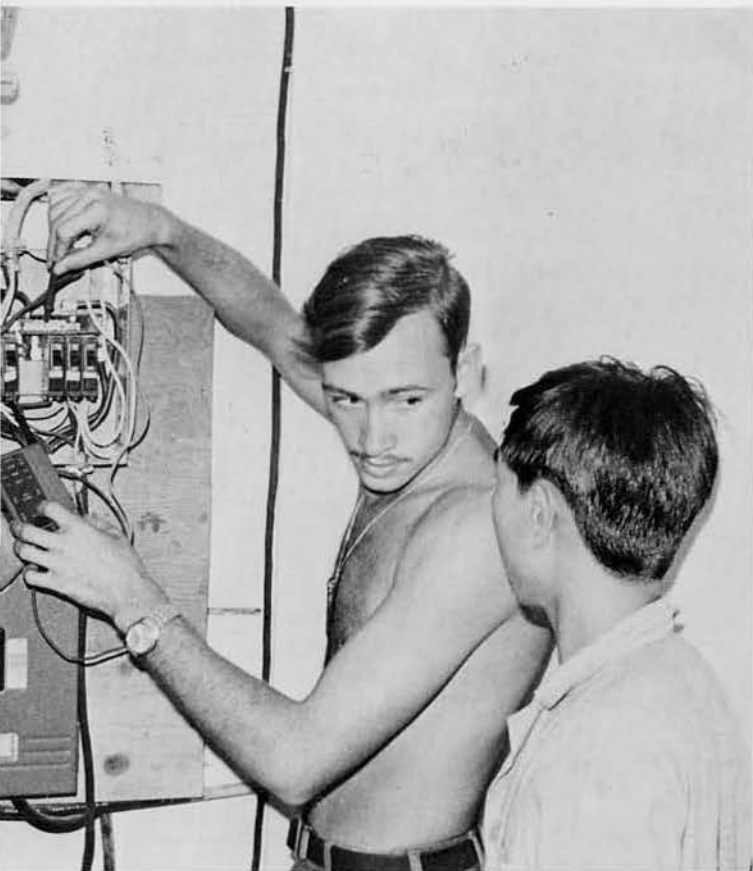


TEAM 30219

Qui Nhon

Team 30219 at Qui Nhon was deployed to convert 4 large buildings into 36 shelters and to install a new head.

Below: CE2 Pat Cote, BU1 Bob Wachtler, UT2 Gary Jones



TEAM 30221

Dong Tam

Team 30221 was deployed to Dong Tam for the urgent revamping of about sixteen buildings. With BU2 John Horst in charge the team consists of BU3 Robert Parkin, CE3 Ralph Cunningham, UT3 Leon Merrow, BUCN William Sloan, and BUCN William Peck.





CEC Milton Spear



Team 30222 was deployed to Naval Air Facility, Cam Ranh Bay, for the immediate task of constructing a concrete block plant. CEC Milton Spear is in charge of the eight man team composed of CE2 Donald Enos, SW2 Ronald Wilson, SW2 Robert Palmberg, SW2 Robert Smith, SW3 Glen Gronevelt, EA3 John Loshbaugh, BU2 Willis Boss, and Myles Watson.

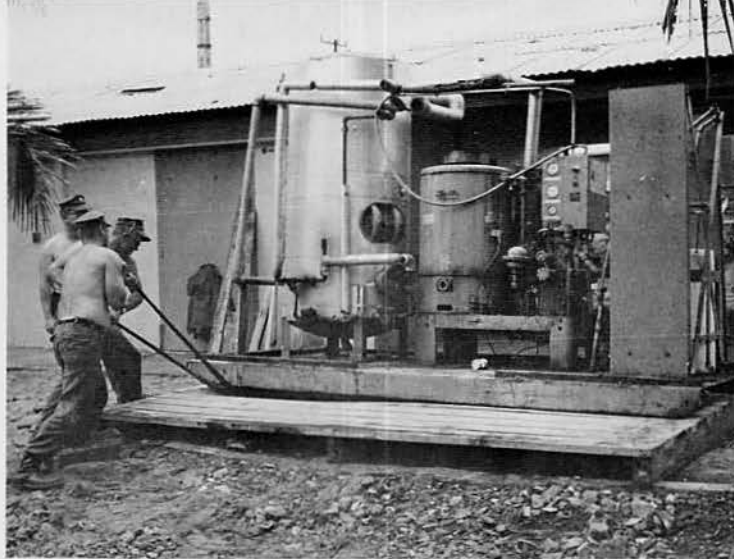


TEAM 30223

Nha Trang

30223 was deployed to install one laundry facility at the Vietnamese Naval Academy, Nha Trang RVN.

Below: UT3 Douglas Fischer
 UT1 Carl Lindau
 CE3 Charles Blakely
 UTCN Charles Charlton



Detail Bravo Mechanics
 CM3 Harry Brandle
 CMCN John Hubbs



TEAM 30224

Binh Thuy

30224 was deployed to construct one 40'x100' Pasco building between two existing warehouses, one 11"x16" frame building and 1324 sq. ft. storage area at NSA Detachment Binh Thuy.

Below: SW2 James Rock, SW2 John Hardesty, SW3 David Eggersdorf, BUCN Stephen Wells, BU2 Stephen Scheftic, SWCN Carl Hodges.





Team 30225: BU2 Charles Bovair, BUCN Danny Hodge, BUCN Rockne Leake, CE2 John North, CE3 Chester Benton, CECN Billy Viergutz, UT3 Ronald Matthews, UTCN Stanley Felipe, EA3 Joseph Furio, EACN Phil Miles, EO3 Stephen Kalkbrenner, SW2 Robert Kellam, SW2 Bob Smith.

TEAM 30225 Vung Tau

Team 30225 was deployed to construct security fencing and lighting at an ammo supply point at Vung Tau.



TEAM 30227 Binh Thuy

Team 30227 was tasked with preparing revetments on the helo-pad and place a 2" cap to prevent deterioration and FOD in helo operation area at Binh Thuy.

Below: EOC Donnie Young, EO3 Darryl Benton, UTCN Dane Martinez, BU3 Jimmy Doering, EO3 Archie Robbins, EOCN Harold Shook.



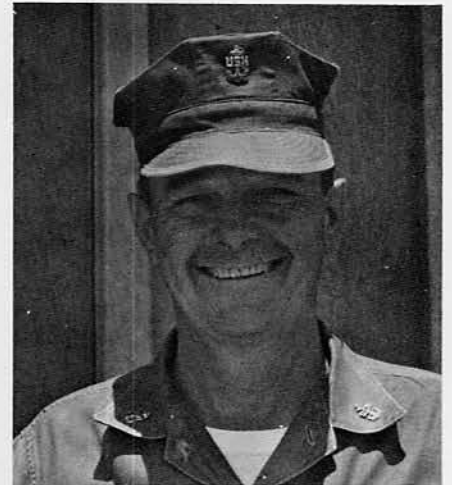


Below: EO1 Edwin Whitefield, CM1 James Schultz, CE1 Roberto De La Cruz, UT2 Jim Candee, UT2 William Shores, EA1 Richard Franson, EA3 Freddy Dennison, UTC Daniel Berry, BU1 Jack Ogle, SW2 Oral Poskin, UT1 Charles Hooper, CM2 Thomas Clark, BU3 Stuart Jahr, YN2 Boots Kerr, UT2 Paul Stiles, CE2 Sherry Peterson.





LTJG William White

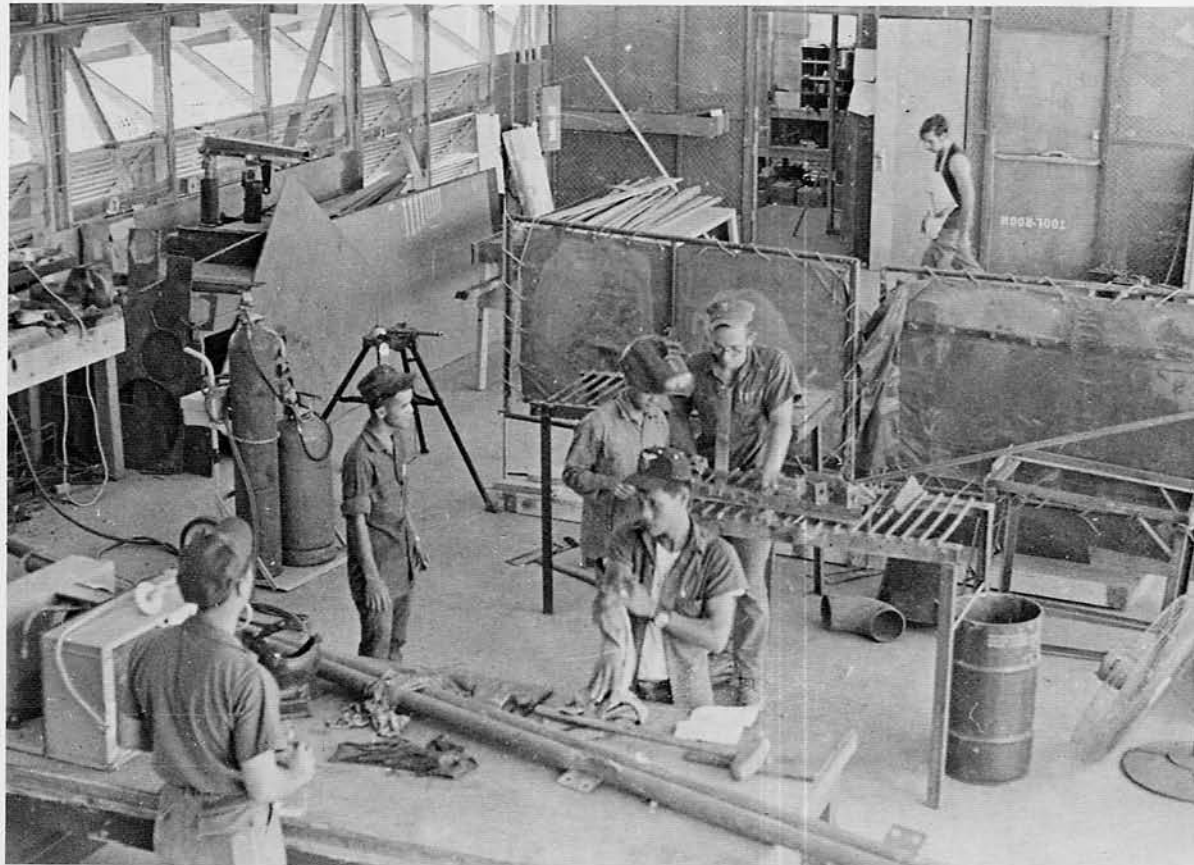


UTC Daniel Berry

TEAM 30228 Dong Tam

Vietnamese Training School, Det. Juliette

The Dong Tam Public Works Training School was established by CBMU 302 to train selected Vietnamese in the Seabee rates. It was operated by a handpicked team of the various Seabee rates. The first class of 43 Vietnamese Sailors was graduated on 16 April 1970 in a ceremony which was attended by representatives of many commands.





