

## UNITED STATES NAVY CONSTRUCTION BATTALIONS

## SEABEES IN ACTION

"CONSTRUIMUS, BATUIMUS - WE BUILD, WE FIGHT"

"CAN DO!"



## JOIN THE SEABEES - SERVE THE WORLD

U. S. NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION ELEVEN FLEET POST OFFICE SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF. 96601

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Release No. 5-7-67 (53) By Journalist Second Class Byron Findley

NAVY SEABEE TEAM CIVIC ACTION IN THAILAND

Navy's 13-man SEABEE TEAMS are helping the government of Thailand develop remote border areas.

Typical TEAM members are Seabees of SEABEE TEAM 1109 assigned to Chiang Kham in northern Thailand near the Burma and Laos borders.

Talking about the TEAM'S relations with the Thai people, Lieutenant (junior grade) Bruce B. Geibel, the officer-in-charge of TEAM 1109, said, "being right in the middle of town we have about 35-40 children flocking over to our house every day after school to play games, swing and seesaw on playground equipment provided by the Seabees, learn English and mainly just look at the Farangs (foreigners), as they call us.

"Privacy on the ground floor is impossible as every window has at least five kids looking through it. It is a lot of fun though, especially the English lessons, and everyone has a ball," he noted.

Last spring, SEABEE TEAM 1109 arrived in Bangkok, Thailand, where its members were briefed by U. S. military and embassy personnel on their new assignment. A little later, the TEAM reached its destination--Chiang Kham.

Since then the Seabees have been working with a local 15-man Thailand Border Patrol Police (BPP) team. The BPP provides liaison for the Seabees with local officials on projects being accomplished by TEAM 1109. In turn, the Seabees are instructing the BPP in methods of construction, medicine, civic action, and English.

With the help of the BPP, SEABEE TEAM 1109 is now covering a wide area around Chiang Kham. Eight Seabees are working on a dam, reservoir, school, clinic, soccer field, and roads at the Huai Fuang Yao resettlement site.

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At Sam Muen a well was drilled and work completed on an airstrip. On all projects the local Thai people willingly volunteer their help and are being instructed how to continue the work after TEAM 1109 completes its assignment at Chiang Kham.

Besides construction, an active medical civic action program and English language classes are being carried out by the TEAM. In one month the TEAM'S corpsman treated over 2,500 patients.

SEABEE TEAM 1109 is part of U. S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion ELEVEN which is presently assigned to Dong Ha, South Vietnam.

The Battalion has two additional SEABEE TEAMS--1108 and 1110. TEAM 1108 is located at Lai Thieu, South Vietnam, approximately 13 miles north of Saigon. TEAM 1110 is presently undergoing a 16-week training program at the Seabee Construction Battalion Center, Port Hueneme, Calif.

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:

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