



~~SECRET~~

**UNITED STATES
NAVAL MOBILE
CONSTRUCTION
BATTALION**



**U-S- PACIFIC
FLEET
SEA BEES**



**DEPLOYMENT COMPLETION
REPORT
WESTERN PACIFIC
APRIL - DECEMBER 1972**

U. S. NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION FIVE
FLEET POST OFFICE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 96601

S3:JRE:kwd
3000
1 March 1973

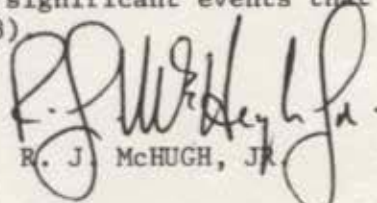
From: Commanding Officer, U. S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion FIVE
To: Distribution List

Subj: Deployment Completion Report; submission of

Ref: (a) COMCBPACINST 5213.1F
(b) COMCBPAC OPORD 2-72
(c) COM3ONCR OPORD 1-72

Encl: (1) Unit Location Summary
(2) Unit Moves Summary
(3) Significant Events Summary
(4) Administrative Summary
(5) Training Summary
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(11) Battalion Tent Camp
(12) ABFC - TSFC Construction
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(14) Lessons Learned
(15) Photographic Highlights

1. Enclosures (1) through (15) are forwarded in accordance with reference (a).
2. Unit Location. In accordance with references (b) and (c) NMCB FIVE was deployed to Camp Shields, Okinawa; Nam Phong, Thailand; the Republic of the Philippines; Taipei, Taiwan; Iwakuni and Atsugi, Japan; China Lake, California; and Guam. Enclosure (1) describes the unit locations and task assignments.
3. Unit Moves. NMCB FIVE deployed on 12 May 1972 and returned to homeport on 21 December 1972. Other unit movements during this period are summarized in enclosure (2).
4. Significant Events. A summary of significant events that occurred during the deployment appears as enclosure (3).


R. J. McHUGH, JR.

Distribution:

CNO (OPNAV 40.1F)	2
COMCBPAC	2
CINCPACFLT	1
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NAVFACENCOM (CODE 06)	1
NAVFACENCOM (CODE 063)	1
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COMNAVPHIL	1
COMNAVMARIANAS	1
COMSERVLANT	1
COM3ONCR	2
COM31NCR	2
COM2ONCR	2
COM21NCR	2
CBC PORHUE (CODE 17)	1
CBC PORHUE (CODE 15)	1
CO CBC PORHUE	2
CO NAVSCON PORHUE	1
CO NAVSCOLCECOFF	1
CESO	4
ALL NMCB'S	1
CO NCEL PORHUE	1
COMMANDANT USMC (CODE A4E)	1
ALL RNMCB'S	1
ALL RNCR'S	1

UNIT LOCATION SUMMARY

- A. Detail RAVEN Headquarters Support Activity Taipei, Taiwan
27 April 1972 to 27 May 1972 and 21 September 1972 to 20 December 1972
1 Officer/42 Enlisted

Detail RAVEN was tasked with the construction of a new library extension and alterations to two wings of an existing barracks building in the HSA East Compound. Work on the barracks commenced prior to the contingency mount out in late May. Upon redeployment to Taipei in September the detail was tasked with the construction of four duplex cabins at the Camp McCauley Beach Area and completion of the barracks rehab job. No work was performed on the library extension.

- B. Detail FALCON Naval Weapons Center China Lake, California
10 May 1972 to 25 May 1972 and 15 September 1972 to 20 December 1972
1 Officer/33 Enlisted

Detail FALCON deployed to China Lake in May tasked with building a mobile home trailer park. During the two weeks before the contingency redeployment, demolition of existing structures and clean up of the area was completed. Upon the return of FALCON in September the tasking included the completion of that trailer park project as well as directing self help projects at both China Lake and Fallon, Nevada.

- C. Detail HAWK Naval Station Subic Bay, Republic of Philippines
30 April 1972 to 9 June 1972
2 Officers/99 Enlisted/30 Enlisted from NMCB THREE and NMCB ONE THIRTY-THREE

Detail HAWK was tasked with completion of the P-703 Housing relocation project from Sangley Point to Subic Bay that was commenced by NMCB FIVE Detail CLYDESDALE in July of 1971 and continued by NMCB ONE THIRTY-THREE Detail WALLABY. Detail HAWK was also tasked with constructing the P-3 Rinse Rack at Cubi Point and providing the Naval Magazine Subic Bay with 29 men to load and transport ordnance. Detail HAWK was not reestablished after completion of the Nam Phong projects as NMCB FORTY had taken over the assigned workload.

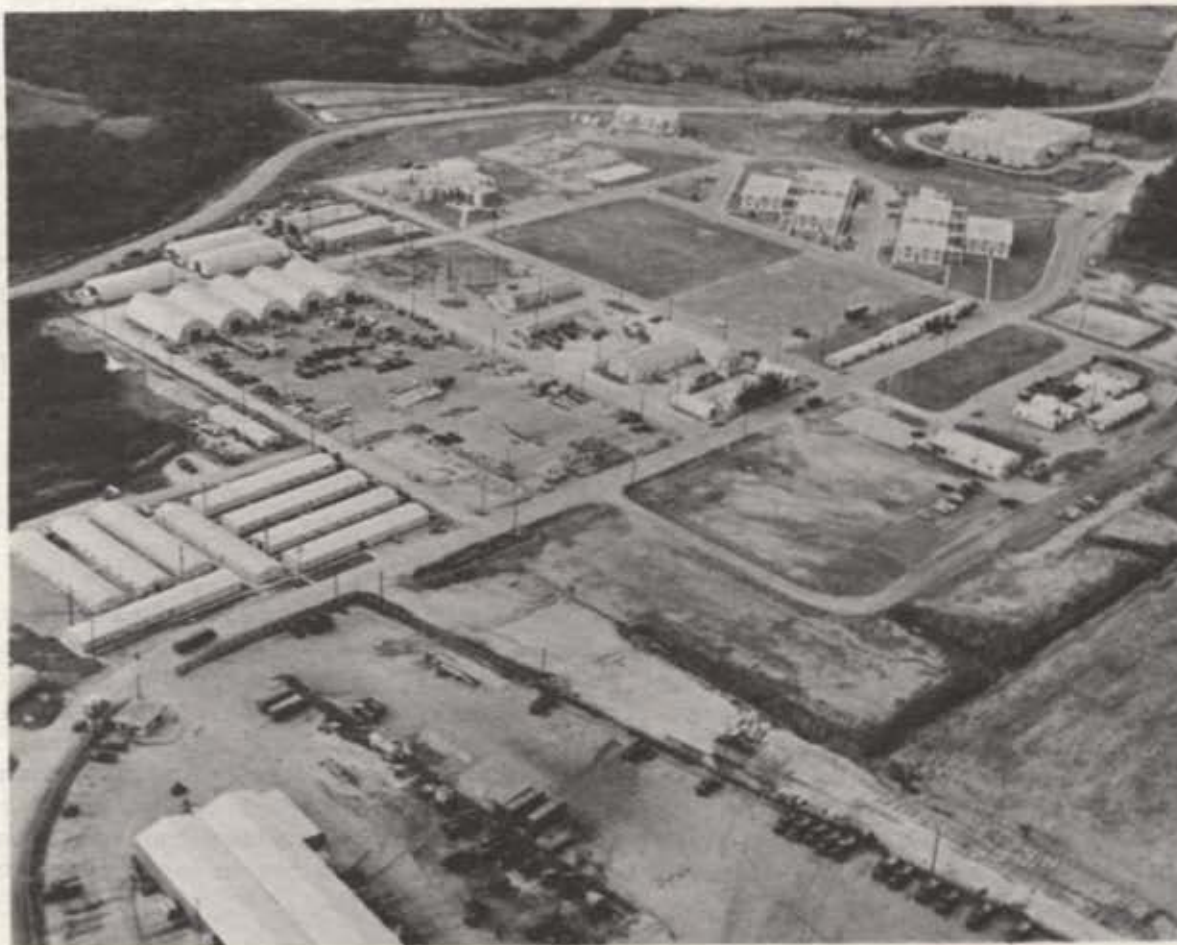
- D. Equipment Cycling Detail MCAS Iwakuni, Japan
30 April 1972 to 20 December 1972
0 Officer/2 Enlisted

One Construction Mechanic and one Equipment Operator took custody of the construction equipment at the Seabee Compound at Iwakuni, Japan and were tasked with maintaining that equipment in good condition and accepting new equipment when it was received there. It was planned that a construction detail composed of Detail FALCON would be sent to Iwakuni in late July or August tasked with construction of the Confinement Facility and a Marine Corps Exchange Warehouse Building. The combination of the redeployment of the entire Battalion to Thailand and some delays on completion of the plans and specifications for the Iwakuni projects dictated that NMCB FIVE would not undertake any construction at the site.