TEAM 30229

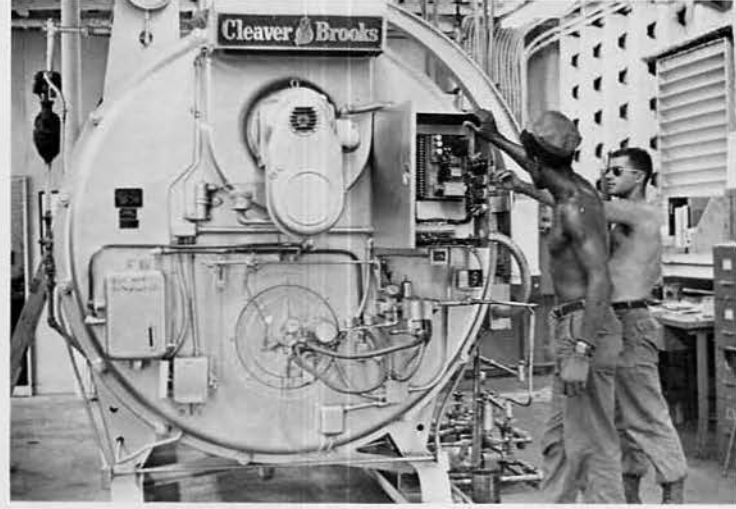
Team 30229 was a nine man hand picked team dispatched to perform classified operations in II Corps.

Below: EO3 James Schleusner, EO3 Darryl Benton, BUC Walter Roberts, BU2 Willis Boss, EO3 Michael Stratton, BU3 David Dahm, BU3 George Charnogursky, BUCN Jerry Canter, CM3 Ken Wilson, EOCN Michael Wise.



TEAM 30231

Nha Be



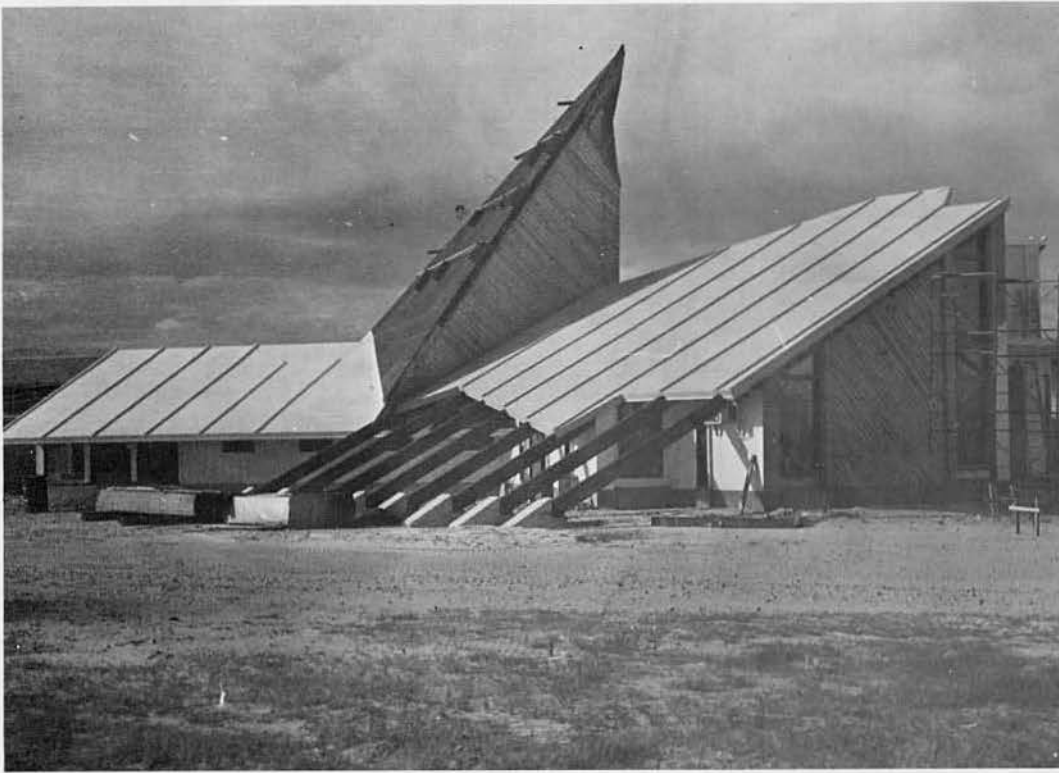
Top Left row: UT1 Carl Lindau, CM1 Ed Fayette, BU2 Robert Ramey.
 Second row: UTCN David Wallace, UT3 Michael Graeler, CE2 James Marlowe.
 Third Row: UTCN Bennie Henry, UT2 Terry Wade, CE3 Charles Blakely.
 Fourth row: CECN Tom Dawkins, CN Dennis Snead, CMCN Herb Morris.
 Fifth row: CECN Bill Thompson, CE2 Ron Schumacker, CE2 Ken Chonko.
 Sixth row: CMCN Don Crivello, UT3 Dave Iacavone.

UT2 Bill Martino



UTC G.H. Williams



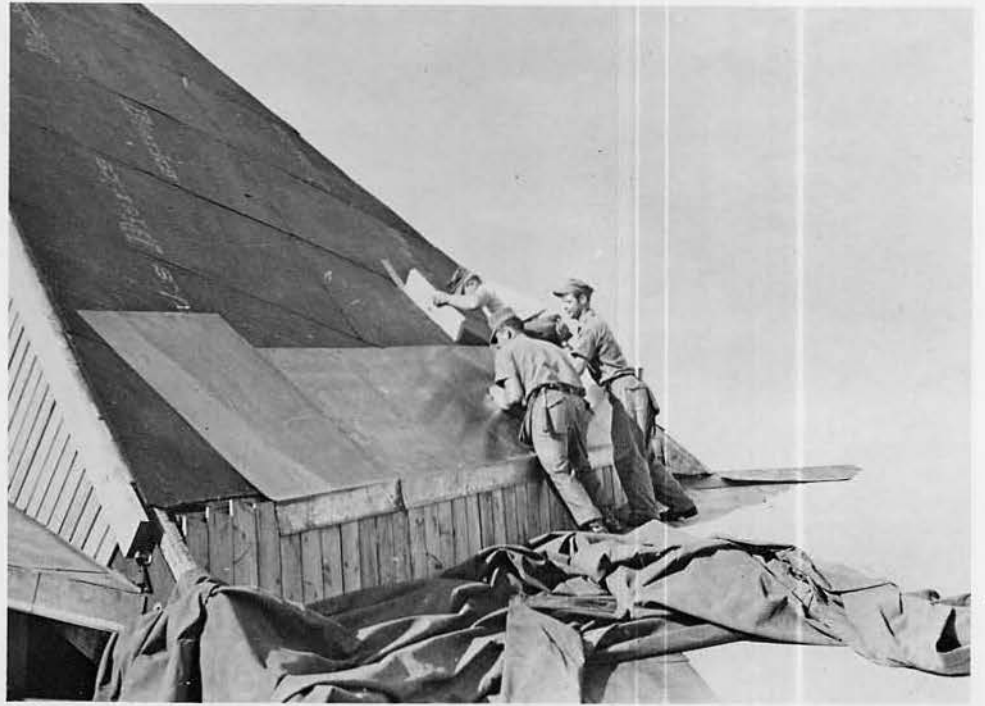


TEAM 30233 NAF, CRB CHAPEL

Team 30233 at the Naval Air Facility was deployed to construct a 150 person capacity chapel. A stained-glass window has been donated for use in the chapel.

Below: BU3 J. Tryon, CECN Robert Harper, BUC William Bennett, BU2 Bill Bambeck, BU3 John Erwin, CE3 Bill Hastings, BU2 Dave Dussault, BU2 Dan Serik, BU3 Jack Allen, BU3 Paul Gust, BU3 David Luccarelli.





BUC William Bennett





TEAM 30234 *Tinh Bien*

Team 30234 was tasked with the construction of one 16'x22' bunkered berthing hut, one burnout head and a shower on an existing slab at Tinh Binh.



TEAM 30235 *Nha Be*

Team 30235 was deployed to Nha Be to construct an Advisor's hootch, and to convert the YR-9 into a floating berthing space.



Right: BUCN Al Darden, SW2 Charlie Fletcher, BUCN Wilfred Pierce, UT3 Dan Kopec, BU3 Paul Gust, BUCN John Ross, BUCN Gerald McMasters, CE3 Ralph Zehner, BU1 Don Tanner, UTCN Marion Hill, BU3 Greg Goodrich.



TEAM 30238

Saigon

COMNAVFORV

Team 30238 at COMNAVFORV was tasked with the construction of a three-story office building, and the maintenance of Naval Facilities in the Saigon area.

COMNAVFORV: BUCN John Ross, BUCN R.J. Carambat, AN M.J. Hillegas, BU2 Carl Cooper, BUC Richard Forde, BUCN Glenn Grant, BUCN Harry St. John, FN J.H. Salgat, CE3 Ralph Zehner, BU2 Gary Newgent, BUCN Fred Evans, SN Sanchez, CE3 Roy Proctor, FN G.A. Harroun, SN Fountain, BU2 Robert Bregenzer, BUCN David Buntain, BU3 Roger Cooke, SN Donald Gorach, AN M.L. Hoffman, BU3 B.G. Lout, BU3 Andrew Matte, CE3 D.R. McAfee, CECN G.N. McMasters, EA3 John Seargeant





LT Mario Barratta



LT F. Seymour

Delta Company came into existence as the result of the Battalion's increased effort in the field of dependent shelter construction for the Vietnamese Navy. The first Company Commander was LTJG K. L. Alexander, who helped formulate the present dependent shelter program in January of 1970, while still serving in Charlie Company. At the onset Delta Company was in charge of all dependent shelter construction in 2, 3, and 4 Military Regions, which included sites which stretched from Hon Khoi in the far north of 2MR to An Thoi which is on Phu Quoc Island in the gulf of Siam.

