

FEBRUARY 1971

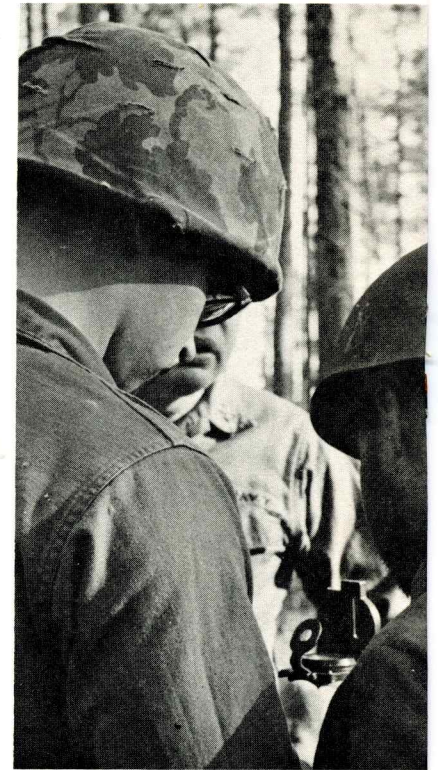


# Seabeacon

U.S. NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION SIXTYTWO



Getting down to it.



Compass reading.



"Digging in" along defense perimeter.



Trying

# Seabees: "We Build – We Fight"

Basic military training for men in a naval construction battalion is the rule rather than the exception. Why? The answer is given in their motto – "We Build – We Fight." Their primary job is construction. But when attacked, they move quickly to fend off the attackers.

The Seabees fight because they are trained to defend themselves, an instinct for survival and a desire to complete assigned tasks. The latter two reasons are not taught, but the former is obtained through three weeks of company level instruction and a one-week battalion level tactical field exercise (FEX). The first three weeks are divided into classroom procedure, tactics and rifle range.

## BACK TO SCHOOL

Many men assigned to a construction battalion have been out of high school only a short period. Therefore, military training is their "college." The lessons

taught during classroom week are far removed from the support tools of reading, writing and arithmetic. The Seabee fledglings are taught survival and defending their job sites and camps.

They are instructed in the uses of various individual and crew-served weapons such as the M-60 machine gun, the 3.5 rocket launcher, the M-16 rifle, .45 caliber pistol, M-79 grenade launcher and the 106mm recoilless rifle. Classes are also conducted on first aid and field sanitation, map reading and using a compass.

Tactics week presents an opportunity to put classroom instruction into practical application. During these five days the Seabees learn the proper methods of preparing a fighting hole, running patrols, inspecting villages, throwing grenades, using communications equipment and mine detection. They also attend a class

*(Continues on page 8)*



... an M-16.

Ambush! Everybody out of the truck.

## Seabees: "We Build - We Fight"

(Continued from page 7)

on booby traps.

Then comes the week the newly assigned men have been awaiting anxiously - range week. They fire the much publicized M-16 rifle and nearly every other weapon in a Seabee unit's arsenal.

The first three weeks, conducted at company level, give the men an opportunity to function as a team. Now comes the fourth week - FEX. **SEABEES AT "WAR"**

FEX is a battalion "war" controlled by referees. The quiet is shattered by automatic rifle fire, running footsteps on dry pine needles or leaves and men shouting. Though they know blank ammunition is used, the men do get an idea of how it feels to be under "enemy" fire.

Activity begins with drawing weapons from the armory on Monday morning and being transferred to the training site. Once there the battalion gets into a tactical formation and the long march to the bivouac area begins. FEX is underway.

Since this is a training exercise, the men know they will be attacked by "enemy forces." The only questions are when and where. The aggressors are personnel from the 20th Construction Regiment and battalion X-Company. They set up continuous ambushes along the route to the bivouac area.

Flankers are sent out to flush the enemy. Referees scamper to and fro designating casualties or discounting "kill" claims.

When the Seabees reach the bivouac area, the enemy falls back. Defensive positions are set up by



Zeroing in with M-60 machine gun.

mortar crews, patrols are sent out and the Seabees "dig in." There is little or no harassment during daylight, but night seems to bring new life to the enemy forces. Fighting continues throughout the night except for short periods of quiet which are shattered by rushes of taunting fire.