E. NMCB FIVE Main Body Camp Shields, Okinawa
14 May 1972 to 1 June 1972 and 7 September 1972 to 20 December 1972
19 Officers/400 Enlisted

The Advance Party deployed to Okinawa in late April to perform the BEEP and prepare for relieving NMCB-133 as the Pacific Alert Battalion. Although the Battalion was tasked with construction projects at MCAS Futema, Naval Facility White Beach, Ammunition Supply Point-Two and within Camp Shields, very little productive effort was expended on these projects in May as the Battalion concentrated on preparing to mount out an Air Detachment and the Main Body.

Upon return to Okinawa in September the Battalion was tasked with reopening the jobs at the sites mentioned above. Additionally NMCB FIVE took on the very important task of receiving a new tent camp, equipment, repair parts, tools, and supplies shipped back from Thailand and from Port Hueneme with the goal of organizing and preparing this material into Alert Battalion Status.



F. Detail EAGLE Nam Phong, Thailand
26 May 1972 to 1 June 1972
3 Officers/94 Enlisted

Detail EAGLE was the name given the Air Detachment that mounted out to Nam Phong with the task of establishing a base camp for the Main Body of the Battalion and commencing work on some operational requirements for the air field. Detail EAGLE brought the tent camp with it from Okinawa as well as the Air Det equipment and supplies. Before the Detail was disestablished by the arrival of the Commanding Officer and elements of the Main Body, the camp area was well under construction, work had commenced on pioneering of an ammo storage facility and construction of a TAFDS, and MLO had started its monumental task of receiving, storing and issuing material for all the projects.

G. Main Body "MCAS ROSE GARDEN" Nam Phong, Thailand
1 June 1972 to 7 September 1972
23 Officers/515 Enlisted/29 Enlisted Men Augment from NMCB FOUR

NMCB-5, as the Pacific Alert Battalion, was tasked with mounting out from its main body site in Okinawa and detail sites in California, Taiwan and the Philippines to Nam Phong, Thailand, to establish its own self-sufficient base camp and conduct construction support to Task Force Delta, an element of the First Marine Air Wing. Included in the construction tasking were: tactical and bulk fuel farms; ammunition dump and ready issue point; cantonment for 3000 men including berthing, messing and shower facilities; communications center; helicopter apron; expanded fixed wing apron; hangar and maintenance facilities; hospital/dental facility; squadron, group and task force administrative areas; base maintenance and supply areas; 20-mile road system; electrical power distribution and water storage, purification and distribution systems.



- H. Detail HABU Camp Shields, Okinawa
1 June 1972 to 7 September 1972
0 Officer/29 Enlisted

Detail HABU was tasked with maintenance of Camp Shields and all of the construction equipment located there as well as support to the main body at Nam Phong, Thailand, by expediting supplies and repair parts.

- I. Delay Party "MCAS ROSE GARDEN" Nam Phong, Thailand
7 September 1972 to 20 December 1972
4 Officers/134 Enlisted

The Delay Party was tasked with placing Soil Cement and a Double Bituminous Surface Treatment on the 4 1/2-mile Ammunition Haul Road as well as completion and final work on all roads and drainage systems. Additionally, MUSE generating stations and power distribution systems were constructed at the flight line and in the cantonment area. In October, most men redeployed to Okinawa leaving 1 Officer and 10 enlisted men behind to do minor maintenance on the equipment..

- J. SELF-HELP Detail NAF Atsugi, Japan
11 October 1972 to 8 December 1972
0 Officer/7 Enlisted

Five Builders and one Steelworker under the direction of a First Class Builder were tasked with placing 150 small slabs to serve as foundations for small tool sheds in the housing area. Additionally, one 42'X80' slab was placed.

- K. Detail GOSHAWK Camp Covington, Guam
7 November 1972 to 20 December 1972
0 Officer/27 Enlisted

Detail GOSHAWK, made up of 12 BU's and 16 EO's, was sent TAD to NMCB FORTY on Guam to assist with the finish construction work on the landscaping and final road preparation prior to asphalt paving.

- L. SEABEE TEAM 0520 Ponape, Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands
19 June 1972
1 Officer/12 Enlisted

Tasked with civic action projects and construction assistance for the island villages and people. Projects included the reconstruction of buildings damaged during typhoon Lola, dredging for a pier, construction of a Sokehs Municipal Building, road construction through a dense rain forest and a water system for Potopot Kitti Municipality. Additionally, the Hospital Corpsman treated hundreds of patients of the outer areas of Ponape.

- M. SEABEE TEAM 0521 Truk, Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands
19 June 1972
1 Officer/12 Enlisted

Tasked with civic action projects and construction assistance for the island villages and people.



UNIT MOVES SUMMARY

- A. 27 April 1972. Detail RAVEN's advance party departed Port Hueneme for Headquarters Support Activity, Taipei, Taiwan.
- B. 28 April 1972. Okinawa advance party comprised of 5 Officers and 110 men departed Port Hueneme for Camp Shields, Okinawa.
- C. 30 April 1972. Detail HAWK's advance party of 1 Officer and 20 men departed Port Hueneme for NAS Cubi Point, Republic of Philippines.
- D. 30 April 1972. Advance party left Port Hueneme for MCAS Iwakuni, Japan to BEEP equipment at that site.
- E. 10 May 1972. Detail FALCON's advance party deployed to NWC China Lake to prepare berthing areas and organize for commencement of project.
- F. 12 May 1972. NMCB FIVE main body deployed from Port Hueneme to Camp Shields Okinawa. Included on main body flight to Okinawa were the men of both Details HAWK and RAVEN. Detail HAWK continued on same aircraft to Cubi Point in the Philippines.
- G. 15 May 1972. Detail FALCON deployed to NWC China Lake from Port Hueneme.
- H. 18 May 1972. Detail RAVEN deployed from Camp Shields, Okinawa to HSA Taipei, Taiwan.
- I. 25 May 1972. Detail FALCON redeployed to Port Hueneme from China Lake in preparation for the Battalion redeployment to Thailand.
- J. 26-27 May 1972. Detail EAGLE, Air Detachment, mounted out to Nam Phong, Thailand with Air Det equipment, tools, supplies, and entire Battalion tent camp city.
- K. 26 May 1972. Twenty-seven Equipment Operators, a portion of Detail HAWK, returned to Camp Shields from the Philippines to assist in the mount out operation.
- L. 30 May 1972. Detail RAVEN returned to Okinawa from HSA Taiwan.
- M. 1-3 June 1972. C-141 cargo flights loaded primarily with pallets of supplies, tools, repair parts or equipment carried the main body of the Battalion, 8-14 men per flight to Nam Phong, Thailand.
- N. 3 June 1972. Detail FALCON along with men designated to deploy to Adak for Self Help jobs, Fleet Transfers and recent graduates of formal schools arrived in Thailand after a circuitous flight across the Pacific.
- O. 9 June 1972. The balance of Detail HAWK that had not returned to Okinawa arrived in Nam Phong on a C-141 flight from Cubi Point.
- P. 19 June 1972. Seabee Teams 0520 and 0521 deployed to Guam for indoctrination and to await further transportation to the Islands of Ponape and Truk.

- Q. 27 June 1972. Twenty-nine men, volunteer Construction Mechanics and Equipment Operators from NMCB-4 arrived in Thailand after several days of flight across the Pacific from Port Hueneme.
- R. 13 August 1972. The augment detail from NMCB-4 and 18 men from NMCB-5 due for separation or transfer departed Nam Phong for NAS Point Mugu, California.
- S. 21 August 1972. One Officer and 13 enlisted men departed Nam Phong for Camp Shields to reopen barracks and galley.
- T. 31 August 1972. Five Officers and 82 enlisted men redeployed to Camp Shields from Nam Phong to reopen the camp and construction projects.
- U. 6-7 September 1972. Eight Officers and 190 enlisted men, comprising the Main Body, redeployed from Nam Phong to Camp Shields, Okinawa.
- V. 15 September 1972. Twenty-six men of Detail FALCON deployed from Nam Phong to NAS Point Mugu for further transit to NWC China Lake.
- W. 21 September 1972. Twenty-seven men assigned to Detail RAVEN deployed from Okinawa to Taipei, Taiwan for further transportation to Camp McCauley.
- X. 11 October 1972. Seven men assigned to a Self-Help Detail deployed from Okinawa to NAF Atsugi, Japan.
- Y. 14-15 October 1972. 110 men and 3 Officers assigned to Delay Party returned to Camp Shields from Nam Phong.
- Z. 7 November 1972. Detail GOSHAWK deployed from Okinawa to Guam to assist NMCB-40 in completion of Camp Covington.
- AA. 4 December 1972. Advance Party redeployed from Camp Shields, Okinawa to Port Hueneme to prepare for the return of the Main Body and to organize the Battalion homeport training program.
- BB. 8 December 1972. Self-Help Detail returned from NAF Atsugi, Japan, to Camp Shields, Okinawa.
- CC. 15 December 1972. Remaining personnel from Nam Phong, Thailand returned to Okinawa.
- DD. 18 December 1972. Detail RAVEN returned to Camp Shields, Okinawa in preparation for redeployment to CONUS with Main Body.
- EE. 21 December 1972. Main Body returned to Port Hueneme, California on four separate flights.