During the latter part of February 1970, LT F. A. Seymour arrived and assumed the duties of Delta Company Commander, assisted by ENS John Roy. At this time we had seven construction sites at Hon Khoi, Naval Support Facility at Cam Ranh Bay, Thu Doc, Ben Luc, Dong Tam and An Thoi. As the program grew and sites were added at Qui Nhon, Nha Trang, Binh Ba Island, Cuu Long Rach Dua, and An Khanh, it became apparent that with the majority of the sites lying in 3 and 4 MR a revision in the Battalion structure was in order. With this thought carried into fruition, Delta Company was reorganized around 15 May to have operational control of only those dependent shelter sites in 3 and 4 MR. Along with the revision came the transferring of the title of Delta Company Commander to our representative in Saigon, LT M. A. Barratta. LT Barratta had been functioning as the 302 liaison officer for all our activities in the Delta region, both dependent shelters and minor construction. This placed Delta Company in charge of seven building sites, one concrete block plant and a project at NAVFORV headquarters involved in construction of new office spaces. The company then expanded further to include a roving force of mechanics with headquarters at the Saigon Block Plant who went to all the job sites in 3 and 4 MR to repair our construction equipment or provide repair parts if the need existed. Also a crew of Transit Mix operators was assigned to the Block Plant to provide the service of carrying freshly-batched concrete to the sites in and around Saigon. All these personnel were supported by an Assistant Company Commander in Saigon, CWO4 R. E. Fenstermaker, a representative in Cam Ranh Bay, ENS T. A. Johnson and several storekeepers in the Saigon office.

At the peak of our deployments to 3 and 4 MR, Delta Company personnel numbered around 350 members, both group VIII and a sizable influx of SN, FN, and AN rates. The infusion of these SN, FN, and AN's into the dependent shelter program brought about a new title for our dependent shelter teams. In order to promote a greater feeling of esprit de corps, Vice Admiral Zumwalt, then Commander of Naval Forces, Vietnam, coined the acronym NAVCAT—Naval Construction Action Team. The NAVCAT program is basically the mission of Delta Company at this time and will remain so until the Battalion's task of providing dependent shelters for the personnel of the Vietnamese Navy is completed.



Co.



NAVCAT 2 NSF, CRB



CEC R.L. Gleason



NAVCAT 2 here at Cam Ranh is in the process of constructing 575 units of Dependent Shelters. Chief Richard Gleason and his 70 man crew began their task on September 19, 1969, and the first family moved in three months later. Cam Binh, as the village is called is considered a model village, having its own dispensary, open market place, and a school building.

Below: BU2 Tony Kotla, BU2 John Goodman.





NAVCAT 2: CEC Richard Gleason, BU1 Joseph Higdon, BU2 Peter Knieval, BU2 David Charlebois, BU3 D.G. Loving, BU3 Stanley Ellis, BU3 Thomas Pekarek, BU3 Stephen Canter, BU3 James Callwood, BU3 Ernest Olmstead, BU3 S. Alexander, BU3 Michael Cruse, BU3 Vincent Jereb, BUCN Kenneth Hardesty, EO3 Danny Alverson, EO3 David McMeen, UTCN William Claude, CE2 Steven Wentzel, CE2 Floyd Ryan, CE3 Christian Neilson, CE3 Paul Scanlon, CE3 Wilfred Reyol, CE3 Wyman Adams, CECN Dennis Catlow, CECN Timothy Broder, CECN Jeff Bowman, EA3 David Lange, SW2 Jarrell Strickland, SW3 Earl Jamieson, SW3 William Fox, UT2 Bud Speaker, UT3 John Fogel, UT3 Modesto Hernandez, Waher Johnson, CN James Scarr, AN Paul Halderman.





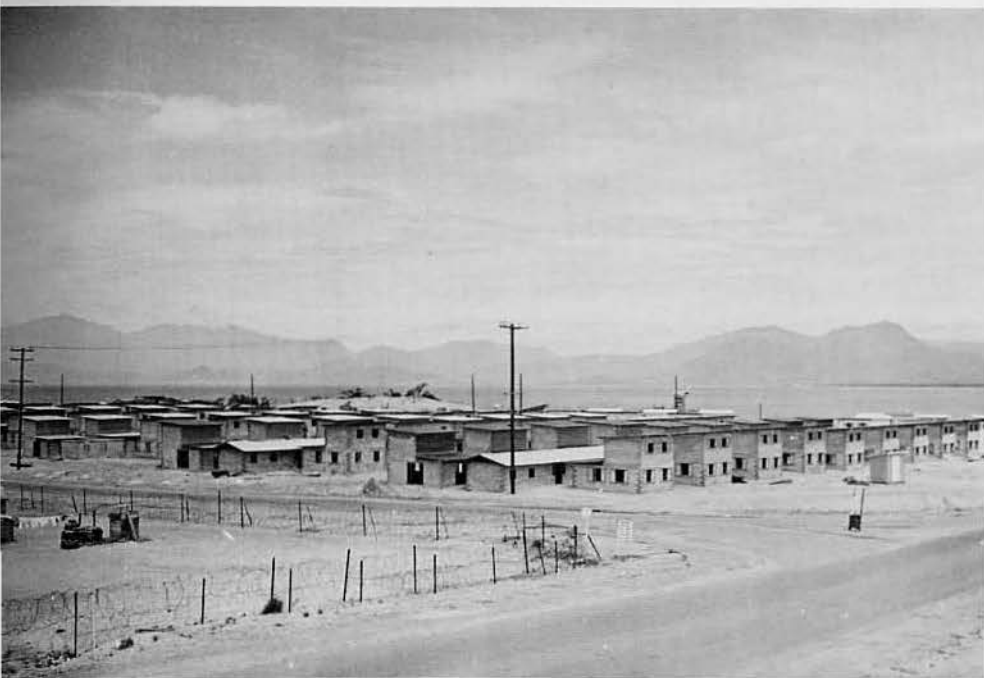
Below: BUCN Darryl Hannenburg, UT2 Donald Parmer, BUCN Mike Hiltwein, BUCN Ron Seefeldt





NAVCAT 3 VNNTC, CRB

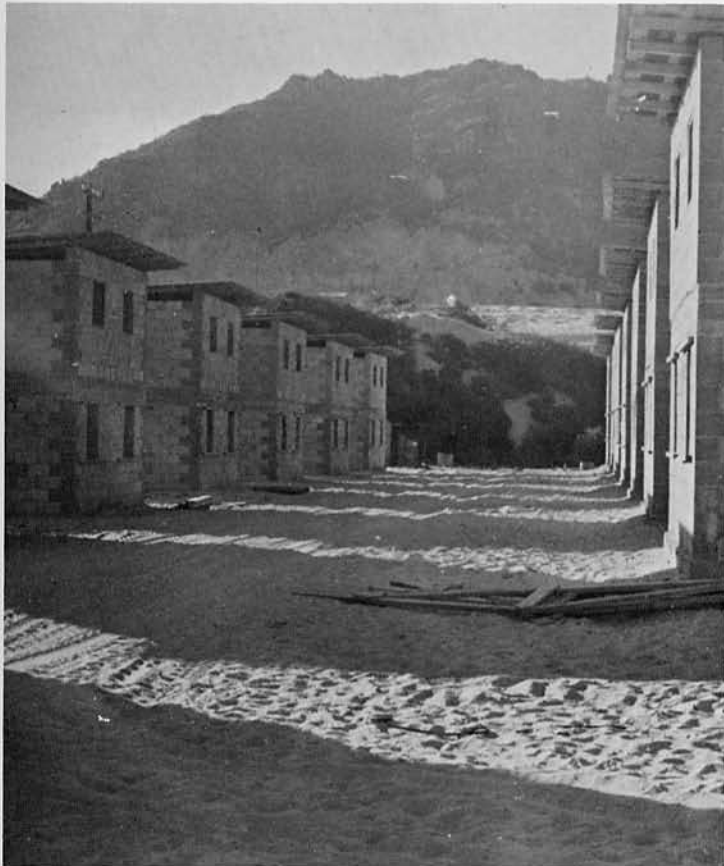
BUC Raymond Wall and his NAVCAT 3 were deployed to the Vietnamese Naval Training Center to construct Dependent Shelters, a chapel and 2 schools.







NAVCAT 3: BUC Raymond Wall, BU2 Marion Powell, BU3 Joseph Kline, BU3 Ron Serre, BU3 Bill Shean, BUCN Dane Martinez, BUCN J.L. Moll, BU2 Joseph Lanning, CE3 Ron Fann, CE3 D.A. Honea, CE3 J.R. Harris, CE3 James Medland, CECN B.A. Stilky, CECN Chuck Anderson, CECN George Reed, CM2 Leslie Thomas, CMCN William Jeter, EA3 Richard Roach, EA3 Darryl Melby, EA3 Louis Bayne, EACN Lee Ellsworth, EO3 Peter Poillon, EO3 Collin Galloway, EOCN Lion Ua, SW2 Frank Cappel, SW3 Virgil Cooke, SWCN J.R. Gindlesperger, UT3 Michael Boone, UTCN Earl Michel, BM3 T.K. Ledford, AN D.R. Hamilton, AN W.M. Gallagher, AN J.C. Gladman, AN R.K. Clasby, AN D.P. Hovis, AN K.L. Epperly, AN Eugene Mlynek, SN K.L. Farley, SN P.E. Frazier, SN P.L. Purvis, AN T.L. Green, AN P.M. Powers, SN R.G. Gates, SN L.C. Brown.





LTJG Dan Tomich



BUCS Richard Sage



BUC Herbert Oltz

NAVCAT 4 Thu Doc



Above from left:
E03 Wes Wescott,
E02 Danny Lenning,
CM2 James Kiles,
BUCN Jose Martinez,
SN Tom Hubert.

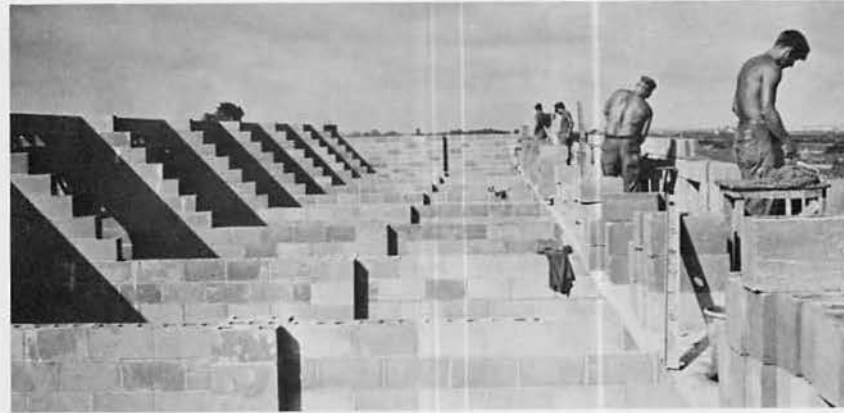
NAVCAT 4 at Thu Doc was deployed to construct Dependent Shelters for the Vietnamese Marines. They operated their own brick plant, where the VN Marines manufactured the bricks.