### DAWNING TRUCE

Dawn brings forth a truce. Tired, bleary-eyed Seabee and aggressor alike file into the chow line for breakfast. The remainder of the battalion's day is spent resecuring defensive lines and reworking fighting holes and camouflage. Enemy activity is unknown until dusk. That's when they strike, swarming at the outer perimeter

of the battalion's defense lines. The skies are lighted by the muzzle flash of M-16s, M-14s, and M-60s on full automatic. Another long sleepless night is in store for the Seabees. Dawn is forever away. But when it does come, the activities and discomforts of the night are momentarily forgotten. The FEX is completed and the battalion is homeward bound.

Though the field exercise may be just for fun for some and deemed a waste of time by others, it is serious business. FEX is an integral part of the training and conditioning needed before deploying to a combat zone. Those men who have deployed know this, and the others will learn. For if necessary, the Seabees will fight and build. And when they are deployed, men in a construction battalion "Can Do."

## Navy EAOS term includes extension

The Bureau of Naval Personnel reports confusion regarding the definition of EAOS (Expiration of Active Obligated Service) when used in conjunction with early-out programs.

In particular, bureau officials report, are the cases where enlisted men and women have signed agreements extending their enlistments, but the extensions have not yet gone into effect.

In those cases, the officials said, extension agreements will not be canceled unless specifically stated in a directive. The EAOS, then, is the date the extension agreement will expire, even though it has not become effective. (AFPS)

*Happy Valentine's  
Day. May it have  
special meaning  
for you.*

# Rebbercon

U.S. NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION SIXTY-TWO

[APRIL 1972]

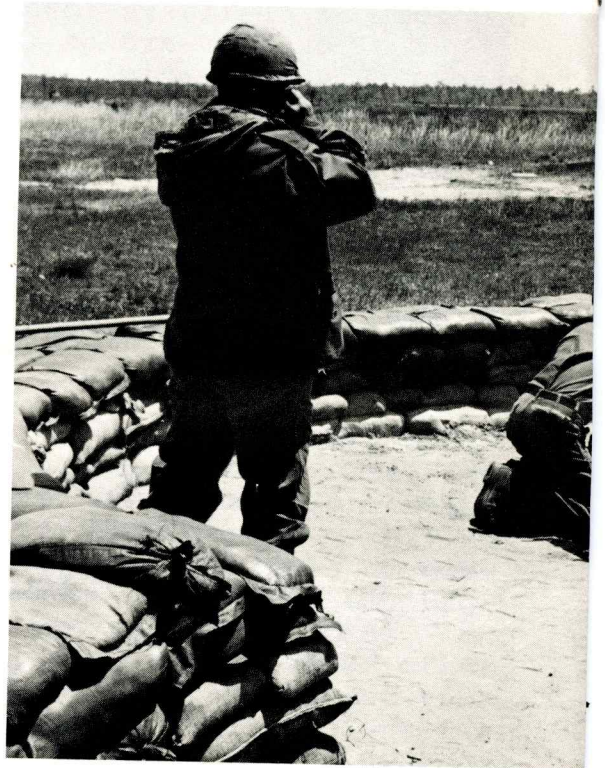




The members of Detail Camp Lejeune fire the M-79 Grenade Launcher.

Approximately 180 men under the command of LTJG Gregg D. Hagedorn, Officer in Charge, had close to 2 weeks, 17-28 April, of crew served weapons training at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

Each man had 3 to 4 days of intensive crew served weapons classroom and actual day and night firing for the weapon in which he specialized. The remainder of the time was spent with all the men firing all the weapons.



EA3 Tom Forbes pr  
round down the k  
Mortar.

Combat readiness is an important function that every Battalion must maintain. These M-60's play a large part in determining the Battalion's firepower.

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The men prepare to fire the 3.5 Rocket Launcher.



The courses covered included the 81mm Mortar, the M-60 Machine-gun, the 106 Recoilless Rifle, the 3.5 Rocket Launcher, Grenade throwing, the 50 cal. Machine-gun, and the M-79 Grenade Launcher.

