



CIVIL ENGINEER CORPS
100th ANNIVERSARY
MARCH 7, 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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Release No. (63)

A SEABEE TEAM - DAY OF REST

A group of Americans in Vietnam over a month's time wired and installed sanitary facilities in a house, wired a complete mechanic's shop, hauled 1,141 yards of fill to a storage area and spread it, completed a road by hauling fill, grading, ditching, and cutting walkways on both sides of the road, hauled 78 cubic yards of fill to a refugee camp, graded 1,875 square yards for the site of new houses at the same camp, graded 7,500 square yards for a football field at a Vietnamese recreation center, graded 224 square yards at a new school playground, widened one and one tenth miles of road from 16 to 32 feet by removal of trees and stumps, grading, ditching, and cutting a 10 foot walkway on either side, constructed and installed Bulletin Boards, put up clothes lines, installed sinks, screen doors and shelves, constructed a defense bunker--but then the list could go on almost indefinitely.

Was this a battalion of engineers? NO! A company then? NO again! It was a group of 13 men from the U. S. Navy's Pacific Construction Forces designated as SEABEE Team 1007. This team, made up of one civil engineer officer, eleven construction ratings from the Pacific SEABEE forces and one hospital corpsman, were engaged in civic action work in Tay Ninh Province, Vietnam under the sponsorship of the U. S. Agency for International Development (USAID). One of four such Teams recently serving in Vietnam, SEABEE Team 1007 was composed of men picked from U. S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion TEN and extensively trained to perform their civic action tasks in Southeast Asia.

The work projects completed above were accomplished as planned projects to be completed during the normal 12-14 hour a day, 6 day work-week of Team 1007. The seventh day of the week is set aside for special projects for which the members of the Team have seen a need. Typical of these special jobs is one which they completed during the period mentioned above.

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The Vietnamese Army in Tay Ninh Province needed an outpost constructed near one of the smaller villages in the area. The need was urgent, as this particular village had been the object of repeated harassment by the Viet Cong. The SEABEES of 1007 heard of this need and volunteered to construct the outpost. The following Sunday as dawn broke over the rice paddies in the Mekong Delta region the SEABEE Team members, with some of their equipment, including a front end loader and a bulldozer, were on their way to get the job started.

They started early and before very long the strange noises of the heavy equipment brought some curious early-rising villagers out to see what was going on. As word spread back to the village that American SEABEES had come to construct a defensive outpost for their village the entire population of the village came out to watch in wide-eyed wonderment as the strange, powerful machines began to change the appearance of the area.

Knocking down trees and pushing great heaps of underbrush before it, the bulldozer soon had an area cleared on which to locate the outpost. By early afternoon the SEABEES had constructed a triangular earthen berm 7 feet in height and 100 feet long on each side. But the job had just begun. Crawling down from their equipment the men of Team 1007 took up shovels and began filling sand bags with which to reinforce the berm. Soon a couple of the bolder villagers shyly stepped forth and indicated they too knew how to handle a shovel and through the language barrier got the point across that they would like to help. Before long the people of the hamlet, including women and children, were matching the industry of the SEABEES, filling, carrying, and putting the sandbags in place, stringing barbed wire and casting eager glances at the big Americans to see if their efforts were receiving the approval of the SEABEE construction experts. The broad smiles they received in return indicated that they were doing just fine.

As the shadows grew long across the Mekong Delta the men of SEABEE Team 1007 stood back with hands-on-hips and surveyed the result of their "day of rest". Beside them, standing quietly and equally proud, were their newly won Vietnamese friends and workfellows (and women) (and children), all greatly impressed at the terrific work that could be accomplished when everyone worked together under expert direction.

The SEABEES packed up their equipment and returned to Tay Ninh City. At last report Viet Cong incidents in the area of the tiny hamlet were very few and rapidly declining. The protection afforded by the new outpost has taken care of that problem. Equally important, a new bond of international understanding and good will between the Vietnamese and American people has been forged through the efforts of SEABEE Team 1007.

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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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