Below: SWCN Ken Causey, EA2 Bernard Schmidt, SN Jack Ivory, UT3 Herman Weathersford.





Above: BU1 Ed Balke, SW2 Bob Moser, BUCN Richard Thompson, BU3 Stan Formo, SN Fuller, SN P.A. Eakins, BUCN Howard Davis, SN King, AN D. Colon, EO3 William Rose, CN Jack Renner, CECN Joe McDonald, SN Bunyard, BU3 Billy Buck, BUCN Fred Evans, CECN Harold Fenly, BU3 Robert McKay, UT2 Robert Zera, UT3 Barry Litman, CMCN John Hott, BUCN George Vasquez, BU3 Chris Freeman, AN Dennis Partch, SW3 Martin Stuckenschneider, SN J.M. Aschman, CECN W.E. Jackson, UT3 Keith McGraw, HM3 Ken Botta, AN Kloster, SWCN James McDaniel, SN Jose Martinez, UTCN Richard Ryan, CMCN Harold Mars, AN Nance, AN Palomeras.





LTJG Mike Rosch



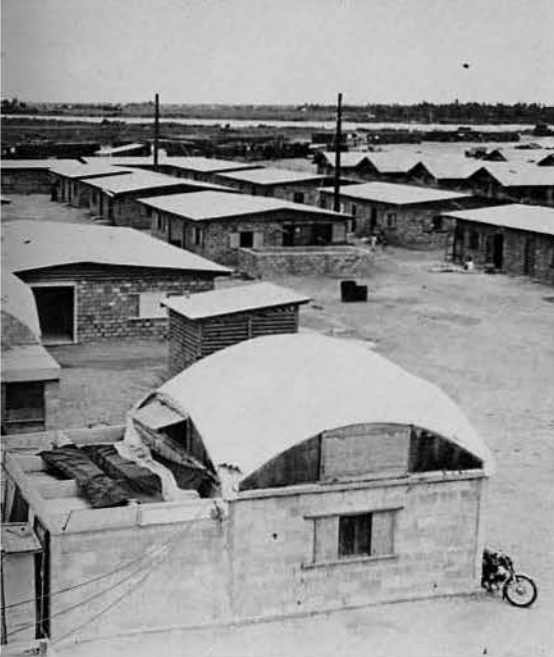
BUC Harold Spaulding



NAVCAT 5 Ben Luc

NAVCAT 5 was established to assist the VN Navy to develop a light construction capability to improve their self-sufficiency for construction in remote areas with emphasis on utilization of locally available materials. Specifically, the team was tasked with providing technical assistance in the construction of dependent shelters, utilizing materials, design, and construction methods, that would be most economical and expeditious in accomplishment.





Above: UT1 E.A. Shoemake, EA3 D.B. Smith, LTJG Mike Rosch, EACN R.G. Mason, CE2 Lorenz Mundell, CM3 Wayne Cole, BU2 Doug Powers, BU2 Steve Smith, AN Glenn Lindsey, BU2 William Curtis, BUC John Kubitzka, CECN Edward Rausch, UT3 Lara Walter, BU3 James Coakley, AN William McGowan, TN Ken Selby, BU3 Stephen Hiener, AN Merlyn Votaw, CN Don Sony, UT3 David Soller, BUCN Raymond Savoie, BUCN Russell Goff, AN Tim Kane, CE3 Randall Kuskie, BUCN James Koivisto, SN Richard Guinn, AN John Mudgett, SN Dudley Dixon, AN Dale Burkett



Third Row from left: CECN Dennis Catlow, BUCN Gene Wilfred, CN Tom Richards, SW2 Jordan Cupples, BU2 Steve Smith, BU3 S.J. Canter, UTCN Beonville Bullock. Second Row: UTCN Dominick Verdi, EA3 Bob Currington, CECN Willie Dunnican, BUCN James Koivisto, BU3 Ken Pond, UT1 Ed Shoemake, UT2 John Green. Front Row: BU2 Doug Powers, CE3 Randall Kuskie, CN Ken Day.



NAVCAT 6 An Thoi



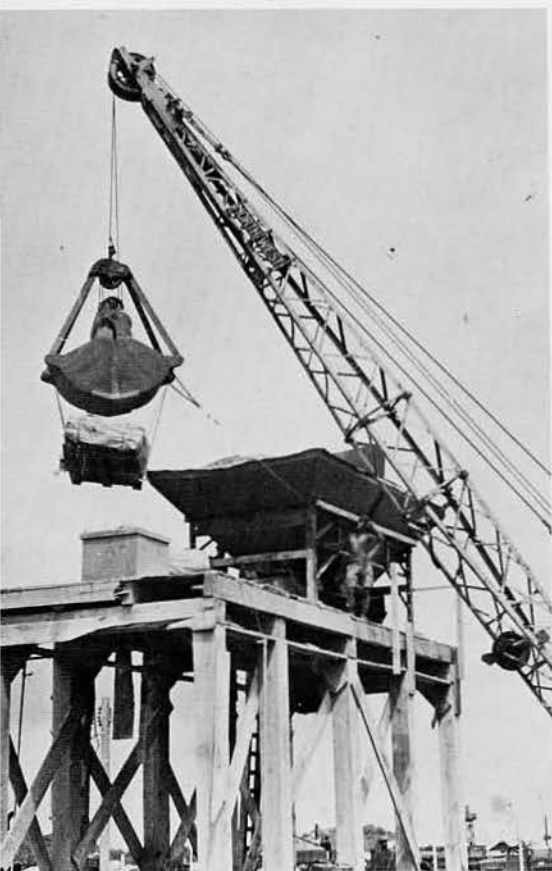
ENS James McKinney



LTJG Grover Jones



NAVCAT 6 on Phu Quoc Island off the coast of Vietnam was tasked with 197 units of Dependents Shelters.





NAVCAT 6: BUCN Danny Hodge, BU3 Tony Walzer, BU3 Eldon Clouse, CN Ramon Alfonso, CMCN S.G. House, CECN Bill Viergutz, CE3 Thomas Craig, SW3 Ken Decker, UT3 Leon Mitchell, BU3 Tom Bark, EO3 S.G. Kalkbrenner, EACN Phillip Miles, BUCN M.C. Smith, UT3 Ron Matthews, CE1 Bill Kleuser, CE1 Stan Felipe, EO3 Bob Mattison, CM3 R.E. Wilson, EO3 Darryl Benton, FN R.S. Lapant, FN J.B. Deardorff, SN H.J. Naquin, EOCN Tom Charbonneau, EA3 Joe Furio, BU2 Tony Kotla, EO2 Ken Hefty, CM2 Doug Mursch, CE2 John North, EA3 Frank Havens, BU2 Charles Bovair, SW2 Bob Kellam, BU2 Robert Ramey, SW3 Brad Renegar.

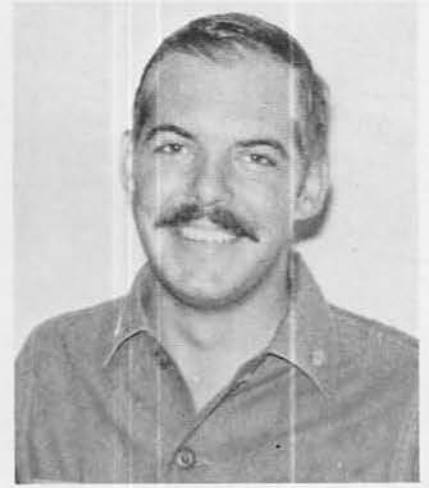


UTC Milton Westfall



Right: CMCN David Cox, BU3 Charlie Holling, SW2 Robert Smith, SWCN Johnnie Ritter.





LTJG Thomas Kearns



NAVCAT 7 Dong Tam

NAVCAT 7 at Dong Tam was deployed to convert existing barracks into Dependent Shelters by constructing heads adjacent to the barracks. Dong Tam is a frequent target of enemy attacks.





NAVCAT 7: BUC J.L. Meyer, BU1 L.R. Winona, BU2 D.W. Morgan, BU2 R.D. Rodgers, BU3 W.R. Hayhurst, BU3 M.E. Burns, BU3 C.O. Lout, BU3 Buzz Parkin, BU3 D.L. Stone, BU3 R.R. Hoffman, BU3 R.C. Hilsdorf, BU3 G.R. Armijo, CE2 Ralph Cunningham, CECN R.C. Harper, CE3 L.F. Eichmorn, CE3 W.A. Mulherin, CE3 L.D. Nelson, CE3 D.W. Harper, CM2 M.G. Roberts, CMCN N.A. Treadway, CN D.H. Campbell, EA3 P. Parizo, EA3 W.N. Andrews, EO1 J.E. Redmond, EO3 W.J. Strenth, EO3 T.S. Dilling, EOCN F.E. Meyer, SW3 I.A. Leach, SWCN A.W. Paulgen, UT3 J.E. Lemke, AN J.R. Burroughs, FN A.W. Rowell, SN R.L. Barr, FN A. Granillo, SN J.P. Rhue, SN R.L. Clewell, SN J.O. Bryant, SN D.J. Corbit, SN C.L. Forrest, SN A.R. Feike, SN D.E. Dubose, BMSN F.P. Lawrence, SN W.A. Olson, SN T. Anderson, FN J.L. Boudewyns, FN K.L. Nickels, FN P.M. Allkins, FN T.J. Glondo, FN J.M. Enger, AN Grinnell, FN J.R. Jones, FN G.R. Anderson, FN M.C. Balma, AN S.M. Powell, SN Tinsely, ETSN C.H. Gastman.