The communications men formed a separate group and for the entire stay at Camp Lejeune covered Field Communications.

This training increases the Battalion's defensive Capabilities so that the Battalion can stand at the ready for any contingency which may arise.



prepares to drop a  
shell of the 81mm

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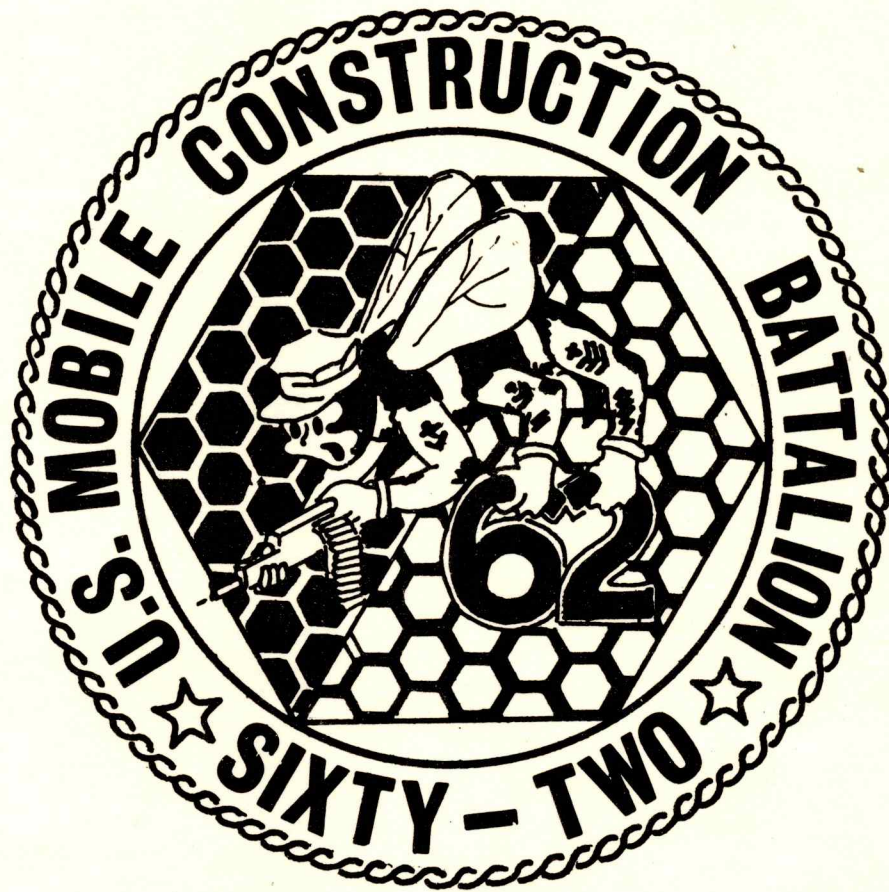
PT Meyers receives information  
from the forward observer over the  
phone while CM2 Mike Berg, EACN  
is "Greek" Lempesis, and BUCN  
Blank plot the firing mission.  
This was just part of the training  
received for the 81mm Mortar.

173

# Monthly Operations Report

U.S. NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION

# SIXTY - TWO



JAN 1971



U. S. NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION SIXTY-TWO  
FLEET POST OFFICE  
NEW YORK 09501

NMCB-62:30:raw  
5213  
Ser 265  
9 February 1971

From: Commanding Officer, U. S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion  
SIXTY-TWO  
To: Commander, Naval Construction Battalions, U. S. Atlantic Fleet  
Subj: Operations Report for the Month Ending 31 January 1971;  
submission of

Ref: (a) COMBANTINST 5213.4B  
(b) 20NCR OPORD 14-70

Encl: (1) Administrative Summary  
(2) Equipment Status Report  
(3) Training Report  
(4) Labor Distribution  
(5) Construction Item Chart  
(6) Progress and Performance Chart  
(7) Progress Photographs  
(8) Civic Action Reports

1. Enclosures (1) through (8) are forwarded in accordance with reference (a).

2. Unit Location. In accordance with reference (b), U. S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion SIXTY-TWO is at homeport in Gulfport, Mississippi, for leave, reorganization and training.

