



*The MCB Eleven*

# STINGER

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## Two for Chief

CSC Ralph W. Range has been commended for his performance as chief commissaryman in charge of the general mess.

The mess has served the battalion, CBMU 301, and other detachments through bad weather, enemy harassment and shortage of supplies.

Through Chief Range's efforts, the control records were kept in excellent condition and helped the operation of the general mess, provided a training program for all commissarymen and played a significant part in obtaining a grade of excellent in the

## Have Done

Lcdr. J.C. Totten

This marks the last issue of the Stinger for the 1967 deployment, NMCB Eleven's greatest deployment. First I want to thank all the men who have made this paper possible particularly JO2 Findley and JO3 Crowell and all the company yeomen. A lot of hard work goes into the preparation of this paper each week but recognition by the Chief of Naval Information and others have made it worth the effort.

You men of Eleven have met the challenge and have changed the Seabee motto from "Can Do" to "Have Done." The record that you have established in the Dong Ha area will not be equaled by many. You are as far as I am concerned, the best in the west. Quality construction under fire has made you that way.

Not only construction but the outstanding teamwork and spirit of everyone--Administration, Personnel, Supply, Operations, all the support areas--have made this possible. Through their efforts the men of Headquarters company have made it possible for the line companies to reach and surpass their goals. In short, a team effort by every man in this battalion has made the 1967 deployment to Camp Barnes an outstanding success. Well done.

Award competition for

# Bravo

# "Hack It"

## Banter

CEW3 Bagnell

The turn-over to MCB-5 is going as smoothly as expected.

The first platoon builders are constructing four-holers for the Dong Ha cantonment, and repairing the last of the pack-up boxes.

The second platoon CE's are wiring their last group of huts. At least they think so.

The third platoon UT's are finishing up the battalion rear area.

Bravo's strong football team came from behind to defeat the favored Delta company. Trailing 24 to 12 at the half, the teams switched ends and the tide turned. Bravo kicked to Delta to start the second half. Taking the ball on the 20 yard line, Delta went to the air, and right there to intercept was "Bull" Houston running it back for the touchdown, making the score 24 to 18. Then Bravo's strong defense--lead by Decker,

Ltjg. Pine

Seven months ago I came to Dong Ha with the saying, "Meet the Challenge." We have had many challenges come to us, each and everyone of us--some of these challenges we were able to face together; others we had to face alone in the solitude of our conscience. These challenges were many and varied--the challenge of separation from our friends and our loved ones; that of long, hard hours of work under some of the most adverse conditions possible; and certainly, the challenge of war.

You are the ones who have met the challenge--you, the men from engineering, draftsmen and surveyors alike; also those of you from up on the hill at MLO and CTR; the yeomen and personnelmen from S-1; the supply people from S-4; the postal clerks; the barbers; those in special services and also that Chinese Jew from the club; the MAA's; the stewards; and those of you from S-2; the corpsmen (and the dental technicians) and the communicators; the commissarymen and those of you throughout the battalion who have served as messengers--you are the ones who have met the challenge.

However, let's not forget the officers who, as your department heads, have helped you and I meet our challenges, for without their guidance ours would have been an impossible task.

And in closing, let me offer a small memento of our deployment in recognition of your having met the challenge--

### CERTIFICATE OF GRADUATION

Know ye, that \_\_\_\_\_  
as a member of NMCB Eleven, Headquarters company (or TAD thereto) has successfully completed all requirements leading towards his graduation and is hereby awarded this certificate for completion of "HACK IT SCHOOL"

# FORT APACHE & OLDROCK

Lt. Smith

To say the least, this has been a most interesting deployment, and most memorable. But the memories are often of the seemingly small and insignificant things, often humorous, sometimes sad, but always etched indelibly in your mind. So, some of my

memories of this deployment are:

Trying to figure out how to get a large van trailer out of Camp Adnair unnoticed; Sam Scarobrough's regular comment of "Yes sir, the first platoon can hack it"; Olson's tool room with its art work; My air conditioned office; Chief McCool's helmet announcing he is the "Meanest Mother in the Valley"; Mr. Phipps saying "... And there's another one"; Hearing someone say "I think I'll get in a hole that's less crowded--(BANG!)-- Move over!"; Wischer, who should have won the mustache contest for "The

Worst Looking Mustache"; Vallery who did; "Or Zepernick, we'll start at the end of the alphabet."