ENS John De Luca





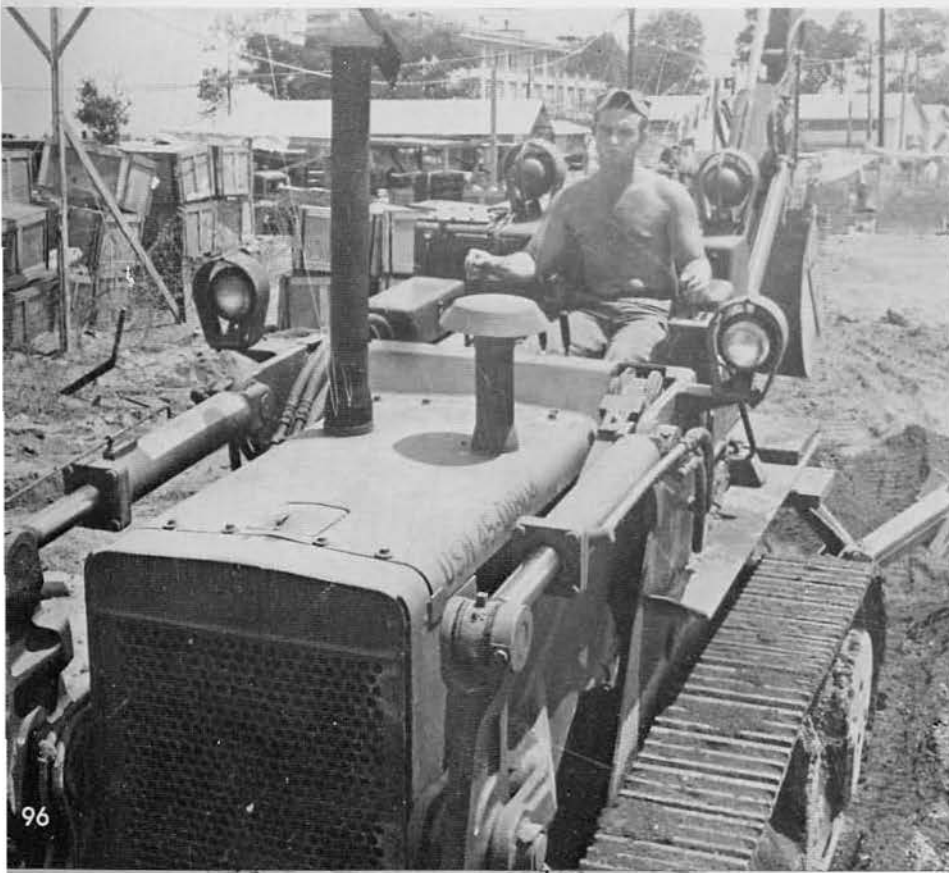
NAVCAT 8

Cuu Long

NAVCAT 8 at Cuu Long is engaged in Dependent Shelter Construction in the Saigon area. The Cuu Long team is noted for its exceptionally high Morale.



LTJG Robert Harman





NAVCAT 8: UT1 Ron Boerst, BU2 Ronald Bell, BU3 John Vandeweerd, BU2 Archie Ingram, BU3 Robert Hilsdorf, BU3 Tony Gross, BU3 Glenn Wright, BU3 Arthur Napiwocki, BU3 Ronald Campbell, BU3 Gary Cain, BUCN George Thompson, BUCN Ken Wilson, CE2 Douglas Hale, CE3 Lee Phillips, CE3 Ronnie Nelson, CM2 Bonifacio Garcia, CM3 Harris Babcock, EA2 Bob Spencer, EACN Terry Thurman, EO2 Donald Furman, EO3 Arch Benson, EOCN John Eakins, SW3 Danny Browning, SW2 David Busta, UT2 David Dravushak, UT3 Thomas Dible, CECN Gary Gingrow, CECN Robert Dodds, SN D.J. Craft, FN Harrow, AN Hillegas, AN Hoffman, FN Salgat





NAVCAT 9: LTJG Thomas Costello, BUC William Thorne, BU2 Ralph Ladner, BU2 R.D. Patrick, BU2 Ron Zohfeld, BU3 John Havican, BU3 David Thompson, BUCN Perry Camp, BUCN Burley Rodgers, CE1 C.D. Shirer, CE2 Manuel Rivera, CE3 A.L. Haulmark, CECN Terry Haggin, CM2 Darryl Turner, CM3 Dale Sterrett, CM3 Jerry Koudelka, EA3 C.E. Ferrel, EA3 Thomas Olson, EO3 Phil Bebbler, EO3 G.L. Nuehard, EO3 Brian Hollister, EOCN James Jager, SW2 Andrew Veal, SW2 Cecil McAllister, UT3 Ed Merkel, UT3 Robert Nickel, SN Onizuka, CN Brian Schonlank, SN R.W. Conrad, SN F.A. Broll, SN A.J. Hall, SN M.R. Montoya, AN P.L. Smith, AN J.M. Kendell, SN G.L. Haworth, SN G.B. Medeiros, SN D.R. Gieseler, SN D.R. Hawkins, AN M.M. Vergis, SN L.L. Craun, SN D.J. Williams, SN L.D. Wheeler, SN J.W. Webb, SN R.R. Stello, SN P.M. Lange, SN L.J. McClellan, FN R.D. Oppelt, SN D.H. Brown, SN Kallio, SN Riggs.

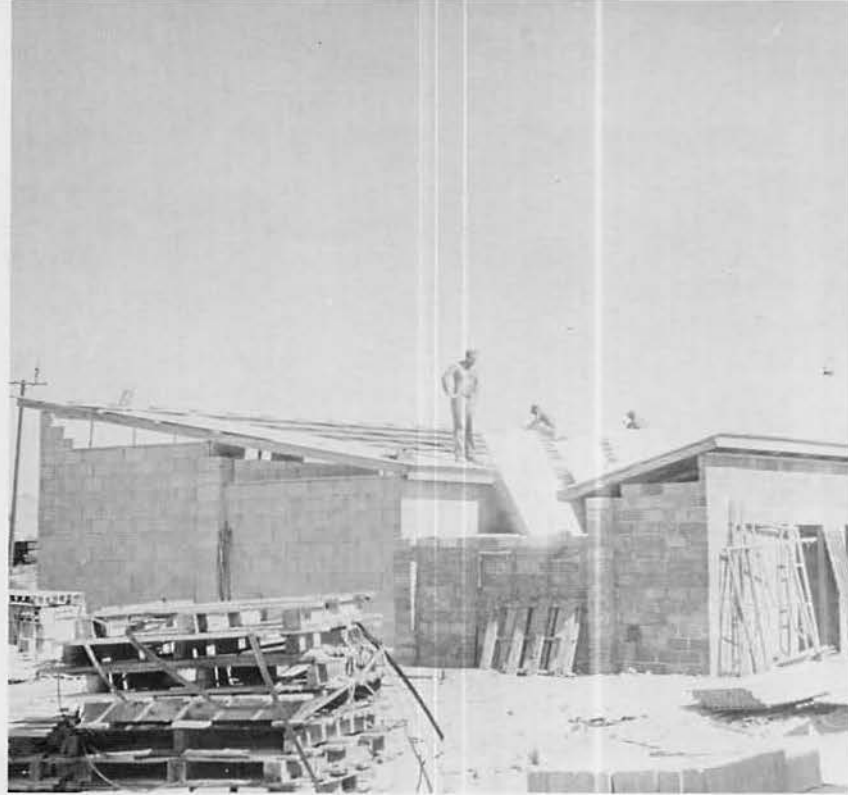




LTJG Thomas Costello

NAVCAT 9 Nha Trang

NAVCAT 9 at Nha Trang is located right on the beach opposite Hon Tre Island and directly across the highway from the Vietnamese Naval Training Center at Nha Trang.





BUC Walter Roberts



NAVCAT 11 Hon Khoi

NAVCAT 11 at Hon Khoi was the first to complete a VN navy dependent shelter site. NAVCAT 11 was under constant enemy harassment.





NAVCAT 10: BUC W.E. Roberts, BU2 Dennis Morgan, BU3 Ray McMahon, BU3 Anthony Reale, BU3 Ronald Hoffman, BUCN Stephen Stegall, CE3 David Cooper, CM2 Jody Malmgren, CM3 Richard Brady, EA3 Raymond Cueto, EACN David Harrington, EO3 Kenneth Nystrom, EO3 Michael Stratten, SWCN Robert Fisher, UTCN Leonard Lagemann, HM3 William Epperly, AN D.W. Dodson, AN F.P. Deckert, AN R.E. Fay, AN T.A. Tucker, AN C. Schaefermeyer, AN R.W. Neff, SN K.C. Norman, SN M.G. Mott, SN R.T. Tapia.



LCDR H. H. Harrell turning over Shelters to Vietnamese Officer in Charge.





NAVCAT 12

Binh Ba

NAVCAT 12 on nearby Binh Ba Island is located in the midst of the old French fortifications used to guard the entrance of Cam Ranh Bay.



Below Right: CE3 John Schroeder, BU1 Mike Carow, BU3 John Goodman, CSSN Scott Thompson





Above, Standing: AN Ray Jennings, CM3 John May, CE2 Tim Eckstein, CS3 John Orton, BUC Leonard Zierlein, CSSN Bryon Crane, AN Jeffrey Thornhill, AN John Liston, CECN Ray Corde, BUCN Ron Haigler.
 Kneeling: EA3 Randy Bond, BU2 Wayne Davis, AN Bob Underwood, EA3 Mago Peai, BU3 Bill Wagner, AN Javier Contreras, AN William Underwood, SN Bernard Andrijeski.





Rach Dua: SWC Daniel O'Shea, BU1 Harold Hartwig, BU3 Monty Moor-
man, BU3 R.M. Turstall, BU3 D.E. Davis, BUCN Allen Lance, BUCN
Thomas Broell, SW3 Terry Sparks, EO3 Jimmie Nolan, EO3 Charlie Mon-
roe, EO3 Darryl Benton, CM3 Bill Cole, CM3 Terry Lough, UT3 Robert
Lunsford, UTCN Marvin Phillips, EA3 Darwin Johnson, CE2 Joseph
Lovell, CE3 John Menslage, CECN Frank Lavezzi



NAVCAT 13

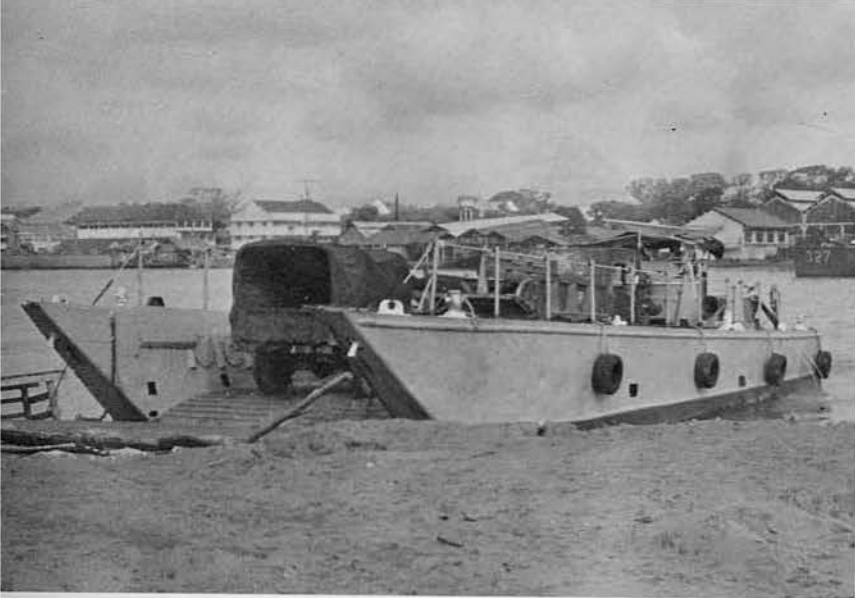
Rach Dua

NAVCAT 13 at Rach Dua is lo-
cated near the beautiful resort
city of Vung Tau.