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS SUMMARY



- A. 17-20 April 1972. Exercise Sky-Move 1-72, a simulated Air Detachment mount out was conducted at CBC Port Hueneme.
- B. 27-30 April 1972. Advance parties deployed from Port Hueneme to future sites in Okinawa, Main Body; Taiwan, Detail RAVEN; Subic Bay and Cubi Point, Detail HAWK; and Iwakuni, Japan.
- C. 1 May 1972. Turnover procedures including the BEEP of battalion equipment commenced at all sites in preparation for relieving NMCB-133.
- D. 5 May 1972. First message received alerting the THIRTIETH Naval Construction Regiment, and the Alert Battalion that a contingency construction operation was a possibility.
- E. 8 May 1972. Commander R. D. KEEGAN relieved Captain D. W. WITTSCHIEBBE as Commander, THIRTIETH Naval Construction Regiment in a formal ceremony at Camp Shields, Okinawa. RAdm R. E. FOWLER, CTF 72; Capt BARTLEY, Chief of Staff COMCBPAC; Cdr G. L. Smith, C. O. NMCB THREE were in attendance.
- F. 10 May 1972. Cdr R. J. McHUGH JR., Commanding Officer, U. S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion FIVE arrived at Camp Shields. The BEEP between NMCBs FIVE and ONE THIRTY-THREE was formally completed.
- G. 11 May 1972. RAdm S. C. REEVE, USN, visited Camp Shields and met with Supply Corps Officers of the Regiment and both Battalions.
- H. 14 May 1972. Main Body flights carrying personnel for Okinawa, Taiwan and the Philippines arrived at Kadena Air Force Base. NMCB FIVE officially relieved NMCB ONE THIRTY-THREE as the Pacific Alert Battalion.
- I. 15 May 1972. Okinawa reversion day to the government of Japan. Japanese National Ensign flown above Camp Shields along with the United States Ensign.
- J. 17 May 1972. Cdr R. J. McHUGH JR., and Ltjg J. R. EVANS departed from Okinawa with BGen A. W. O'DONNELL and members of the staff of III MAF and the FIRST MAW for Bangkok and Nam Phong, Thailand, on a site survey of the future deployment site.
- K. 21 May 1972. Cdr G. L. SMITH, C. O. NMCB THREE, LCdr O. L. OLSEN, S-3, NMCB THREE visited Camp Shields to attend planning conference. Cdr R. J. McHUGH JR., returned from site survey to Nam Phong.
- L. 22 May 1972. LCdr J. R. COSTON, Planning Officer for COMCBPAC visited Camp Shields to assist in embark and mount out planning.
- M. 22 May 1972. LCdr O. L. OLSEN, designated as COM3ONCR REP (FORWARD), visited the FIRST Marine Air Wing in Iwakuni, Japan.
- N. 26 May 1972. The first flights of Detail EAGLE, the Air Detachment, departed from Kadena for Nam Phong, Thailand.
- O. 29 May 1972. Cdr D. O. SMART, C. O. of RNMCB-15 and two men from his Battalion visited NMCB FIVE at Camp Shields.

- P. 31 May 1972. Air embark of main body, baggage, equipment, tools, and supplies commenced from Kadena Air Force Base to Nam Phong. An average of 10 C-141 missions were loaded and flown each day.
- Q. 1 June 1972. Cdr R. J. McHUGH JR. deployed from Camp Shields to Nam Phong, Thailand at which point the Flag was shifted to the forward site.
- R. 2 June 1972. Lt General L. METZGER, Commanding General III MAF, Capt C. C. HEID, Chief of Staff COMPACNAVFAACOM; and Capt W. E. WYNNE, OICC THAILAND, visited the job sites at Nam Phong.
- S. 3 June 1972. With the arrival of Detail FALCON, Fleet Transfers and Rear Echelon personnel from the CONUS, and the completion of air missions from Okinawa, the majority of the Battalion was on site at Nam Phong, Thailand. Only the outsize pieces of equipment shipped via sealift and one half the personnel of Detail HAWK, still in the Philippines, were not on board.
- T. 6 June 1972. Cdr SEIGEL, R30, and Cdr YOUNG, R40, from COMCBPAC visited the Battalion at Nam Phong.
- U. 7 June 1972. Major General BROWN, Commanding General, FIRST Marine Air Wing, visited the base and toured the job sites. Commander BLIGH, from COMUSMACTHAI also inspected job sites.
- V. 10 June 1972. Brigadier General A. W. O'DONNELL arrived at Nam Phong and took command of Task Force Delta and the Nam Phong Air Base.
- W. 16 June 1972. First tactical mission flown by MAG-15 of Task Force Delta.
- X. 27 June 1972. Rear Admiral W. M. ENGER, Commander Naval Facilities Engineering Command and his official party visited the Nam Phong Base and inspected the job sites and Seabee Camp area.
- Y. 30 June 1972. Rear Admiral D. G. ISELIN, Commander Construction Battalions, U. S. Pacific Fleet visited Nam Phong. At this time he toured the job sites and awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation to members of Details Clydesdale, Mustang and X-Ray for the efforts in the Philippines during the previous deployment.
- Z. 1 July 1972. Major General BROWN, Commanding General, FIRST Marine Air Wing visited Nam Phong Air Base.
- AA. 10 July 1972. Captain D. A. BARTLEY, Chief of Staff, COMCBPAC; Captain W. E. WYNNE, OICC THAILAND; Commodore KEEGAN, COM3ONCR, visited the Seabee Camp and inspected the job sites.
- BB. 12 July 1972. General GIBBONS, Chief of Staff, COMUSMACTHAI, visited Nam Phong Air Base.
- CC. 15 July 1972. LtGen L. METZGER, CG III MAF, visited Nam Phong for an inspection tour and the formal dedication ceremony of the base.

- DD. 16 July 1972. Rear Admiral MOORE, COMFAIRWESTPAC visited Nam Phong.
- EE. 20 July 1972. LCdr E. T. SMITH, R60, from the THIRTY-FIRST Naval Construction Regiment visited the Nam Phong Base with an inspection team to conduct the annual equipment administrative inspection and decide on future disposition of equipment from Nam Phong.
- FF. 25 July 1972. Commodore R. D. KEEGAN, COM3ONCR, visited job site to inspect progress and to discuss the project completion schedule and redeployment plans for the Battalion.
- GG. 27 July 1972. Major General FEGAN, CG THIRD Marine Division, visited the Nam Phong Base.
- HH. 27 July 1972. NMCB FIVE named Best of Type of Pacific Naval Construction Force for fiscal year 72 by RAdm D. G. ISELIN, COMCBPAC.
- II. 1 August 1972. Base officially named as Royal Thailand Air Force Base Nam Phong.
- JJ. 1-7 August 1972. The Commanding General Task Force Delta, Brigadier General A. W. O'DONNELL attended Battalion morning quarters during this week to brief each company individually on Marine air operations from the Nam Phong Base.
- KK. 10 August 1972. Honorable B. J. SHILLITO, Assistant Secretary for Defense Installations and Logistics inspected the construction projects at Nam Phong with his official party. Major General BROWN, CG FIRST Marine Air Wing also visited the site that day.
- LL. 17-19 August 1972. Commodore R. D. KEEGAN, COM3ONCR visited the Seabee Camp and inspected projects.
- MM. 21 August 1972. Capt W. E. WYNNE, OICC Thailand; Capt R. F. JORTBERG, OICC RVN visited job sites and Seabee Camp.
- NN. 25 August 1972. The Miss America USO Show performed at Nam Phong.
- OO. 31 August 1972. Advance party redeployed from Nam Phong to Camp Shields.
- PP. 4-10 September 1972. Commander SEIGLE, R30; Commander HINKLE, R40, of COMCBPAC visited the Battalion at both Nam Phong and Camp Shields, Okinawa.
- QQ. 6-7 September 1972. Main body flights returned to Camp Shields from Nam Phong.
- RR. 14 September 1972. LtGen L. METZGER, CG III MAF addressed the Battalion at Camp Shields to welcome the men back from Nam Phong and congratulate them on their timely construction support.
- SS. 15 September 1972. Detail FALCON redeployed to CONUS to reopen project at NWC China Lake.



BGEN. A.W. O'DONNELL, CG TASK FORCE DELTA.



RADM W.M. ENGER, COMNAVFACENCOM, inspected the job sites in June 1972.



RADM D.G. ISELIN, COMCBPAC, toured the "Rose Garden" in June 1972.



LTGEN L. METZGER, CG III MAF, welcomed the Seabees back to Okinawa after the successful completion of construction projects at Nam Phong.

