



CIVIL ENGINEER CORPS  
100th ANNIVERSARY  
MARCH 2, 1967

UNITED STATES NAVY  
CONSTRUCTION BATTALIONS  
**SEABEES IN ACTION**

"CONSTRUIMUS, BATUIMUS - WE BUILD, WE FIGHT"  
"CAN DO!"



SEABEES  
25th ANNIVERSARY  
MARCH 5, 1967

JOIN THE SEABEES - SERVE THE WORLD

MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION SEVENTY-FOUR  
FLEET POST OFFICE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 96601

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Release No. 23-67 (71)

SEABEES INTRODUCE VIETNAM VILLAGERS TO MODERN MEDICINE

Vietnamese civilians in hamlets near DaNang, South Vietnam, are getting special Seabee medical care.

There are three teams of Navy Seabee Corpsmen that make these trips from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion SEVENTY-FOUR. They visit the hamlets of Trung Nghia, Phouc Tranh, and Phouc Quanh. Trung Nghia is a Buddhist village, the others Catholic.

Under the Medical Civic Action Program (MEDCAP), each team is assigned one village and the visits are twice a week to each one. The fact that it is the same corpsman who return each time is an important factor in building up the confidence of the villagers.

Navy Seabee Hospital Corpsmen Second Class Robert E. Burgess is the man in-charge of these MEDCAP operations. Burgess makes each trip with each team, six days a week.

For each trip much has to be done prior to leaving the base. The ambulance has to be filled with the needed drugs and bandages used on the visit. Burgess has to decide how much of each will be used on the forthcoming trip and stock accordingly.

Burgess has the two ambulances used by MCB-74 set up to service most any type of situation that could be met on these daily trips. If a particular case is encountered that he decides is too serious for the field, Burgess immediately sends the patient to the local hospital. So far, no case has been refused, showing that the judgement used by him is accurate in every instance.

Burgess said the most prevalent diseases found by these Seabee teams are tuberculosis, abscesses, and tropical ulcers. All of these cases are handled by the teams under the watchful eye of Burgess.

Burgess can clearly see the great strides being made by these teams. The common diseases are becoming less frequent and of a much milder nature.

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Burgess first entered the service in 1960 and served in MCB-74 since November 1966. His wife, Rose, and their two children reside at 1426 Genevive Ave., Gulfport, Mississippi.

Burgess volunteered for the job of head MEDCAP Corpsman and states that he enjoys the feeling of helping these people. Wehn asked what has been the greatest experience in all of the MEDCAP work, Burgess had this to say, "At one of the children's orphanages there was an outbreak of measles. The MEDCAP Teams stopped this outbreak and we didn't lose a single child."

The MEDCAP tours will continue for the rest of MCB-74's deployment and Seabee Burgess hopes to stay active in this most worth while and gratifying Civic Action Project.

1967 marks the 25th anniversary of the U. S. Navy Seabees; the 100th of the Navy Civil Engineer Corps whose officers lead the Seabees in action; and the 125th of the Naval Facilities Engineering Command (formerly Bureau of Yards and Docks).

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DEAR EDITOR: We Seabees hope you can use this copy and we would appreciate a tear sheet mailed to:

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE 09D1  
U. S. Navy Seabees  
Yards & Docks Annex 2B-35  
Washington, D. C. 20390



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SEABEES DOCTOR VILLAGERS --- SEABEE Hospital Corpsman Second Class Robert E. Burgess, MCB-74's Petty Officer in Charge MEDCAP checks out a Vietnamese boy during a MEDCAP visit to a local Buddhist Hamlet. Burgess discovered the child was suffering from pneumonia.

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