SWC Daniel O'Shea





NAVCAT 14 at An Khan is engaged in Dependent Shelter Construction down the Delta region in support of the Vietnamese Navy.

NAVCAT 14: BUC James Blakemore, BU2 Bruce Szczepanski, BU2 J.R. Champo, BU3 Marion Allen, BU3 Roger Cooke, BU3 Charles Holt, BUCN James Mott, BUCN Robert Perrineau, EO3 Michael Bavin, EO3 David White, EO3 George Bajis, UT3 Ronald Brawner, HM3 Emil Diers, EA3 James Eidemiller, EA3 Richard Maness, CE3 Bryon Bond, CE3 Louis Monson, CECN Terry McWilliams, SW3 Robert Jacobsen, CM3 William Friant, CM3 Joseph Groves, BUCN H.L. St. Johns, EA3 J.H. Sargent, SN K.L. Dougherty, CE3 D.R. McCaffee, SN R.D. Duerr, SN A.E. Greene, SN Cortez, SN Ehrate, BM3 Totman, SN LaRue, BM3 Waugh.

NAVCAT 14 An Khan



BUC James Blakemore





ENS James Freeman

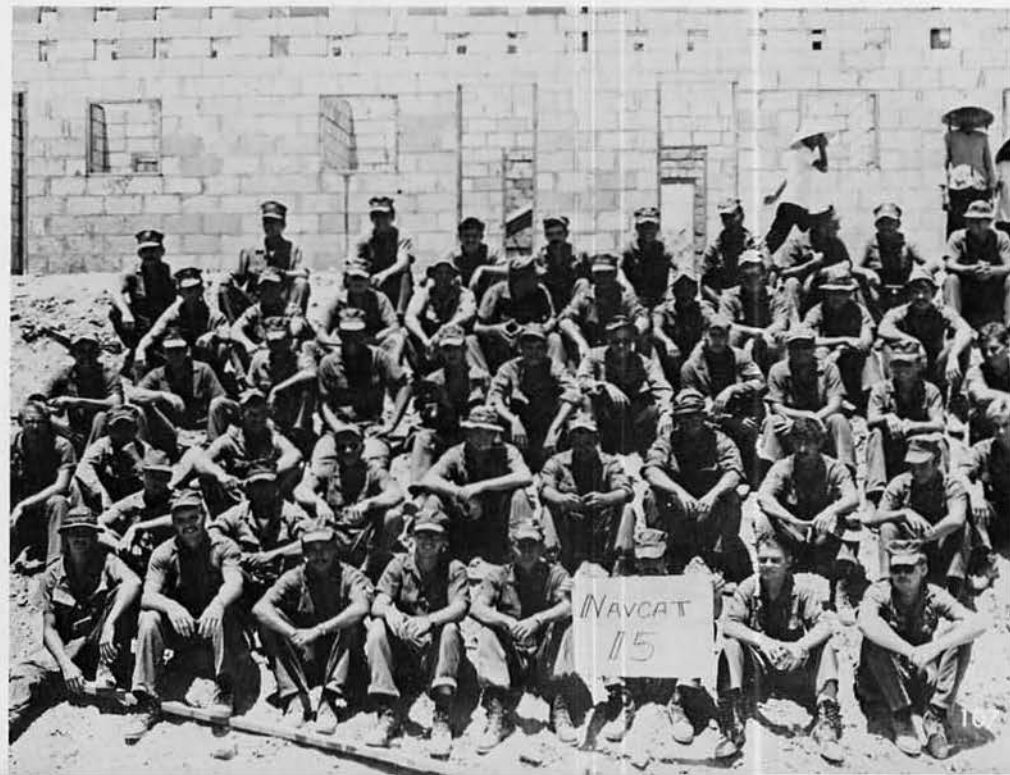
NAVCAT 15 Qui Nhon

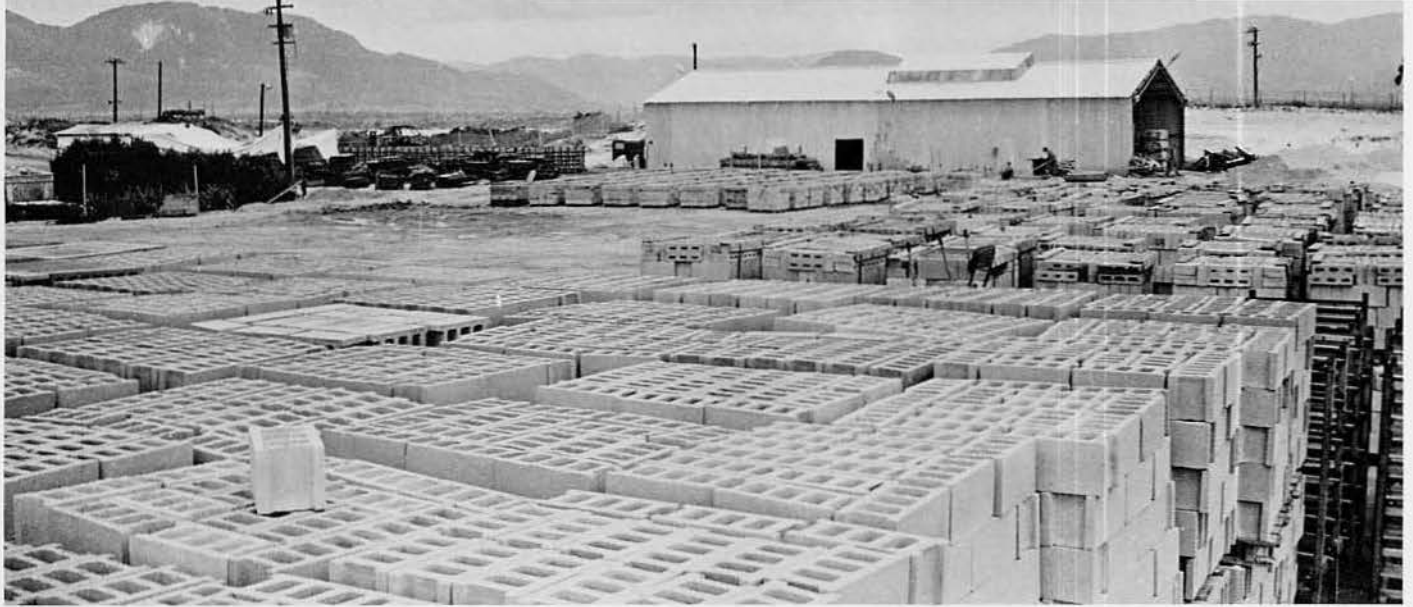
NAVCAT 15 at Qui Nhon is our northernmost detachment and the second of our NAVCATs to be completed. The site is at the end of a peninsula accessible only by boat.





NAVCAT 15: ENS James Freeman, UTC L.G. Anderson, SN D.J. Ascher, BUCN A.J. Blume, CE3 M.J. Bashford, SN E.D. Biedler, SN A.T. Bitsoi, SN T.W. Bowles, CECN J.R. Burkart, SN G.H. Bunyard, EACN J.D. Brickweg, SN G.L. Clifton, CE3 W.A. DeVaughn, SN M.E. Davis, FN A.P. Douglas, BU3 H.D. Fortuna, SN T.L. Frederiksen, SN W.F. Fanning, SN L.A. Godbold, BU3 D.J. Harvey, BU3 T.A. Harkless, FN R.N. Hansen, SN P.M. Hilton, EO3 J.W. Hennen, CN G.G. Herman, SN R.R. Jarvis, SN Johnson, SN J.J. Koss, EO3 M.J. Kleyer, UT3 D.B. Little, CM3 P.A. Menart, SN Michelet, SW2 R.W. Moore, BU3 S.R. Nice, EA3 P. Parizo, CE3 D.D. Robinson, EO3 J.L. Roviscanec, SN T.J. Rhodes, CE1 J.J. Shaffer, BU3 P.E. Schug, SN C.M. Sinclair, BU3 J.L. Schluter, BU2 R.L. Schlegel, BU2 A.L. Toering, EO3 D.D. Turner, BU3 N.R. Vierkant, BU3 D.L. Vos, SN L.R. Withington, SN R.L. Weddle, SN L.D. Willmott, CM3 S.B. Williams, BUCN K.L. Woodgate, UT3 R.L. Walters.





NAVCAT 16 NAF, CRB

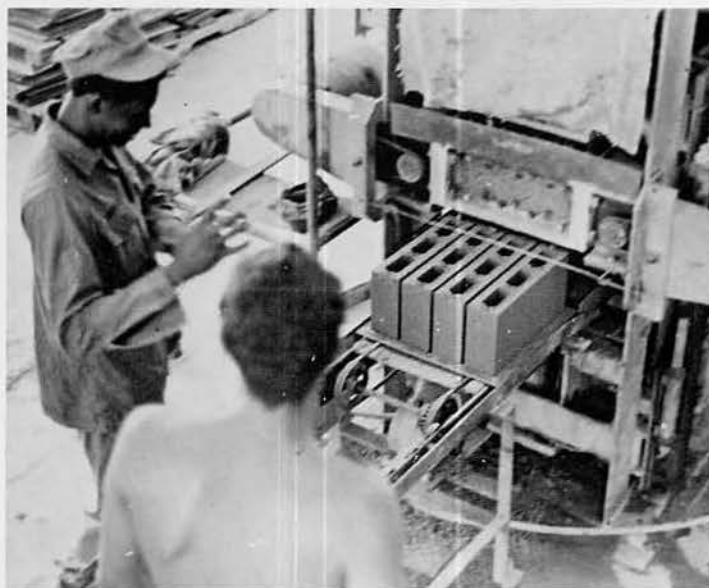
The II Corps NAVCATS are supplied with concrete block by our Block Plant at the Naval Air Facility here on Cam Ranh Peninsula. The plant maintains a 24 hour a day workload headed by WO-1 McDuffie. The Plant is housed in a Butler Building and can put out 720 bricks per hour.