- TT. 21 September 1972. Detail RAVEN deployed to Taiwan from Camp Shields. RAVEN started new duplex cabins at Camp McCauley and prepared to take over barracks alteration job in Taipei.
- UU. 11-17 September 1972. Visitors this week to Nam Phong included Admiral N. GAYLER, CINCPAC and Captain W. E. WYNNE, OICC Thailand. Commodore R. D. KEEGAN visited Detail RAVEN in Taipei, as did Commander R. J. McHUGH JR. on his return from Nam Phong.
- VV. 2 October 1972. Commodore KEEGAN, COM3ONCR visited Delay Party at Nam Phong.
- WW. 3 October 1972. Master Chief WELBORN, Seabee Senior Enlisted Advisor, visited the Delay Party at Nam Phong.
- XX. 5-7 October 1972. Commander R. J. McHUGH, JR. visited Delay Party at Nam Phong.
- YY. 6 October 1972. Commodore KEEGAN, COM3ONCR visited Detail RAVEN construction sites at both Camp McCauley and Taipei, at the HSA East Compound.
- ZZ. 16 October 1972. Captain A. L. DOMINY, CHC USN, COMCBPAC Chaplain visited Detail RAVEN and toured the Camp McCauley area.
- AAA. 16-19 October 1972. Major SEYMOUR, Training Officer COM31NCR visited Camp Shields to discuss and plan the Battalion's homeport training schedule.
- BBB. 18-22 October 1972. Chaplain DOMINY visited the Battalion at Camp Shields.
- CCC. 19-31 October 1972. Commander R. J. McHUGH, JR. departed on TAD to COMCBPAC, COM31NCR, Detail FALCON and NMCB-40.
- DDD. 21 October 1972. Master Chief WELBORN visited the Battalion at Camp Shields.
- EEE. 4 November 1972. Captain R. D. KEEGAN, COM3ONCR visited Detail RAVEN in TAIWAN.
- FFF. 7-10 November 1972. CUCM A. R. WILLIAMSON, SEA for COMCBPAC visited the Main Body camp and job sites in Okinawa.
- GGG. 10-12 November 1972. CUCM A. R. WILLIAMSON, SEA of CBPAC and CUCM M. S. COSTER, SEA NMCB FIVE visited Detail RAVEN at both the Camp McCauley and HSA Compound sites.
- HHH. 14-17 November 1972. Lt DAILEY, Administrative Officer from COMCBPAC, Visited Camp Shields to conduct the Administrative Inspection.
- III. 14-17 November 1972. Commander HINKLE and SKCS FERNANDEZ from COMCBPAC visited Camp Shields to perform the Annual Supply Inspection.
- JJJ. 21 November 1972. RAdm G. REIDER, Commander FIRST Reserve Naval Construction Brigade and Cdr F. KELLY, of NAVFACENCOM visited Detail RAVEN project sites in Taipei and Camp McCauley.

- KKK. 27-28 November 1972. Captain BARTLEY, Chief of Staff COMCBPAC, and Captain KEEGAN, COM3ONCR visited Detail RAVEN in Taiwan.
- LLL. 28-30 November 1972. Captain BARTLEY visited the Main Body at Camp Shields in Okinawa.
- MMM. 29 November 1972. UTCN D. KOSKI, air evacuated to Clark AFB from Taipei, Taiwan due to a head injury sustained on the job site in Taipei.
- NNN. 8 December 1972. Self Help Detail at Atsugi, Japan completed the project and returned to Camp Shields, Okinawa.
- OOO. 8 December 1972. Started erection of three CRAFT-TECH buildings at Nam Phong, Thailand.
- PPP. 8 December 1972. NMCB THREE Advance Party arrived at Kadena Air Force Base Okinawa.
- QQQ. 9 December 1972. BEEP commenced at Camp Shields, Okinawa.
- RRR. 12-13 December 1972. NMCB THREE Advance Parties arrived in Taipei, Taiwan, and Iwakuni, Japan to commence BEEP and project turnover procedures.
- SSS. 15 December 1972. NMCB THREE personnel arrived in Nam Phong, Thailand in preparation for relieving NMCB FIVE.
- TTT. 16 December 1972. Cdr G. L. SMITH, Commanding Officer NMCB THREE arrived at Camp Shields, Okinawa.
- UUU. 20 December 1972. NMCB THREE deployed to Camp Shields, Okinawa and relieved NMCB FIVE as the Pacific Alert Battalion.
- VVV. 20-21 December 1972. NMCB FIVE redeployed to Port Hueneme, California, from deployment and commenced the 96-hour liberty and 30-day leave period.



ADMINISTRATIVE SUMMARY

A. PERSONNEL SUMMARY

GRADE	MB	ATTACHED BUT NOT AT SITE							CHANGES+		TOTAL ASSIGN
		DETS	SEABEE TEAM	REAR ECH	TRNG	HOSP	TAD	LV	RCPTS	TRANS	
E-9	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
E-8	6	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	2	10
E-7	28	1	2	1	4	0	1	0	5	7	43
E-6	46	11	4	3	5	0	0	3	14	24	86
E-5	70	16	10	6	1	0	2	2	13	37	120
E-4	106	37	8	6	2	0	1	2	20	122	182
NON RATED	145	31	0	3	1	0	0	0	80	53	260
TOTAL	402	96	24	19	14	0	6	7	133	245	701
OFF	17	3	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	24

+ TOTALS FOR DEPLOYMENT

B. REENLISTMENT SUMMARY

SEPARATIONS							
SEPARATION INTERVIEWS		ELIGIBLE FOR REENLISTMENT		NOT RECOMMENDED FOR REENLISTMENT		REENLISTMENTS	
NON CAREER	CAREER	NON CAREER	CAREER	NON CAREER	CAREER	NON CAREER	CAREER
23	18	22	11	1	7	19	3

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES ENROLLED COMPLETED

OFFICER COURSES	25	0
ENLISTED COURSES	98	63
USAFI COURSES	16	0
USAFI ENGLISH	12	0
USAFI ALGEBRA	5	0

EXAMINATIONS ADMINISTERED PASSES

E-4 MILITARY	52	39
E-5 MILITARY	46	33
USAFI	0	0
GED	3	

NAVY ADVANCEMENT EXAMS ADMINIST ADVANCED PNA SELECTED FAILED

E-7	44	0	15	0	29
E-6	35	0	16	2	17
E-5	44	18	2	16	8
E-4	40	25	0	13	2

ADVANCED IN RATE DURING DEPLOYMENT

E-2	28
E-3	24
E-4	21
E-5	12
E-6	3
E-7	1
E-8	2
E-9	0

B. PERSONEL DISTRIBUTION NAM PHONG, THAILAND:

		E-9	E-8	E-7	E-6	E-5	E-4	E-3	E-2	TOTAL
GROUP VIII	EO	0	1	3	8	15	27	32	5	91
	CM	0	0	2	4	12	15	12	5	50
	CE	0	1	4	5	9	16	5	5	45
	UT	0	0	2	6	6	12	14	0	40
	BU	1	3	5	11	14	45	18	4	101
	SW	0	1	2	4	11	13	10	2	43
	EA	0	0	1	1	1	3	8	0	14
S-1	PN	0	0	1	1	1	1	2	0	6
	YN	0	0	0	1	1	1	3	0	6
	PC	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2
	PH	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
	JO	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
S-2	GM	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
	RM	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
	ET	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
S-4	SK	0	0	1	3	2	5	0	0	11
	SH	0	0	0	1	3	1	1	0	6
	CS	0	0	1	1	2	6	2	1	13
	SD	0	0	0	2	1	3	1	1	8
	DK	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	3
MEDICAL	HM	0	0	1	5	3	1	0	0	10
DENTAL	DT	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2
MISC.	MR	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
	HT	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	3
	BM	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	4
NONDESIG.		0	0	0	0	0	0	7	4	11
TOTAL		1	6	27	56	92	151	117	28	478

C. DISCIPLINE SUMMARY:

	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
MAST	7	3	6	11	2	5	6	5	45
AWARDED NJP	6	3	5	10	2	3	6	5	40
AWARDED COURT-MARTIAL	0	0	1	1	0	2	0	1	5

Deployment of the battalion to an isolated region placed additional pressures on the men involved. The austere living conditions, the long working hours, the decreased communication channels, and the curtailed liberty opportunities apparently lead to personal frustrations which were reflected in the activities of legal department.

OFFENSES:

Fifty-eight percent of the offenses were violations of Article 86: Unauthorized absence. An additional fifteen percent of the violations were the result of disobeying an order of the Commanding General of Task Force Delta regarding unlawful fraternization with the natives. The remaining twenty-seven percent of the violations included miscellaneous offenses concerning theft, service discrediting behavior, and disrespect to commissioned officers. Two cases alleging drunkenness with associated offenses of assault and misappropriation were referred to courts-martials. Four cases charging unlawful possession of marijuana were heard at Captains Mast and were subsequently processed for administrative discharges.

In addition to the six cases reported primarily for intoxication it became evident at investigative hearings that many offenses were the proximate results of overindulgence. Cases involving unauthorized absence in particular were usually found to be connected with heavy drinking prior to the offense.

