



A Seabee Spectacular at DA NANG

In an area near Da Nang, frequently contested by the Viet Cong and U.S. forces, is the site of a Seabee rock crusher installation.



In the sand near Da Nang, an armed, two-man motor grader crew from MCB-133 cuts a roadway to a POW compound.



An M-R-S all-wheel-drive tractor and scraper is typical of the small, powerful, flexible equipment in Seabee construction spreads.

The Army, Navy, and the Air Force are involved in construction work in Vietnam, each with its own men and equipment. Active too, are the Navy SeaBees whose World War II motto "Can Do", and the ability to prove it under fire, earned them world wide admiration.

They are proving themselves again in Vietnam. Eight battalions of the Third Brigade's Thirtieth Regiment are operating in the volatile I Corps area bordering North Vietnam and Laos. The first Mobile Construction Battalion to hit Vietnam (MCB-10) did so in typical beach-head style on May 7, 1965, the tenth anniversary of the fall of Dien Bien Phu. Soon augmented by other battalions, the SeaBees continue to operate in true WW II tradition.

October 1965 saw the SeaBees nearing completion of a hospital near Da Nang. A Viet Cong mortar attack was launched on MCB-9 and two were killed, 96 wounded. The hospital was a shambles. Rushing in replacements, the SeaBees went back to work before the dust had settled, and completed the hospital on schedule.

As recently as last summer, the Viet Cong were slipping in every night to mine a dusty road where MCB-10 was working. And every morning the Marines swept the road and dug out the mines so the SeaBees could continue operations. Even so, mines blew up two trucks and a generator and partially disabled a tank.

The 6500 SeaBees in I Corps are daily involved in hundreds of large and small construction projects the largest being military support programs. Their construction accomplishments are often spectacular, like building an operational 3,500-ft. jet runway in 21 days, or erecting and operating a 200-ton per hour rock crusher in the heart of a rugged defense perimeter.

However, people-to-people, or "civic action" programs figure prominently among SeaBee accomplishments. For them, building an orphanage, digging a new water well for a village, "procuring" supplies for a wrecked school, and providing whole communities with their first bars of soap are important contributions that go hand-in-hand with their military construction efforts.

In either case, a good share of the SeaBee work in Vietnam is effected in areas still under contest, or only recently secured.



Rifles close at hand, a SeaBee operates a Galion motor grader on an MCB-9 excavation project by the I Corps.



The SeaBees operate six crusher plants in Vietnam. This unit, one of the largest in the SeaBee inventory, is run by MCB-9, and is powered by Detroit Diesels.

Under SeaBee operation an Eimco bulldozer levels sand dunes along the South China Sea near Da Nang for enlargement of a POW compound.