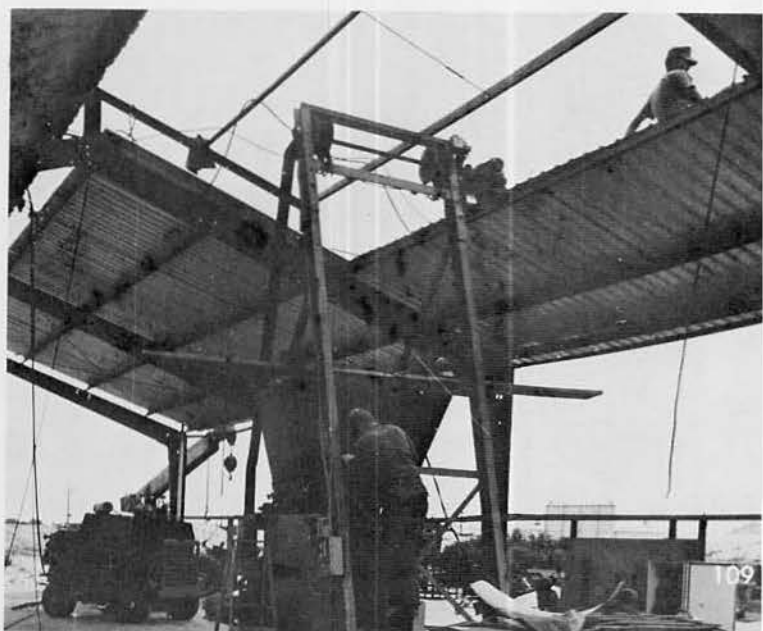
Below: UT2 John Pacheco, CMCN Dwight Benton, SN W.T. Furner, SN S.R. Bragg, SN C. Rodriguez, SN Gary Gearian, SN H.G. Stall, FN D.B. Beaumont, EOCN Dale Denman, SN Hall, SN F.K. Morehead, EOCN Darwin Denman, AN R.C. Rich, CM2 Miles Watson, CE3 J.F. Lockwood, SN Carl Halavac, SN D.P. Lange, SN John Baker, FN R.D. Oppelt, CN G.H. Miller, CN R.W. Acker, CM1 Ed Fayette.

W-1 Elmer McDuffie





NAF Block Plant Day Crew: EO3 Roger Jayness, EOCN T. Belser, SN Floyd Green, SN Larry Hockaday, SN M.R. Woodward, SN S.C. Rodriguez, SN R.M. Stephens, CM3 R.A. Mock, BM3 Curtis Rekkadal, MR1 Gerry Katzenstein, UTCN Bob Goode, CE3 Ken Bush, SN F.K. Morehead, BUCN Brian Schonlank, SN W.T. Ferner, SN David Howard, AN E.J. Seward, CM3 Albert Gronewald, BUCN J. Guiterrez, EOCN Dale Denman, SN Don Scozzari, CMCN Marion Beck.



NAVCAT 18

Saigon



W-1 Lee Boozel



The Saigon Block Plant, housed in a huge Wonder Arch in Saigon... supplies our detachments in Military Regions III, and IV Corps detachments of our Battalion. A Wonder Arch is a steel frame shelter without internal support, usually used for aircraft hangars or shelters.

The large crew under WO-1 Boozel maintains a 24 hour day production to keep up with our many Dependent Shelter... projects in MR III, and IV Corps.





The Saigon Block Plant: BU3 Andrew J. Matte, BUCN Jack Green, CE3 Thomas Dorfer, CE3 James Daniel, CE2 Kevin Haggarty, CE2 Jose Febo, CM1 Mark Creighton, CM1 James Nelson, CM3 John Miller, CM3 John Pool, CM3 Atilano Olivias, CM3 Fred Pierce, CM3 Eugene Thomas, CMCN Norman Nelson, CMCN Donald Crivello, CMCN Thomas Zeilenga, EO2 Gordon Falcon, EO2 Aubra Johnson, EO3 Dennis Mazurier, EO3 William Rose, EO3 Harry Soderlund, EO3 Albert Otts, EO3 Joseph Corcoran, EO3 Darwin French, EO3 Timothy Witherell, EO3 Richard Baker, EO3 William Meyers, EO3 Hugh Summerville, EOCN H.L. Bledsoe, EOCN J.R. Bledsoe, EOCN Joseph Garcia, EOCN Raymond Brennan, EOCN Donald Gooch, EOCN Ken Worland, EOCN Charles Gilchrist, EOCN Richard Doucette, EOCN Tim Hendrix, SW1 Robert Butcher, SW2 Dow Leja, SW2 Ronald Wilson, SW2 Charles Fletcher, SW2 Robert Smith, SW2 Charles Gowan, SW3 Robert Hicks, SW3 Leon Ponci, SW3 Michael Sasseen, SW3 Glen Gronewelt, SW3 Thomas Gawley, SW3 Lindon Webb, UT1 Gary Widener, UT2 Earl Brown, UTCN Marion Hill, UTCN H.D. Mosquera, AN H.D. Coffee, AN A.H. Braykovich, AN W. Green, AN H.W. Barnes, AN T.A. Schafer, AN D.N. Bankhead, AN D.N. Schevell, AN L.H. McCabe, AN P.P. Palczynski, AN J. York, FN B.P. King, ATR3 R.S. Hoyer, SN D.B. Stuart, SN F.C. Mosely, SN R.M. Cunningham, SN L.R. Garner, SN S.C. Tingalli, SN E.F. Struckmeir, SN L.J. Taylor, SN L.E. Booker, SN E.C. Frey, SN S.S. Jones, SN L.W. Lambert, SN S.C. Forseth, SN R.D. Duerr, SN W.W. Mullin, SN H.E. Greene, SN R.L. DuBois, SN P.D. Baltz, SN K.L. Daugherty.



ONG NAM HAI



The United States Seabees have performed a thousand and one impossible feats in the past 27 years of traditional "Can Do" firsts, and to keep up the pace, November brought our own CBMU 302, here in Cam Ranh Bay, a classic escapade.

On the beach just north of the Naval Communication Stations Receiver Site near here, in the middle of a monsoon rain with heavy winds and pounding surf, a whale was washed ashore on November 4th. To the Americans here the whale was nothing more than a big fish which we estimated at 6 tons, nearly 40 feet long, and dead approximately 2 weeks. Not too many of us got excited while driving by, but when the Vietnamese saw it . . . it was big news!

For many hundreds of years and very strongly to this day, the Vietnamese people have been loyal to many rituals, religions and types of worship which we find somewhat difficult to comprehend.

Traditionally, Vietnamese have been fishermen, and many different types of worship belong to fishermen alone. Among these is the worship of the whale which is quite interesting for those eager to understand different cultures.

When Commander Mack, senior advisor to the VNNTC, and Commander Hopp, Commanding Officer of the VNNTC, heard of the dead whale from the enthusiastic people of Cam Ranh Village, they immediately realized the importance and the need to rescue the whale from the threatening surf and get it to the village itself. Commander Mack immediately started looking for help, and ultimately realized this was work for the Seabees, so he called up our XO and CO for assistance in transporting the whale 8 miles to the village. When our CO recovered from the shock of the request ("We've got to move a whale tonight, can you help?") he reacted immediately and the whole project went into full swing.

One dozer, two dumps, two payloaders and other emergency equipment were all sent to the site. In the meantime about 40 Cam Ranh Village men and a few Seabees were already there ahead of the equipment, fighting the stormy beach trying to lash ropes around the whale to keep it from being swept out. It was lost once but returned. Headlights from the road above were used to provide light. Luckily no one was hurt. The odds were indeed great and personal danger was a constant threat. The determination the Vietnamese had for the rescue of the whale was simply fantastic.

When the equipment arrived, all the Seabees pitched in and valiantly, with the work led mainly by Senior Chief Kingren, managed to save the whale and place it in the trucks. It was too heavy and large to be lifted into a truck with the equipment we had, so with the permission of the Village Chief we cut it in half with a bulldozer and even then it was quite a task. The equipment operators' outstanding performance together with the quick men in the sand pushed the operation steadily through.

The two whale trucks were decorated with red silk over the cab to set off the occasion even more. With the two decorated trucks in the lead and about 60 people behind in various vehicles the procession looked rather unique and was perhaps the first of its kind in history.

The smell from the carcass was abominable, but with all the enthusiasm and determination of the sea-faring mob it mattered little how great the stench was.

Upon arrival at the village gate at 0200, all the village was fully awake and lining the sides of the streets in honor to the precious cargo. All of the sights were colorful indeed. Drums, horns, and singing accompanied the jubilant people. They all bowed in reverence and were deeply honored. Incense was burned and the whole affair was very orderly.



The trucks were skillfully driven down the winding narrow paths of the village to a carefully prepared burial place for the whale. The area immediately in front of the existing temple to Ong (whale) was chosen. After the carcass was placed on the ground it was incensed and stared at by the interested people for quite some time in the heavy rain.

Before the small group of Seabees left the village and the whale, some of us became quite attached. The elders and chief invited us into the temple. We were greatly intrigued and honored with the experience. Appreciation for our assistance was very sincerely expressed by the village priest, on behalf of his people. You see, now that Cam Ranh Village has the body of the whale, which they will prepare and venerate with their age old rituals, the village will now receive great honor and good fortune.

Three days later on the 7th of November, the village chief arranged for the village to give a feast for the men who rescued the whale to show their appreciation for our work.

The feast took place on the patio in front of the temple to Ong Nam Hai (The Whale Spirit of the Fishermen). We were greatly honored and taken care of, throughout the whole affair. Fifty feet away the whale was buried in a mound of sand about 6 feet high and braced on the sides with boards. The carcass will remain there for two years until it is time to dig up the clean bones for a place in their temple. Flags decorated the burial ground and frequently women would go up and offer incense or pray. We were fed roast pig prepared in different ways which was sacrificed that morning in the temple. The food was delicious.

We did not hear any music at that time in the afternoon. The veneration ceremony only takes place at certain times in the day. We all were proud to witness such an event and indeed gained much from the experience.

Most important, Ong Nam Hai did promote good luck and successful times just as he was supposed to.