My air conditioned office; The "Gravel Grinder"; Nohlquist and his new tire shop; Finally moving out of tents; Chief Wilson and Burger jumping into a hole with a snake--"Kick at him John, maybe he'll go away"; Ballard dropping a hammer in a hole--150 feet deep; my air conditioned office; Alpha Tango; Miles and miles of ditches; Fort Apache that I expected Tsosie and Oldrock to attack with flaming arrows; And who ever heard of ham with peanut butter sauce; Alcorn's wife having twins; Wallace and the asphalt distributors; Perry and radiators; A-5; Vuckovic winning the Hawaii R&R serviceman of the month; Neadow and his bear claws; My air conditioned office; All of Alpha company.

## Alpha Delta Data

EO2 Curl

With the end of the deployment just around the corner, Alpha company can look back on a record of accomplishment second to none. Both the EO's and CM's have

BUH2 Rapp

Last Sunday Delta company had it's last party of the deployment.

During the week our roving reporter went to the intersection of Boardwalk and Laterite Road to interview the typical man on the

to see my wife."

BUC James E. Whiteburn, "I'm going to see my tailor."

BUL3 Gary L. Comptall, "I'm going to get myself lined up with this groovey job for next deployment."

CN Dennis E. Chapel, "I'm gonna get married"

# the story of eleven

Lcdr. John C. Totten

Part III: Conclusion

September 4 the combat base received incoming artillery rounds and the next day Camp Barnes was hit at four separate times during the day. The rounds fell in the center of camp damaging the galley, water storage tank and boiler and wounding eight Seabees.

The heroic acts this day truly carved a place in history for the men of Eleven. UTP2 Forest E. Beckett and SF1 Stanley P. Koziol who patched the holes in the water tank even though incoming rounds were landing so close that they blew out the tires on the welder. CEP2 Earl E. Brackett, CEW3 Ben R. Stephens, CEP3 David L. Schmitt and CEWCN Daniel L. Bridy, who aggressively worked under fire to restore the camp power system, and CEP2 Dennis R. Robeson, CEPCN Alvin Durette and CEP2A Rex H. Elliot, who restored the power at the air force compound in six hours despite rounds impacting 500 yards away. CEW3 Donald R. Gunter, UTP2 Donald R. Williams, UTW2 Leslie D. Knockey, UTP3 Donald R. Schaefer and UTP3 Harry G. Moore, who worked tirelessly to restore camp power. The list could go on forever and covers all companies and trades. CMHCN Patrick J. Dolan for example, as a mess cook did more for battalion morale than he realized. The other mess cooks decided the camp mess hall was a target and refused to go back to work. The senior commissaryman asked for volunteers to serve breakfast September 6 but no one moved, until Dolan, who had been wounded the day before, said, "I'll go." At this point the other 20 mess cooks volunteered.

Through the remainder of September the combat base received harassment fire on 31 separate occasions, the detail at Cua Viet came under artillery attack on six separate occasions, the Lang Vei detail received heavy mortar fire on three occasions and the road crew on Route One received sniper fire. Five men received minor wounds and equipment damage was negligible.

October was the same with mining incidents and sniper fire in the Dong Ha area. The combat base received over 31 rounds of enemy artillery throughout the day on October 22 and NMBC-11 suffered two minor casualties. One truck tractor was damaged. From 11:30 a.m. October 29 through 6 a.m. the next morning the Dong Ha Combat Base received 70 enemy artillery rounds on six occasions. During one attack at about 11:45 a.m. the rounds ignited fuel stored at FLSU-1 and the Seabees were called out to fight the fire. EOH2 Alan F. Wichser, EOH2 Caryl L. Barbour, EOH3 Robert F. Owen and CMA3 Donald B. Heath with complete disregard for their own safety aggressively fought the blaze until it was completely extinguished the same later



## ELEVEN CONTINUED...

This is the story of NMCS-11's 1967 deployment to Vietnam. Sustained high morale and production rates despite constant enemy harassment. The small unit leaders and the individuals have been the key. They make "Can Do" come true.

