



The ESPRIT OF 53



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DAVISVILLE, RHODE ISLAND

December 1968

New CO Takes Over MCB-53



Commander Richard Bowers (left) passes the battalion colors to Commander Robert Miller, the relieving Commanding Officer of MCB-53, during the Change of Command Ceremony at Max Kiel Gymnasium.

Change of Command ceremonies for Mobile Construction Battalion 53 were held at Max Kiel Gymnasium on December 6. Commander Robert Miller relieved Commander Richard Bowers of the command of the battalion.

The Commander of the troops during the ceremonies was Lieutenant Commander Richard Knauf, Executive Officer of MCB-53. The Master of Ceremonies was Lieutenant Commander James Lytle, Officer-in-Charge of MCB-53's Supply department.

Commander Bowers received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Yale University. He was employed in New York City as a structural engineer prior to entering the Navy in 1952 through Officer Candidate School, Newport, R.I.

His previous assignments include service at NAS Quonset Point; Operations Officer of Mobile Construction Battalion (Special) Antarctica, Civil Engineer Corps Officers School at Port Hueneme, Calif.; Assistant Resident Officer in Charge of Construction, NAS Lemoore, Calif.; Military Construction Program Manager, Bureau of Yards and Docks; Bureau of Naval Personnel, Allied Forces Northern Europe, Oslo, Norway. He reported to MCB-53 from the Naval War College, Newport, R.I. He just recently returned from an eight month tour of duty in the Republic of Vietnam as Commanding Officer of MCB-53.

Commander Miller received his Bachelor's degree from the University of Notre Dame in 1956. He was commissioned an Ensign

in the Civil Engineer Corps in 1957.

Commander Miller has previously served as "H" Company Commander at MCB-6; Assistant Public Works Officer at NAS Grosse Ile, Mich.; Public Works Officer at the Naval Disciplinary Command, Portsmouth, New Hampshire; Assistant OICC/ROICC Sumarine Base, New London, Conn.; Public Works Officer for Antarctic Support Activities, Davisville, R.I. and Special Assistant for Planning for Pacific Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

Commander Miller went on inactive duty from March 1960 to October 1961. During this time he was a construction superintendent for a general contractor in Westchester County, New York.

Commander Bowers Receives Bronze Star

Commander Bowers was awarded the Bronze Star Medal "for meritorious service in connection with operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force as Commanding Officer, U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion FIFTY-THREE from 19 January to 20 September 1968."

The citation went on to say: "...Commander Bowers' dedication to duty, sound judgment, exceptional professional competence, and acute managerial ability resulted in solutions to numerous complex logistical and engineering problems throughout the deployment of his battalion in the I Corps area of South Vietnam. Through his exemplary leadership, superb professional and personal direction of his command during this period, he motivated

and sustained his battalion to undertake and complete all tasks in a courageous and commendatory manner that has significantly contributed to the Free World Military efforts in Vietnam. By his inspiring leadership and devotion to duty, Commander Bowers upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

Previous decorations received by Commander Bowers include the Legion of Merit, the Joint Services Commendation Medal, and the Navy Unit Commendation. For his work in Antarctica he received the Moreel Medal awarded annually by the Society of American Military Engineers. He is married to the former Sally Lake Foster of Cornwall, Connecticut. He has two sons, Lawrence and Jeffrey, and a daughter, Susan.



Commander Miller (right) passes the battalion colors to Lieutenant Joseph B. Green (left), battalion adjutant, during the Change of Command Ceremony, after relieving Commander Bowers (behind the battalion colors) of the command of MCB-53.

5301 BEGINS TRAINING

Seabee Team 5301 has started training for a six to eight month tour of duty in Southeast Asia. 5301 is Seabee Construction Battalion 53's first Seabee team since

the battalion was recommissioned June 30, 1967.

The team is made up of a cross section of Seabee ratings. Each man will receive fundamental training in each rating so that the 13 man team can operate effectively in remote sections of Vietnam. Equipment operators, construction mechanics, engineering aids, steelworkers and builders will provide the technical knowledge to make this people project a success.

Approximately 20 weeks of training will be necessary to prepare the team for its deployment. Included in this 20 week training period will be a one week course in escape and survival to be held in Maine. Two weeks of homeport project training at Gulfport, Mississippi and a three week Vietnamese language course at Port Hueneme, California will round out the training before the team deploys with the battalion this March.

The purpose of today's Seabee team is to provide the underde-

veloped areas of the world with trained construction personnel who not only build schools, churches and hospitals, but teach the various construction skills in the process. In Vietnam, the men of the Seabee team and the Vietnamese work as a unit, through the help of interpreters, to develop individual skills and to generally create a more progressive attitude toward education, sanitation, nutrition and housing.

Lieutenant (junior grade) Louis M. Smith from Milwaukee, Wisconsin will serve as Officer-in-Charge. Ltjg. Smith earned his Civil Engineering degree from Marquette University in 1967.