3. Unit Movements:

a. 1 Jan 71 - Detail SUGAR returned to Gulfport from New Orleans Sugar Bowl game.

4. Significant Events:

a. 3 Jan 71 - NMCB SIXTY-TWO terminated Post Deployment and Holiday leave.

b. 4 Jan 71 - The Battalion began homeport technical training.

c. 7-15 Jan 71 - The Battalion Commanding Officer with S-2, S-3 and S-4 visited prospective Caribbean deployment sites.

d. 11 Jan 71 - Began Battalion Disaster Recovery Training.

e. 11 Jan 71 - The TWENTIETH Naval Construction Regiment began pre-administrative inspection for NMCB SIXTY-TWO.

f. 19-22 Jan 71 - The Battalion Commanding Officer with the Operations Officer and the Operations Chief made a pre-deployment visit to CBLANT and to prospective CONUS deployment sites.

5. Major Problems:

None.

6. Significant Events Planned:

- a. 5 Feb 71 - The Battalion will complete Disaster Recovery Training.
- b. 15-26 Feb 71 - The Battalion's Provisional Rifle Company will undergo special training at Camp Lejuene, North Carolina.
- c. 22 Feb 71 - The Battalion's annual Administrative Inspection begins.
- d. 21-23 Feb 71 - The Battalion Commanding Officer will visit Camp Lejuene and NAVFACENGGCOM, Washington, D. C.
- e. 27 Feb 71 - The Construction Battalion Center and NMCB SIXTY-TWO will hold the Annual Seabee Ball.

D. H. GERDEL  
Acting

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## HISTORICAL SUMMARY

The first week in January 1971, the Battalion terminated its post deployment and holiday leave, and began its technical training period.

From January 7th through the 15th the Battalion Commanding Officer with S-2, S-3 and S-4 visited prospective Caribbean deployment sites, determining that the main body would probably deploy to Camp Moscrip, Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico, with details to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, the Canal Zone and Tharmount and Solomons, Maryland.

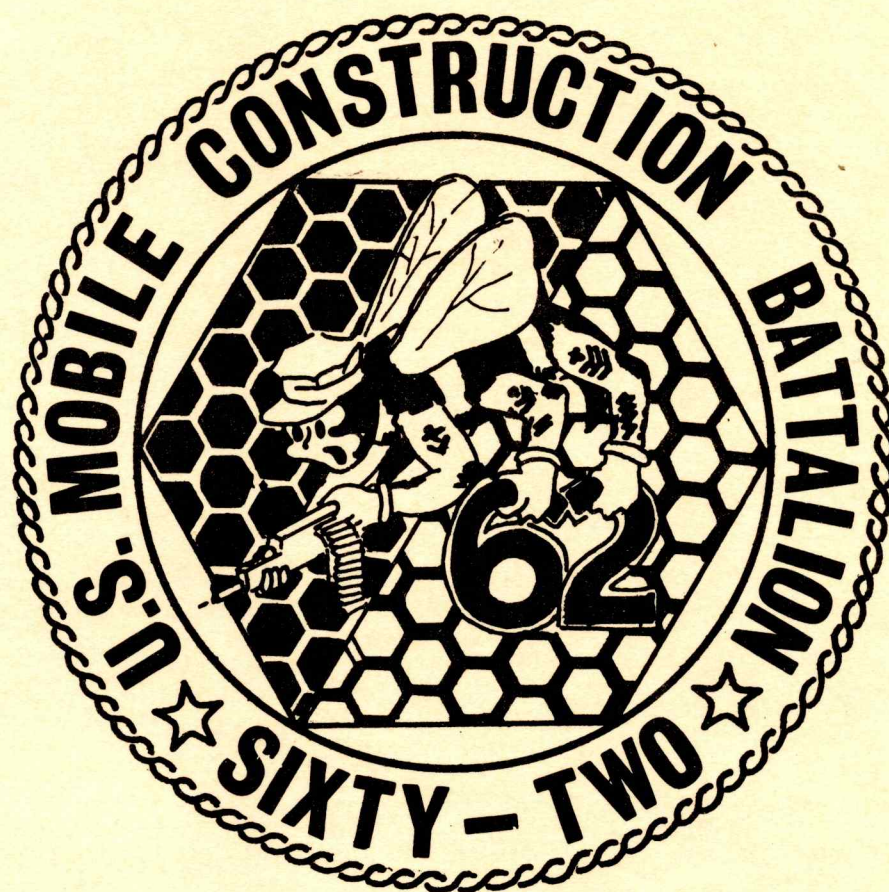
The Battalion, on January 11th began its disaster recovery training period, and the TWENTIETH Naval Construction Regiment began its pre-admin inspection for NMCB SIXTY-TWO with little or no interruption of Battalion operations.