The respect the Vietnamese of every fishing village in Vietnam have for the whale is especially unique in all respects. To begin with, just as every country has its legends and fables so also does Vietnam. Legends of how the whale has rescued shipwrecked fishermen are still told very vividly to this day. An old fisherman in Vietnam could tell you of many of his own adventures with the creatures of the sea. The Vietnamese fishermen have strong beliefs in taboos, legends and spirits of the sea.

To these people, the sea is a kingdom. The whale is the king and is always escorted by sharks, octopi, lobster and many warriors on all sides to defend against any attack. The mountain people or casual fishermen, would call a whale "Ca Voi" or simply Elephant Fish. To the people who respect the worship of the whale, it is "Ca Ong Voi" or Sir Elephant Fish. To the fishermen who worship and respect the mighty mammal, the whale is more emphatically "Ong Nam Hai".

There are still many fishermen who when going on their fishing outing, carry incense, and offerings to be sacrificed if a whale is sighted. When and if he is sighted, they immediately bow in reverence and offer incense.

It is interesting to note that these people have a great trust for Ong's assistance in times of distress. Even though they deeply respect the whale, they believe he has a duty to save them. If a person drowns, a nearby Ong who failed to come to the rescue will be killed by his warriors and they will seek a new Ong.

The first man to sight a dead whale either floating in the sea or washed up on shore has great honor bestowed on him. He immediately rushes back to tell the news and people come in hordes to save it. He is now called Son of the Fish. While at the village we saw him dressed in white and wearing a turban. The celebration for the people lasts as long as the money does. It is a rare occasion in any village in Vietnam. In fact, Cam Ranh now has its first whale ever since the village was formed nearly 100 years ago.

Cam Ranh Village is now a true fishing village, because of its having its own Ong. Before it had a temple, but the bones were borrowed from another village. Ong has often caused very serious disputes between villages, because of conflict over who is the real son of the fish. Up north, a whale was sighted floating at sea a few years ago. Fishermen attached ropes and towed it to shore to the mouth of a river which led to their village. While advancing up the river, they came upon a bridge. Rather than take the 2 minutes required to pass under the bridge, they took the whale many miles overland to an unobstructed river, so that no human being would have the authority to surpass Ong by walking above him.

The worship of the spirit in Ong is one of Vietnam's customs, and a large part of their culture are such customs. The Dragon to some is a symbol of power, the Unicorn one of Bravery, the Tortoise for Long Life, the Phoenix for freedom. The Vietnamese have different beliefs which must be respected as part of their culture. Next time your girl slaps on some of that expensive perfume, mention that you spent a year with people who worship, risk their life for, but would never touch the source of that exotic by-product.



Son of the Fish

For if the whale was never washed ashore to begin with, the Vietnamese and the particular group of Americans here in Cam Ranh Bay would never have been as mutually understood as they are now.

The respect the Vietnamese of every fishing village in Vietnam have for the whale is especially unique in all respects. To begin with, just as every country has its legends and fables so also does Vietnam. Legends of how the whale has rescued shipwrecked fishermen are still told very vividly to this day. An old fisherman in Vietnam could tell you of many of his own adventures with the creatures of the sea. The Vietnamese fishermen have strong beliefs in taboos, legends and spirits of the sea.

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Woman Offering Worship





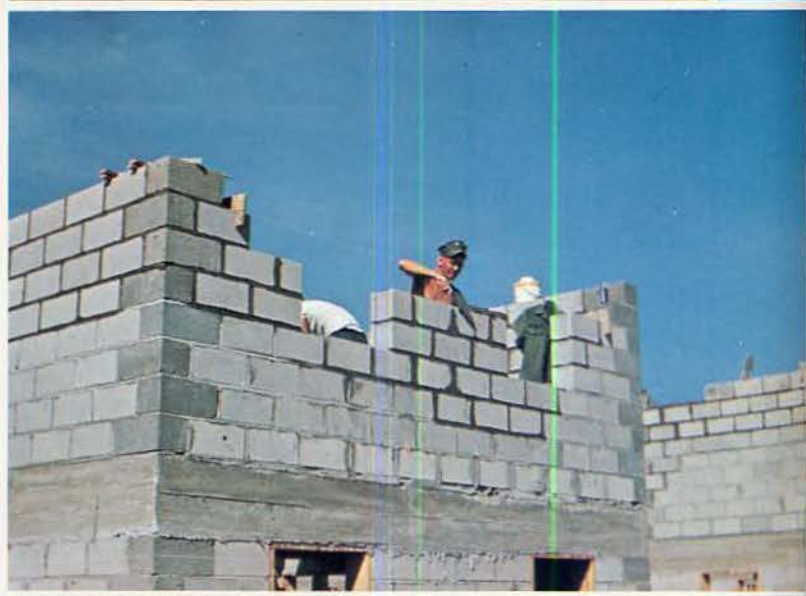
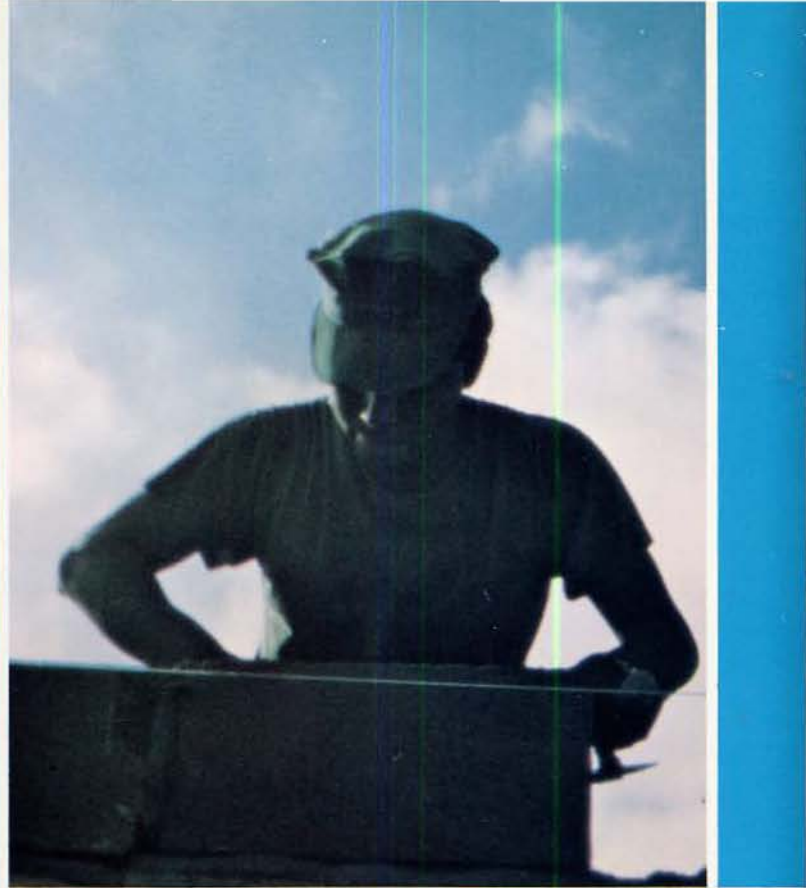
OFF DUTY

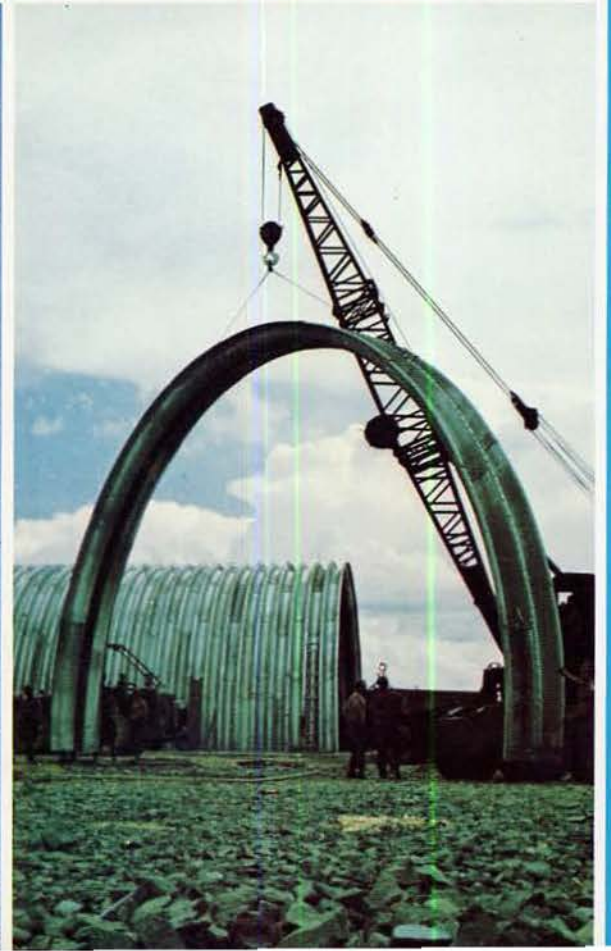




Distinguished Visitors







GETTING
THE
JOB
DONE



Seabee Awards:

In recognition of their fine achievements, many of CBMU 302's personnel have received various awards and medals.

Personal integrity and valor are qualities which are always appreciated and recognized by the military.

Bronze Star

LCDR H. H. Harrell
 LT P. F. Jacobs
 CE2 Jimmy Counts

Combat V
 Combat V
 Combat V

Seabee of the Month

January BU2 J. Payton
 February BUCN J. Green
 March EO3 E. Avery
 April BU2 T. Kotla
 May UT3 K. Rich

June BU2 C. Cooper
 July EO2 A. Moody
 August BU2 S. Smith

Navy Commendation Medal

SW2 Harry Conn
 BU2 George Jenkins
 BU3 Robert Hlebowicz
 BU2 Peter Knievel
 LTJG W. F. Underwood
 LTJG R. E. Kear
 EO3 George Bajis
 EO3 Timothy Dilling
 BU2 Willis Boss
 BUCN William Peck
 GMG2 Chris White
 SKC Johnny Richards
 LTJG Thomas Smith

Combat V

Good Conduct Award

CM2 James Hamm
 CSC Theodore Parker
 ETN3 P. Roquet
 CE1 Robert De La Cruz
 SK1 Feliciano Carbon

Navy Achievement Medal

LTJG K. L. Alexander
 SK3 Ron Horak
 UTC Warren Robinson
 YN2 Howard Johnson
 EO3 Richard Nesbitt
 PN1 Edgar Stewart
 BU2 Ronald Ohlinger



HELPING WHEN WE CAN