COUNSELLING:

Approximately 50 percent of the counselling performed by the legal officer concerned dependency problems, and usually involved divorce proceedings. 25 percent of the counselling addressed financial planning, drawing up wills, and establishing power of attorney documents. The remainder of the legal assistance involved administrative discharges, notarizing, and adoption laws.

Most problems involving divorce proceedings and bill collections were stopped, consistent with the Soldiers and Sailors Civil Relief Act, until the concerned party could better represent himself in the U.S. Cases regarding notarizing, powers of attorney, and routine legal assistance were handled directly by the Battalion legal referral officer. The more complex legal dilemmas were directly referred to the Staff Judge Advocate attached to the 432 Combat Support Group located in Udorn. The counselor located there made special arrangements to meet with NMCB FIVE personnel on Sunday afternoons or as required in cases

demanding immediate attention.

In general, it appears that many men stationed at Nam Phong encountered notable difficulty in maintaining adequate communications with their wives and with their creditors. This situation led to misunderstandings particularly in the area of financial management. Overdrawn bank accounts, late installment payments, and requests for additional family support were the three most common problems encountered in this area.

PROCEDURE:

There were few procedural problems encountered in conducting NJP or Summary Courts-Martial hearings while the Battalion was deployed to Nam Phong. Officers qualified to conduct these hearings were readily available and expeditiously adjudicated these matters.

Hearings which required the assistance of duly qualified Navy lawyers presented some difficulty during disposition. Prior to the establishment of a legal office at the Marine Headquarters, these cases were referred to the Air Force Staff Judge Advocate in Udorn for initial counselling. Cases which required more detailed attention were forwarded to the THIRTY-FIRST Naval Construction Regiment for disposition.

D. MEDICAL:

Most of the Battalion's deployment was spent in either Okinawa, where an established medical facility and basic sanitation were present, or Nam Phong, where a field condition existed. This report will be devoted for the most part to the latter and will deal with sanitation, the physical aspects of the medical department and the care rendered.

Latrines consisted of the basic burn-out oil drum type. When cared for with a basic daily schedule, as recommended in sanitation manuals, they were more than sufficient.

Because the sanitary habits of Americans differ from Orientals (they squat on the commode), it was necessary to provide separate facilities for the local people working for the battalion.

Urine disposal was handled with a urine soakage pit and again when prepared in the manner described in the sanitation manuals they were adequate. Problems only arose when gravel fill rather than large crushed rock was used to fill the pit.

Garbage and rubbish disposal was contracted to local Thais. After collection, the refuse was disposed of in a completely open pit in a manner not measuring up to U.S. standards.

Galley food storage and food handling were more than adequate for field conditions. When screening of the messing areas was completed there was a noticeable decrease in the amount of diarrhea treated.

The field dispensary consisted of two strongbacked tents with water supplied from a water buffalo. In one structure, administration, a treatment room, a minor surgery room, a laboratory, and the pharmacy were located. In the second structure, x-ray and supply were situated.

Heat, moisture and dust were a continuous problem. Storage of drugs was next to impossible. After being exposed to temperatures of 100 to 120 degrees fahrenheit, medications such as tetracycline lost potency. Any bottle on which the seal was broken resulted in deterioration of the drug. The minor surgery room was partially enclosed with the hope of controlling dust but this in effect did nothing but cut circulation and make the heat unbearable.

The x-ray unit was set up in a second strongbacked tent. The dark room for developing film was a total enclosure without ventilation making it a "sweat box". Voltage fluctuations reduced the effectiveness of the x-ray unit.

A solution to some of the above mentioned problems might be accomplished by equipping a modular unit so as to provide a dispensary that would be immediately available with an x-ray unit, small laboratory, enclosed minor surgery room with running water, and a temperature controlled pharmacy unit, similar to that provided in a dental trailer.

After the initiation of the deployment many "old" medical problems arose. These included referrals for psychiatric and alcoholic problems that surfaced during the deployment. Most of these "old" problems should have been taken care of during the homeport period.

An outbreak of Japanese B Encephalitis occurred in Nam Phong. It should be pointed out that the SEATO research laboratory is available upon request and in the above instance SEATO did an outstanding job of properly identifying the problem and suggesting proper preventative measures which included spraying, screening in gathering places and mosquito netting.

Venereal disease was a prevalent problem in Thailand. A mandatory homeport V.D. education program perhaps could have alleviated some of the problem. With the help of public health officials in Udorn, Thailand, an attempt to identify and treat contacts was made. This effort was for the most part a failure because there was no way to control contacts in the local area near the tent camp.

	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	TOTAL
OUT-PATIENT VISITS	145	718	1080	863	443	454	382	4085
ADMITTED TO QTRS.	2	18	65	43	7	8	7	150
QTRS. PATIENT DAYS	9	30	123	60	19	23	19	283
LABORATORY TESTS	32	120	330	365	201	308	325	1681
PHARMACY UNITS	81	349	411	373	272	191	181	1858
X-RAYS	27	126	107	137	0	42	176	615
V.D. CASES	0	11	40	16	12	9	2	90

E. DENTAL:

The redeployment of NMCB FIVE from Okinawa to Nam Phong, Thailand, created many challenges for the officers and men of the battalion. One such challenge was to provide complete dental care in this remote area. The mobile dental unit-

a 50-foot mobile van complete with two operatories, x-ray unit and cavitron was embarked to Nam Phong for use at the tent camp.

On 25 May, the dental department was informed that the mobile dental unit would be shipped the next day. The trailer was prepared for shipping in six hours. The total shipping time from Okinawa to Nam Phong was 24 days. During the period 2 June through 20 June before the trailer arrived, a field dental unit was set up in sick bay to treat any dental emergencies.

Upon arrival of the trailer, four days were needed to level it, install a water source, hook up the electrical power and complete repairs on damage which occurred during shipping.

The trailer was in operation from 25 June through 15 August. During this time, 275 amalgam and resin restorations were placed, 3 endodontic cases were completed, four dentures were repaired and 25 teeth were extracted. Also, 176 prophylaxis and scalings with complete plaque control instructions were performed.

The trailer was inoperable for 5 days during this period due to equipment failure. The air compressor was down a total of 4 days, the high speed evacuation system was down 1 day and minor problems continued occurring throughout operations. Many of the elements within the trailer had to be changed weekly due to an accumulation of dust and other foreign particles. Air and water filter units might have reduced this problem. Each problem was solved as quickly as possible with complete cooperation of mechanics from Alfa Company and maintenance crew from Bravo Company.

The mobile dental unit proved to be a vital asset to the redeployment of NMCB FIVE. It not only provided complete dental facilities, but also proved to be a morale builder. The men in the Battalion appreciated the fact that a modern, clean dental facility was available to them in a field environment.

F. CHAPLAIN SUMMARY:

Soon after the main body arrived in Okinawa, the Chaplain packed up his ecclesiastical gear and 300 library books for shipment to Nam Phong. Once in Thailand, Catholic and Protestant services were conducted in the circus tent mess hall every Sunday morning. A Catholic Chaplain from a mission in Khon Kaen said Mass when the Task Force Delta Catholic Priest was not available. The attendance at both services averaged 75 men. A group of 15 Mormons held weekly meetings in the church library at Nam Phong. Upon return to Okinawa, Sunday services were held in the quonset hut chapel at Camp Shields. Attendance at the Protestant services averaged 40 while the Catholic Mass averaged 25.

While in Thailand, FIVE participated in a Civic Action Program through voluntary donations to missions near Nam Phong. Handmade craft items such as grass mats, hammocks and wood carvings, made by leprosy patients at the Maranatha Bible School and Leprosy Clinic, were purchased by Seabees. Income from these sales coupled with chapel offerings amounted to a total of \$1,500.00 for the clinic.



Chaplain DUMAS held Sunday services in the Galley Tent.

G. PUBLIC AFFAIRS SUMMARY:

The Public Affairs Office was staffed with a three-man nucleus of a Journalist First Class, a Photographer's Mate First Class and the Assistant Operations Officer who was assigned the job of PAO as a collateral duty. This group was augmented by three different men at various points in the deployment. In Nam Phong one man from the Engineering section who had an interest and ability in photography assisted in shooting and processing pictures. The office was also staffed with a Builder Third Class who had art and layout experience prior to joining the Navy. When this man was released from active duty he was replaced by an Engineering Aide with similar experience.

In Okinawa the PAO office and photo lab was set in one half of a quonset hut. In Nam Phong the facilities were set up in one half of a strongbacked tent. A dark room was built within this tent and air-conditioned as the enclosed area became a "sweat box" in which photographic paper and chemicals deteriorated rapidly.