Under the new procedure for administrative inspections, the TWENTIETH Naval Construction Regiment will conduct the pre-admin as in the past, but will also conduct the admin inspection itself. The admin will spread over a three week period, rather than a three day period. Emphasis will be on determining the continuing state of readiness and efficiency of operation of the Battalion, rather than its ability to prepare for a one-time inspection.

On January 19th through 22nd the Battalion Commanding Officer with the Operations Officer and the Operations Chief visited COMBLANT and prospective CONUS deployment sites at Tharmount and Solomons, Maryland.

# Monthly Operations Report

U.S. NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION  
**SIXTY - TWO**



FEB 1971

U. S. NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION SIXTY-TWO  
FLEET POST OFFICE  
NEW YORK 09501

NMCB-62:30:raw  
5213  
Ser 482  
5 March 1971

From: Commanding Officer, U. S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion  
SIXTY-TWO  
To: Commander, Naval Construction Battalions, U. S. Atlantic Fleet  
Subj: Operations Report for the Month Ending 28 February 1971;  
submission of

Ref: (a) COMCBIANTINST 5213.4B  
(b) 2ONCR OPORD 14-70

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(2) Equipment Status Report  
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2. Unit Location. In accordance with reference (b), U. S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion SIXTY-TWO is at homeport in Gulfport, Mississippi, for leave, reorganization and training.

3. Unit Movements:

- a. 6 Feb 71 - A special detail with the Battalion Commanding Officer, Alfa Company Commander and 17 enlisted personnel departed for Mandeville, Louisiana, to the crash site of an Air Force F-111 aircraft.
- b. 8 Feb 71 - Eight additional enlisted personnel departed for the F-111 crash site near Mandeville, La.
- c. 12-14 Feb 71 - The Battalion Provisional Rifle Company departed for Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.
- d. 27-28 Feb 71 - The Battalion Provisional Rifle Company returned from Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

4. Significant Events:

- a. 5 Feb 71 - The Battalion completed Disaster Recovery Training.
- b. 6 Feb 71 - The Battalion was tasked with the recovery of a downed Air Force F-111 from a site in a swamp near Mandeville, La. The Commanding Officer with a special detail set up camp and began building a road and walking a crane to the crash crater.

- c. 15-26 Feb 71 - The Battalion Provisional Rifle Company underwent special training at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.
- d. 17 Feb 71 - The Battalion Commanding Officer left the F-111 crash site and returned to duty at CEC Gulfport.
- e. 21-22 Feb 71 - The Battalion Executive Officer and Battalion Master Chief visited the Provisional Rifle Company at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.
- f. 22 Feb 71 - The Battalion's annual Administrative Inspection by Commander, 20th NCR began.
- g. 23-24 Feb 71 - The Battalion Commanding Officer visited Naval Facilities Engineering Command Headquarters, Washington D. C.
- h. 27 Feb 71 - The Construction Battalion Center and the Battalion observed the Seabee Birthday and CEC Anniversary with the annual Seabee Ball.

5. Major Problems:

None.

6. Significant Events Planned:

- a. 1-12 Mar 71 - Continued administrative inspections.
- b. 7-12 Mar 71 - The Battalion will undergo its Field Exercise (FEX) at Camp Hill in the Desoto National Forest.

*F. M. Newcomb*  
F. M. NEWCOMB