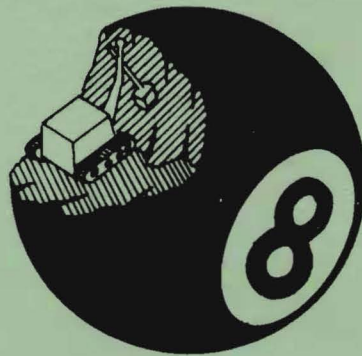


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DEPLOYMENT COMPLETION REPORT

DANANG, VIETNAM
SEPT. 1965 - MAY 1966



U.S. NAVAL
MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION
EIGHT

U.S. NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION EIGHT
CARE OF FLEET POST OFFICE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA
96601

MCB8/GRG:llp

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5 August 1966

From: Commanding Officer, U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion EIGHT
To: Commander Naval Construction Battalions, Pacific

Subj: Deployment Completion Report for Period September 1965 through May
1966; Submission of

Ref: (a) COMCBPACINST 5213.1C

Encl: (1) Deployment Completion Report

1. Enclosure (1), summarizing the Battalion's activities during the
September 1965 - May 1966 deployment to DaNang, Republic of Vietnam is
forwarded in accordance with reference (a).

P. A. Phelps
P. A. PHELPS

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NAVY (FORM 09B)	(1)

SECTION A

Unit: USN MCB EIGHT

Administrative Summary Narrative, U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion EIGHT, September 1965 through May 1966

1. Employment Status. Mobile Construction Battalion EIGHT was deployed to DaNang East, Republic of Vietnam, in accordance with COMCENPAC Operation Order 23-65 to provide construction support for U.S. Military Forces.

2. UNIT Movements.

a. An Advance Party of one officer and 69 enlisted men arrived in DaNang, Republic of Vietnam, on 26 August 1965. The main body, after changing homeport from Davisville, Rhode Island, to Port Hueneme, California, followed approximately one month later. The main body was transported in seven (7) aircraft, the last of which arrived in DaNang on 30 September.

b. A detached unit of one officer and 50 enlisted men departed DaNang for Hue/Phu Bai, Republic of Vietnam, during 9 to 31 October traveling by LCUs and helicopters. The size of the unit during deployment varied in accordance with the workload. On 18 April 1966, the OIC returned to the Battalion with all members of the detached unit except two men who stayed behind to arrange for shipment of remaining MCB EIGHT equipment. These men rejoined the battalion on 4 May.

c. Seabee Team 0805 was detached in March 1966 to commence training in Port Hueneme, California.

d. An Advance Party of one officer and 30 enlisted men departed DaNang for CONUS on 20 April. On 21 May 1966, the first of five (5) flights transporting the main body to CONUS departed DaNang. The last flight arrived at NAS, Point Mugu, California on 24 May 1966. The service provided by the Military Airlift Command during this movement of the main body via C141 type aircraft was outstanding.

3. Significant events.

20 Aug 1965 - MCB EIGHT officially changed homeport from Davisville, Rhode Island to Port Hueneme, California.

26 Aug 1965 - MCB EIGHT Advance Party of one officer and 69 enlisted men arrived in DaNang, Republic of Vietnam.

11 Sep 1965 - Main body arrived at Port Hueneme from Davisville, Rhode Island for brief training period.

30 Sep 1965 - Last of main body arrived in DaNang, Republic of Vietnam via Military Airlift Command.

28 Oct 1965 - MCB EIGHT Camp taken under fire by a Viet Cong Unit attacking Marine Air Group 16, MCB NINE and hospital construction site. No casualties were sustained and there was no penetration of the MCB EIGHT perimeter. MCB EIGHT patrol discovered and destroyed one enemy land mine adjacent to the camp following attack.

24 Feb 1966 - MCB EIGHT in conjunction with MCB FIVE replaced span of Tourane River Bridge damaged by Vietnamese truck. Span was replaced and ready for use 39 hours after damaged.

20 Apr 1966 - Advance Party consisting of one officer and 30 enlisted men departed DaNang for Port Hueneme.

18 May 1966 - First operational off-loading of cargo at LST/LCU ramps constructed by MCB EIGHT.

21 May 1966 - First of five (5) flights transporting main body to COMUSMACV departed DaNang. Personnel on first three (3) flights had to be transported to the DaNang Airfield by helicopter because of road blockades caused by civil strife in the City of DaNang. The splendid cooperation of Marine Air Group 16 made this lift possible.

22 May 1966 - MCB EIGHT Camp dedicated Camp Faulkner in memory of Arnold J. PAULKNER, EOH3. PAULKNER, who was attached to MCB FOUR, was killed in a construction accident while rehabilitating the Special Forces Air strip at Kham Duc. The ceremony was attended by LGEN Lewis WALT, USMC, CG III MAF; CAPT N. E. ANDERSON, Commander 30th NCR; CAPT CANAGA, Senior Medical Officer, NSA Hospital; LCLR TOMBARI, Commanding Officer MCB SIX; and several other dignitaries.

4. Major Problems.

a. The Battalion with an average on board strength of 394 men during the DaNang Deployment, was significantly below authorized strength. Since certain overhead functions, for example security, are not directly related to Battalion strength, the percent of personnel available for direct labor was below the planning norm. A timely increase in the on-board count would have permitted a considerably higher productivity. A graphic presentation of the personnel situation is contained in the following chart:

SECTION A

(8) MCB EIGHT pioneered the use of Vietnamese laborers by Seabees in the DaNang area. The workers did an excellent job and greatly expanded the Battalion's productive effort. The Vietnamese were trained in steel tank erection, Butler and Quonset Hut construction, road repair and concrete work. One important consideration in working Vietnamese personnel is to insure that they are adequately supervised. Productive effort will be lost if a supervisor is not constantly available to direct their efforts.

9. Awards

a. 30 April 1966 - LTJG Henry L. Merry, CEC, USNR, received the Navy Commendation Medal for meritorious achievement while serving as Officer-in-Charge of the MCB EIGHT Advance Party and as Project Officer for construction of LCU/LCM ramps and port facilities in DaNang, Republic of Vietnam.

b. 15 July 1966 - LTJG Eugene H. Steffens, CEC, USN, received the Secretary of the Navy Commendation for achievement while serving as Officer-in-Charge of the fifty man MCB EIGHT Detachment at Hue/Phu Bai, Republic of Vietnam.

c. 26 March 1966 - BELCHER, Willard A., S/C, USN, was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal for meritorious service while serving as the Assistant Officer-in-Charge of the MCB EIGHT Advance Party deployed to Vietnam and while serving as Assistant Officer-on-charge of the Detached unit at Hue/Phu Bai.