The Public Affairs Office published one familygram every month for the families and men of the Battalion. Pictures were emphasized in this publication though a minimal amount of copy and captions were added to complete the explanation of the Battalion's deployment site, construction mission and operations. Additionally, regular features were run each month which included articles by the Commanding Officer, the Senior Enlisted Advisor, the Chaplain and the

Career Counselor. In Okinawa these familygrams were printed at the Navy Printing Office, which is located on Camp Shields. In Thailand the layouts were taken to a publisher in Bangkok for printing. Due to the originally classified nature of the deployment to Thailand, no news releases were permitted by the senior command, COMUSMACTHAI. This official silence about conditions in Thailand led to some misunderstandings and uneasiness for the families in homeport. The monthly arrival of the Familygrams helped ease these tensions.

Additionally, the "Tent City Telegraph", an intra-Battalion newspaper, was put together, edited and published for the men in Nam Phong. A Welcome Aboard brochure was designed and printed that has been used to introduce new men to the functions and personalities in the Battalion as well as to commemorate the winning of the Best of Type "E," symbolic of efficiency. Finally, a deployment cruisebook of 176 pages, including a 16-page color section and 32 pages of special effects, was published through the New China Color Printing Agency in Taiwan.

The flow of news via the Familygram was supplemented by special stories and news releases that covered awards ceremonies, project completions and particularly interesting or unique aspects of the construction work. As noted above, considerable difficulty in getting releasing approval was initially encountered in Bangkok at COMUSMACTHAI. However, in July, after persistent application, a few articles were cleared for release.

H. CIVILIAN PERSONNEL:

Soon after arrival on site it became clear that the construction effort would be expedited if personnel in the Group VIII ratings could be relieved of the non-construction jobs which the battalion was required to staff, e.g. mess cooks in the galley and material handlers in the MLO yard. In addition, the U.S. Ambassador to Thailand required that Thai drivers be utilized for all U.S. military vehicles travelling on off-base highways. Consequently, the Department of the Air Force Civilian Personnel Field Extension Office at Udorn Royal Thai Air Force Base was contacted and, utilizing established procedures for hiring Thai Nationals and funds allocated for the purpose, 20 cook helpers, 10 warehousemen and 2 drivers were hired. The original selection and hiring was done by the department which required the personnel. However, it was quickly evident that centralization was required to coordinate the administrative functions of hiring, timekeeping, payroll accounting, etc., resulting in the assignment of this function to the Battalion S-2.

The success of the program during the first few weeks and the fact that Thai construction workers under OICC contract were doing outstanding work led to expanding the original conception to include the hiring of construction workers. Procedures were modified, however, to comply with an agreement reached with the Royal Thai Army Base Commander which required that the actual hiring be done at Nam Phong in order that the local populace be given an opportunity for employment. With this settled, interviews were held and 60 carpenters, 6 cook's helpers, 2 tire shop mechanics and 3 English speaking timekeeper/clerks were hired. The final hiring was done during the last week in July when 10 dump truck drivers, two motor grader operators and one foreman were also selected.

Administrative matters required of the Civilian Personnel Department included those for obtaining base passes for all personnel from the Nam Phong Royal Thai Army Base Security Office, daily timekeeping and attendance records, and payroll functions. The Air Force system required the submission of a time card at the end of each two-week pay period, with a check made out for the local currency (baht) arriving 10 days later. No facility existed for cashing the checks outside of Udorn RTAFB, so when the checks arrived the workers endorsed them and Seabee CPO personnel took them to Udorn for cashing. Although somewhat cumbersome in operation, the Air Force system was highly dependable and was a large factor in keeping any employee discontent with pay matters to a minimum. All daily timekeeping and attendance reports were the duty of one of the Thai clerks, a practice which proved valuable when an employee questioned the size of his paycheck. The timekeeper could show the man his daily reports and straighten out the matter in his native language, which always resulted in a satisfactory conclusion.

In the middle of August the vertical construction effort began to slacken, and consequently the Thai workers began to be laid off. First to be released under the reduction in force were 34 carpenters and 9 warehousemen. Two weeks later the rest of the warehousemen and 11 more carpenters were released. As the main body prepared to leave Nam Phong, the clerks and 12 cook helpers were laid off. The remaining workers stayed until the end of September and were released as the delay party prepared to leave.



Builders from Delta Company and some of the Thai carpenters.

I. SPECIAL SERVICES:

One Chief Petty Officer, assigned as Special Services Officer, and four other men were permanently assigned to Special Services for the Nam Phong deployment. The first problem they faced was securing recreational gear for the Battalion when the order to mount out came. As the battalion was part of the composite recreational fund in Okinawa, none of the gear provided there could be taken to Thailand. As a result, the footballs, volleyballs, chess, checkers, playing cards, etc., that were used at "Can Do Country" in Nam Phong had to be procured through other channels.

A 40'X80' circus tent was erected and screened in for an after hours recreational area and a jute box was rented for this facility. Additionally, a covered stage with a dressing room was built near this tent. A volleyball court and football field were cleared for Team Sports. Movies were initially shown nightly at the outdoor stage but were eventually shown within the screened in galley because of insects. The movies were first procured through military personnel at Udorn before the Battalion was put on the regular AAFMPS distribution schedule. Beer and soda was bought by the case and/or pallet from Udorn. In three months, 60,000 cans of beer and over 75,000 cans of soda were consumed. That is an average of 4 cans of liquid per man per day.

After several weeks, a local bus company was contracted to transport men to Udorn for liberty. The Battalion was divided into 15 liberty sections and each man was permitted 24 hours of liberty twice a month. Additionally, this same bus company provided buses to take men to Bangkok for a special 72-hour liberty. Each deserving man in the Battalion had the opportunity to take one of these trips to Bangkok.

Special Services also arranged sign-up sheets for welcome home tickets to Disneyland, Sea World and Lion Country Safari for use by the men and their families upon return to California.

J. DRUG ABUSE COUNSELLING:

The Battalion had one officer and one enlisted man who had completed special Drug Abuse counselling and Navy Amnesty Program training. These men, along with company amnesty representatives, provided the nucleus for drug information. While deployed to Nam Phong, short talks on drug information were given at company morning quarters by these men and members of the Medical Department. Also, a rehabilitated alcoholic held weekly meetings similar to Alcoholics Anonymous for men volunteering for this help. During July, drug abuse specialists attached to the THIRTY-FIRST Naval Construction Regiment visited Nam Phong and delivered educational talks to the men.

In Okinawa a "drop-in" room called the "Open Mind" was opened. Drug Abuse information and counselling was dispensed from this central area. Drug education meetings were held weekly for the Officers and Chief Petty Officers. The "Open Mind" was open during the evening as well and provided a relaxing atmosphere for evening rap sessions.



K. HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL:

The first meeting of the Council was held in early July at Nam Phong, Thailand. The Battalion Chaplain was appointed moderator and the guidelines, goals and objectives outlined in COMCBPAC Instruction 5350.2 were discussed. A chairman and recorder were elected and meetings were held weekly for the rest of the deployment. Although many of the items discussed in these meetings paralleled discussions at the Enlisted Advisory Panel meetings, there was a therapeutic value in discussing these Battalion and Navy problems with an attempt to solve them and thus improve interpersonal relationships within the Battalion.

During October, two Race Relations Specialists assigned TAD to the THIRTY-FIRST Naval Construction Regiment visited the main body in Okinawa. Four one-day seminars were each attended by 20 men. Several provocative films were shown and much worthwhile instruction given, which resulted in good discussions and thought on racial prejudice and interracial relations.

L. STATEMENT OF MORALE:

The spirits of the men and the morale of the Battalion oscillated between extremes during the 1972 deployment of NMCB-5. At deployment time in late April for the advance parties, and mid-May for the main body, the feelings of the men were mixed. Many were anxious to leave the confusion common for all homeport deployments and commence productive work on projects in new areas. Others, however, were saddened by the upcoming 8-month separation from their families and friends. However, most of the men in this second group soon lifted their spirits as they got settled in their new areas in Okinawa, Taiwan, China Lake and the Philippines. There were new areas to explore and learn about as well as new jobs and challenges.

This good spirit became even more intense as the Battalion packed up in preparation for the Nam Phong deployment. Here was an opportunity for the entire Battalion to work together as one unit, something many of the men had not experienced in several years due to the splintered detail deployments in Vietnam. However, this feeling of anticipation was soon dissolved by the realities of existence at Nam Phong. As soon as the C-141s began their descent to the bare base it became all too obvious that it would be oppressively hot. When the back doors were opened and the equipment was driven off the planes, each man felt the blast of the unbearably hot Thailand sun. This, coupled with the high humidity and the alternating choking dust or thick mud, made conditions extremely difficult. Strangely enough though, this period of depression was short lived. After a week, all the strongback hootches were built, the galley was cooking and serving fresh food, and each man had a chance to become acclimated to the environment.

This strong spirited feeling and general high morale continued with the daily accomplishments and completion of projects. Soon the tactical air squadrons flew in and immediately began flying their missions. Each company and each crew knew they were progressing at an incredible rate and were justifiably proud of their efforts. The high point of each week seemed to come on Sunday afternoon when selected members of each company, the officers and chief petty officers would volunteer for an afternoon of football. Most of the Battalion would turn out to watch these intra-battalion games as well as several games played against the Marines from LSG. An afternoon steak fry, a can of beer, a shower and the troops were ready for another week.