BULCN Richard L. Sheets received burns on his face and hands, second degree burns on his legs, shrapnel wounds of forearm, loss of full thickness of skin on buttock, and a deep cut on the head during the attack August 28. He probably would have burned to death had it not been for the heroic act of Chief Neal. Sheets was evacuated from Camp Barnes and spent 35 days at NSA DaNang Hospital and aboard the USS Repose. He calmly walked aboard Camp Barnes October 2 with the simple statement, "I was bored sitting in the hospital, I asked to come back to Eleven, I want to get back to work." That is the story of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Eleven.

# SNUFFY

Dear Mama,

Everybody is talking about how short we are getting. I got worried and measured myself and I don't think I'm any shorter. These people sure have funny ideas. Even if I'm getting short tho, I don't care because I'm coming home pretty soon and I know the doctor could fix me up and get me growing again.

I sure had fun this deployment. I got to work at just about every job in the battalion. About the only thing I didn't get to do was be commanding officer.

I got to be an ED and learned how to drive MRS over EA's cameras and how to cut comm wires with a dozer.

As a CM I learned how to tune up a jeep so it ran rougher than when it came in for PM.

When I was a CE I learned how to put up temporary wiring that would end up being permanent. And as a BU I learned how to make temporary buildings for the temporary wiring.

Steelworking was fun except for being on top of abutler building during a rocket attack.

# Charlie

# Chatter

BUR3 Allemang

Last week's Delta Date was quite amusing. Apparently the big "D" has so many extra men that they can afford to put 12 men on one building. Do you really have all those extra men or do you hire native labor?

Now to more important things. The big news this week is CN Carl

SAM

SEZ

I congratulated you too soon. As of midnight Thursday you jumped the total to 147. That's right, eight accidents over the past week. Only Delta and Security were accident free. And what accidents--a Hq. man fell into a mortar hole that he was sitting near, a C co. man had the old one, flash burns, two football injuries, one a laceration to a B co. man and the other an A co. man who ran into a pickup truck. They go on and on. Everyone of them avoidable if people are safety minded.

So the total is 147. The big "A" leads the league for the deployment with 53 (two fatal), followed by Delta with 30, Bravo 21 (one fatal), Headquarters 20, Charlie 18 and Security last with 6 (one fatal). So that's the story for the deployment, not much of a record. And we never learned by mistakes either. A perfect example to this is the flash burn case in C co. this past week. That brings our total flash burn accidents to 14 or almost 10% of our total for the deployment. The key to the problem is crew leader interest in safety and tool box safety talks on current topics. This was evident by the record of crews that had a safety minded supervisor.

Well this is the last issue of the Dong Ha Stinger and since we are going home, I want to present this article from the DC Traffic Safety Reporter called, "The Deadly Illusion."

Do you consider yourself a brave man? Do you think you'd have the nerve to do something that Genghis

of their enemies would not have frightened Genghis or Julius or Alexander as much as getting behind the wheel of an automobile and steering it down a narrow strip of concrete at 70 miles an hour, with other vehicles hurtling past only three feet to the left and a never-ending assortment of road signs, fence posts, mail boxes and trees threatening disaster only six feet to the right.

Today, even the most timid of us go zooming down the highways without a flutter of fear. This is a tribute to man's ability to become adjusted to danger if he lives with it long enough.

That's one of the major causes of the slaughter on American highways, however--we are too adjusted to the danger of speed. As we pour along the road in our quiet, comfortable cars we lose our awareness of the reality of speed and we fall victim to an illusion of safety.

We seem to be in complete control of our vehicles. We don't seem to be going very fast, and when we put on our brakes we appear to stop in a short distance. Everything seems very safe and secure.

But anyone who has stood beside a highway and watched the traffic rush past knows that the mind plays a dangerous trick on motorists. As you stand beside the road, you can see that the cars are actually roaring by at immense speed and you have to realize that their drivers have very limited control over them.

Yes, when