Sandlot flag football was a regular attraction on Sunday afternoons.

Every day in Thailand, the companies were working towards completion of their assigned projects and redeployment to their former sites. Some men were disappointed towards the end of August when their company had finished their workload and had to take on new jobs that had just been recently added to the Battalion's backlog or had not yet been started by other companies. However, a good amount of cooperation was shown with UTs working on Wonder Arches with the SWs, and BUs laying matting on the apron. Finally in late August, 80 men did redeploy to Okinawa, a week later 180 more redeployed as a main body from Thailand, then Detail FALCON flew to California and China Lake. For these men, the first week back in civilization was ecstasy. There were air-conditioned barracks, galleys, clubs and movie theaters. There was hot and cold running water and flush toilets. There was the opportunity for liberty every night rather than the 1 in 15 sections of Thailand. But, within a week to 10 days, the mood of these men shifted significantly. There were troubles in Okinawa getting from the base to the jobs and most of the equipment was in transit from Thailand or CONUS. There was no earth moving equipment to prepare job sites. There were few repair parts to repair what pieces the Battalion did have. There seemed to be a critical problem showing progress on each job. Either prints were missing or incomplete, or material had already been drawn for a project, or MTO's were still coming from the states. The result was a discouraged group of men who went about their business in a lethargic way. The morale of the troops in Thailand on the Delay Party began to suffer as well as all liberty was cancelled due to the threat of enemy activity and then later because of the outbreak of a severe flu epidemic in Udorn. In Taiwan, Detail RAVEN suffered some setbacks when the per diem rate was cut and the establishment of a field mess at Camp McCauley ran into some difficulties. It was not until mid to late October that the spirit of the troops started its swing back to a favorable condition. Part of the reason for this shift was getting resettled in the new environment, after the third or fourth move for many men in six months. A part of the reason was that the pace of the construction projects began to increase, but the primary reason was that the end of the deployment was not far away and the men could look forward to Christmas at home. Significantly, production increased during this end of October-beginning of November time frame.

The continuing high level of morale at Nam Phong can be attributed to several factors. Perhaps the primary reason was that the entire Battalion was engaged in a collective effort to reach a common goal. There were several easily identifiable tasks that were all required to reach completion. Although the work was hard and working conditions difficult, there was a simplicity to the projects, that is, plans were available, material was on site, and an augmented P-25 was on site. Progress was measurable and significant, a job was started and rapidly finished. In short, job satisfaction was responsible for the good spirit and this in turn allowed the men to produce completed projects at even greater rates.

There were of course other factors that contributed to the high morale at Nam Phong. The Seabees, of all the units at Nam Phong, were the first with the most.

- FIVE was the first outfit to have hot chow, the first on B-rations, the first on A-rations. In fact, one month after the Battalion had started serving A-rations, the Marines were still serving C-rations for one meal each day. Although one might say this was because the Seabees had not finished building the

Marine galley, this would be unfair as the Seabees were subsisting in a circus tent.

- FIVE was the first outfit with movies.
- FIVE got the mail flowing smoothly for the entire base from the Fleet Post Office in San Francisco through Bangkok to Nam Phong.
- FIVE was the First to put on live entertainment shows.
- FIVE had the only MARS station for the entire base.
- FIVE had the only dental and medical facilities.
- The Commissaryman Chief, also known as the Galloping Gourmet, traveled to each job site once a day to bring sandwiches, hot dogs, drinks and ice cream to the Seabees at work. Additionally, each company provided cans of cold soda on each jobsite for the men.
- Recreational facilities were set up for after hours relaxation.
- FIVE published Familygrams, a camp newspaper and included newsworthy items in the Plan of the Day. Before the Stars and Stripes was officially provided to the base the Battalion acquired 50 copies per day in Udorn.

These items might not mean much to the reader but individually and collectively they meant a lot to the Battalion in Nam Phong. It was the opinion of every Seabee that he worked harder and lived better than any man in any other outfit on the base. Part of the credit must go to the facilities in the Tent Camp and the TOA that provided this Battalion with better facilities. But a very large portion of the credit must be given to the personnel of the Seabees who would not be satisfied until they had the best conditions possible. Finally, it should be emphasized that each Battalion is designed, both by manpower staffing and table of allowance items, to be self-sufficient. It is imperative that the Naval Construction Force take this creed seriously and take no item, function or service for granted, but make doubly sure that it will be provided by others or take care of it themselves.



MESSAGES:

FM: COMCBPAC, MAKALAPA, HI.
TO: NMCB FIVE
BT

UNCLAS//N01600//

BEST OF TYPE BATTALION 1972

1. IT IS WITH GREAT PLEASURE THAT I NAME NMCB FIVE AS BEST OF TYPE OF THE PACIFIC NAVAL CONSTRUCTION FORCE. THE CHOICE OF FISCAL YEAR 1972 WAS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT DUE TO THE KEEN ORGANIZATION AMONG ALL OF THE BATTALIONS.
 2. FDR NMCBS THREE, FOUR, AND TEN, YOU WERE ALL INCLUDED IN THE FINAL DELIBERATIONS AND YOUR OVERALL OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE IS RECOGNIZED AND GREATLY APPRECIATED.
 3. FOR NMCB FIVE, SINCERE CONGRATULATIONS ARE EXTENDED TO YOU ON YOUR SUPERB PERFORMANCE DURING THE PAST FISCAL YEAR. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.
- ADM. D.G. ISELIN SENDS.

BT

R 020437Z AUG 72

FM: CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA, HI.
TO: NMCB FIVE

BT

UNCLAS//N01600//

BEST OF TYPE BATTALION 1972

1. YOUR SELECTION AS BEST OF TYPE-PACIFIC FLEET SEABEES, FOR 1972 WAS NOTED WITH PLEASURE. AS THE LAST NMCB DEPLOYED TO RVN YOU MAINTAINED THE SAME HIGH STANDARDS WHICH HAVE CHARACTERIZED NAVAL CONSTRUCTION FORCE ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA SINCE 1965. WHILE PORTIONS OF THE BATTALION WERE DEPLOYED TO RVN, OTHER MEMBERS OF THE BATTALION ESTABLISHED AN ENVIABLE CONSTRUCTION RECORD AT GUAM AND ADAK. THE EXCEPTIONAL MANNER IN WHICH THE BATTALION DEPLOYED TO THAILAND AND ASSISTED IN ESTABLISHMENT OF AN OPERATIONAL AIR BASE AT NAM PHONG, SHORTLY AFTER ASSUMING THE ALERT BATTALION RESPONSIBILITIES ON OKINAWA, DEMONSTRATED THE SEABEE CAPABILITY TO MEET CONTINGENCY REQUIREMENTS. WELL DONE.
 2. MY SINCEREST CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE BATTALION. ADMIRAL B.A. CLAREY, USN, COMMANDER IN CHIEF, UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET.
- BT

R 020060Z JUL 72

FM: CHIEF OF CIVIL ENGINEERS
TO: NMCB FIVE

BT

UNCLAS//N01650//

BEST OF TYPE CONGRATULATIONS

1. IT IS WITH GREAT PLEASURE THAT I NOTE YOUR SELECTION AS BEST OF TYPE OF THE PACIFIC NAVAL CONSTRUCTION FORCE FOR FY72. YOU CAN BE JUSTIFIABLY PROUD OF YOUR SUPERIOR OVERALL PERFORMANCE WHICH PREVAILS OVER SUCH STRONG AND OUTSTANDING COMPETITION.
2. ON BEHALF OF THE ENTIRE NAVFAC/CEC/SEABEE FAMILY, I EXTEND HARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS AND A WARM "WELL DONE". RADM W.M. ENGER, CHIEF OF CIVIL ENGINEERS, SENDS.

BT

R 041721Z AUG 72

FM: COMCBLANT DAVISVILLE, R.I.

TO: NMCB FIVE

BT

UNCLAS//N03600//

PACIFIC BEST OF TYPE BATTALION FISCAL YEAR 72

1. MY SINCERE CONGRATULATIONS TO THE OFFICERS AND MEN OF NMCB FIVE ON YOUR RECENT SELECTION OF PACIFIC BEST OF TYPE. WELL DONE.

CAPTAIN W.R. ROGERS

BT

R 280095Z JUL 72

FM: THREE ZERO NCR (FWD) THAIN

TO: NMCB FIVE

BT

UNCLAS//N01650//

BEST OF TYPE AWARD

1. THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT NMCB FIVE WAS SELECTED AS BEST OF TYPE IN THE PACIFIC FLEET FOR FY-72 CAME AS NO SURPRISE TO ME. I HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO OBSERVE FIRST HAND YOUR SUPERB PERFORMANCE IN SUPPORT OF CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS. THE PROFESSIONALISM WITH WHICH YOU EXECUTED THE MOUNT-OUT PLAN. THE VOLUME OF WORK ACCOMPLISHED IN ONLY SIXTY DAYS WHILE WORKING UNDER MOST ADVERSE CONDITIONS OF HEAT, RAIN, AUSTERE LIVING CONDITIONS, TIGHT SCHEDULES AND CHANGING PRIORITIES HAS MET OR EXCEEDED EVERY STANDARD OF PERFORMANCE EXPECTED OF THE ALERT BATTALION. YOUR SELECTION ALSO CONFIRMS THAT OTHER CHALLENGES FACED BY YOUR OFFICERS AND MEN DURING THE PAST YEAR IN VIETNAM, GUAM, OTHER DEPLOYMENT SITES AND IN HOMEPORT WERE MET WITH SAME DEDICATION AND PROFESSIONALISM.

2. THE SEABEES OF FIVE HAVE TRULY EARNED THE HONOR OF BEING HANDED BEST OF TYPE. CONGRATULATIONS, KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK AND WEAR YOUR E PROUDLY.

COMMODORE KEEGAN SENDS.

BT

R 272244Z JUL 72

FM: COM THREE ONE NCR PORHUE CA

TO: NMCB FIVE

BT

UNCLAS//N01650//

BEST OF TYPE 1972

1. HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR SELECTION AS BEST OF TYPE PACIFIC NCF FOR FY72. THE OFFICERS AND MEN OF YOUR HOMEPORT REGIMENT ARE PROUD TO HAVE YOU AS A PART OF THE PACIFIC TEAM. WELL DONE.

BT

R 262120Z JUL 72

FM: NMCB ONE THREE THREE GULFPORT MISS

TO: NMCB FIVE THAI

BT

UNCLAS//N01650//

BEST OF TYPE

1. CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR DESIGNATION OF BEST OF TYPE. YOUR MOST DESERVING OF THIS FINE AWARD. WE LOOK FORWARD SEEING YOU AT OUR NEXT TURNOVER.

BT

R 282326Z JUL 72
FM: NMCB THREE PORHUE CA
TO: NMCB FIVE NAM PHONG THAILAND
BT
UNCLAS//NO1650//
BEST OF TYPE BATTALION 72
1. HARDIEST CONGRATULATIONS TO A GREAT BATTALION AS BEST OF TYPE NMCB.
2. HOPE TO REVERSE POSITIONS THIS YR. CDR SMITH SENDS.
BT

R 272216Z JUL 72
FM: NMCB FOUR PORHUE CA
TO: NMCB FIVE
BT
UNCLAS//NO1650//
CONGRATULATIONS
A. COMCBPAC 261433Z JUL 72
1. REF A NOTED WITH PLEASURE. THE FABULOUS FOUR RELINQUISH THEIR TITLE TO THE FAMOUS FIVE. THE OFFICERS AND MEN OF NMCB FOUR WISH YOU OF NMCB FIVE CONTINUED SUCCESS ON THE OCCASION OF YOUR SELECTION AS THE BEST OF TYPE DURING FISCAL YR 72. WELL DONE.
BT

R 130341Z SEP 72
FM: COMCBPAC MAKALAPA HI.
TO: NMCB FIVE OKINAWA
BT
UNCLAS//NO1650//
BEST OF TYPE BATTALION 72
1. THE OFFICERS AND MEN OF NMCB FIVE CAN JUSTIFIABLY BE PROUD OF YOUR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE IN MEETING THE OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS IN THAILAND. THE DEMONSTRATED READINESS, MOBILITY, AND DEDICATION AS EXHIBITED IN THE UNDERTAKING OF ALL ASSIGNED CONSTRUCTION ASSIGNMENTS HAS BEEN MOST COMMENDABLE.
2. THROUGH RESOURCEFUL PLANNING AND SCHEDULING, AND SUPERB LOGISTIC COORDINATION, YOU HAVE PROVIDED NAM PHONG WITH A THRIVING COMPLEX OF MILITARY FACILITIES.
3. MY PERSONAL THANKS AND CONGRATULATIONS TO EACH MAN. YOU HAVE SET STANDARDS OF READINESS AND CONSTRUCTION THAT WILL LONG REMAIN A CHALLENGE TO FUTURE PACIFIC FLEET ALERT BATTALIONS.
RADM ISELIN SENDS.
BT

R 282326Z JUL 72
FM: NMCB THREE PORHUE CA
TO: NMCB FIVE NAM PHONG THAILAND

BT
UNCLAS//N01650//

BEST OF TYPE BATTALION 72

1. HARDEST CONGRATULATIONS TO A GREAT BATTALION AS BEST OF TYPE NMCB.
2. HOPE TO REVERSE POSITIONS THIS YR. CDR SMITH SENDS.

BT

R 272216Z JUL 72
FM: NMCB FOUR PORHUE CA
TO: NMCB FIVE

BT
UNCLAS//N01650//
CONGRATULATIONS

A. COMCBPAC 261433Z JUL 72

1. REF A NOTED WITH PLEASURE. THE FABULOUS FOUR RELINQUISH THEIR TITLE TO THE FAMOUS FIVE. THE OFFICERS AND MEN OF NMCB FOUR WISH YOU OF NMCB FIVE CONTINUED SUCCESS ON THE OCCASION OF YOUR SELECTION AS THE BEST OF TYPE DURING FISCAL YR 72. WELL DONE.

BT

R 130341Z SEP 72
FM: COMCBPAC MAKALAPA HI.
TO: NMCB FIVE OKINAWA

BT
UNCLAS//N01650//
BEST OF TYPE BATTALION 72

1. THE OFFICERS AND MEN OF NMCB FIVE CAN JUSTIFIABLY BE PROUD OF YOUR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE IN MEETING THE OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS IN THAILAND. THE DEMONSTRATED READINESS, MOBILITY, AND DEDICATION AS EXHIBITED IN THE UNDERTAKING OF ALL ASSIGNED CONSTRUCTION ASSIGNMENTS HAS BEEN MOST COMMENDABLE.
2. THROUGH RESOURCEFUL PLANNING AND SCHEDULING, AND SUPERB LOGISTIC COORDINATION, YOU HAVE PROVIDED NAM PHONG WITH A THRIVING COMPLEX OF MILITARY FACILITIES.
3. MY PERSONAL THANKS AND CONGRATULATIONS TO EACH MAN. YOU HAVE SET STANDARDS OF READINESS AND CONSTRUCTION THAT WILL LONG REMAIN A CHALLENGE TO FUTURE PACIFIC FLEET ALERT BATTALIONS.

RADM ISELIN SENDS.

BT

R 260851Z AUG 72
FM: CG FIRST MAW
TO: CG TASK FORCE DELTA
INFO: NMCB FIVE

BT

UNCLAS//NO00000//

TASK FORCE DELTA PASS TO 30TH NCR DET AND USAF DET FOR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE OF DUTY

1. IT IS WITH PRIDE AND DEEP ADMIRATION THAT I CONGRATULATE THE OFFICERS AND MEN OF TASK FORCE DELTA, MAG-15, SEABEES, LOGISTIC SUPPORT GROUP, AND AIR FORCE PERSONNEL FOR A JOB WELL DONE. THE SUCCESSFUL ESTABLISHMENT OF A MARINE CORPS AIR BASE AT NAM PHONG MADE ANOTHER CHAPTER TO OUR ENVIABLE HISTORY. NEVER IN THE HISTORY OF THE MARINE CORPS AVIATION HAS A COMBAT AIR BASE BEEN ESTABLISHED SO FAR INLAND, IN SPITE OF HEAT, MONSOON RAINS, AND PRIMITIVE SURROUNDINGS, ALL OF YOU MADE THIS "IMPOSSIBLE TASK SEEM ROUTINE". EVERYONE WHO VISITS "ROSE GARDEN" LEAVES DEEPLY IMPRESSED WITH THE SPIRIT, DEDICATION AND "CAN DO" ATTITUDE THAT IS SO APPARENT.

2. THIS ACHIEVEMENT WAS NOT AN ALL MARINE SHOW BY ANY MEANS. WITHOUT THE SUPERIOR SUPPORT OF THE SEABEES, THE BASE COULD HAVE NEVER OPENED ON SCHEDULE. THE TEAMWORK AND HARMONY THE MARINE/AIR FORCE/ARMY/SEABEE TEAM DISPLAYED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF NAM PHONG HAS SET THE STANDARDS FOR FUTURE JOINT SERVICE EFFORTS. THE EFFICIENCY AND COOPERATION BY ALL CONCERNED COULD NOT HAVE BEEN BETTER.

3. THE AIRCREWS AND MEN OF MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP-15 HAVE MY GRATITUDE, AND I'M SURE THE GRATITUDE OF ALL FREEDOM LOVING PEOPLE IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM FOR THE LARGE ROLE THEY ARE PLAYING IN STOPPING NORTH VIETNAMESE AGGRESSION IN SOUTH VIETNAM.

4. I SALUTE YOUR RECORD OF ACHIEVEMENT AND URGE EVERYONE TO CONTINUE IN THE SAME FINE TRADITION. MAJGEN BROWN.

BT