Chief Utilitizman Samuel Williams, Petty Officer-in-Charge of the team, was awarded the Navy Achievement Medal with the Combat "V" during 53's first deployment for his performance while assigned as Petty Officer-in-Charge of a detachment of Seabees to Hoi An, Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam.

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Vietnam Veterans Receive Awards

Mobile Construction Battalion 53 has held two awards ceremonies since returning to the United States from the "I" Corps area of South Vietnam. The battalion is currently re-staffing for crew training before returning to Vietnam for a second deployment.

During these ceremonies three Navy Commendation Medals, seven Navy Achievement Medals, and nine Vietnam Gallantry Cross Medals were presented by Commander R. A. Bowers, recently relieved Commanding Officer of MCB-53. Also there were a number of letters of appreciation awarded and the Petty Officers of the month and Seabees of the

month for the months of September and October were recognized.

The Navy Commendation Medal was awarded to Ensign Sidney T. Spencer, Lieutenant (junior grade) Charles William Horton and Lieutenant (junior grade) Don Achille Maccaferri.

Seven men received the Navy Achievement Medal with Combat "V" for their outstanding achievement in the superior performance of their duties while serving with MCB-53 in the Republic of Vietnam. They were: Lieutenant Commander Richard Harold Knauf, Jr.; Lieutenant Commander David L. Forney; Lieutenant Bruce Lee Runberg; Senior Chief Builder Walter R. Dexhel-

mer, Jr.; Senior Chief Construction Mechanic Allen D. Bowden; Builder First Class Wayne S. Kelly and Steelworker Second Class Willard J. Cheirretti.

The Vietnam Gallantry Cross was presented by the Republic of Vietnam to the following personnel for their courage and technical knowledge in building and defending an Ammi Bridge over the Perfume River at Nam Hoa: BU1 R.T. Flockton; SW2 W. J. Cheirretti; SW2 A. L. Bogue; BU2 P. C. Remson; CS3 A. C. Cope; BU3 M. S. Earnest; SW3 S. W. Garrett; SW3 J. M. Bridges and CN S. A. Kenezuruff.

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Captain's Corner

Accidents And Booze

Chaplain's Article



CDR Miller

The period of time a Construction Battalion spends in its home port is never long enough. There are so very many things to do; leave and liberty come first, for after an arduous deployment every man needs an opportunity to relax. Next comes training; this is the most critical phase of our home port deployment and perhaps the least understood. In order for the Battalion to be an efficient, productive unit, capable of pulling our own weight, new skills must be learned and old skills must be sharpened.

The 21st NCR and NAVSCON are agencies which the Battalion can and should use to conduct training. But make no mistake, I personally am responsible to ensure that the proper level of training has been achieved.

Training is broadly divided into Professional Training and Military Training. Our Professional Training is just about complete. We will spend the remainder of our Davisville time undergoing Military Training at Camp Fogarty in January and Camp LeJeune in February. This type of training may very well save your life in DaNang, so I urge each of you to pay strict attention to the instructions, and ask questions if you don't understand any particular point. The only stupid question is the one you don't ask, so don't be embarrassed, there are probably others in the class that do not understand either.

At the completion of this last phase of our training there will be another leave period. Then we will all deploy to DaNang in mid-March. Our advance party will deploy about a month before the main body.

On 19 February we will undergo an inspection by COMCBLANT. Commodore Iselin and his staff will take a hard look at MCB-53 and publish a report on our readiness to undertake a second deployment to RVN. Since so many men in the Battalion have already made one deployment with 53, we should be in excellent shape. I will be very disappointed if the CBLANT Staff is not impressed with the men of 53.

Mrs. Miller and I wish each one of you a most Happy and Successful New Year!

Penn Becomes Sixth State To Enact Vietnam Bonus

WASHINGTON (NAVNEWS) . . . Pennsylvania has become the sixth state to enact a Vietnam Bonus.

The other five states are: Illinois, Connecticut, Louisiana, Delaware and Massachusetts.

Payment of the Pennsylvania bonus, (\$25 per month for each month of service in Vietnam, up to a \$750 maximum) however, is about six months away, at which time claim forms will be available.

To be eligible for the bonus you must be eligible to wear the Vietnam Service Medal, must not have renounced your citizenship, must have in your service record a specific place in Pennsylvania listed as your residence or home of record, and must be honorably separated from active duty.

To obtain payment you must attach your original DD 214 (Armed Forces of the United States Record of Transfer or Discharge) to your bonus request form. DD 214's will be returned to you as soon as possible. To obtain a certified, true copy of your DD 214, in case the original has

been lost, write: National Records Center, GSA, 9700 Page Blvd., St. Louis, Mo. 63132.

Bonus application forms and additional information can be obtained by writing: Adjutant General of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Harrisburg, Pa. 17120.

For other states offering bonuses, application forms and additional information may be obtained by writing the following:

Illinois Veterans' Commission, 221 West Jefferson St., Springfield, Ill. 62704.

State of Connecticut, Office of the Treasurer, Vietnam Bonus Division, 15 Lewis St., Hartford, Conn. 06115.

Louisiana Department of Veterans' Affairs, Vietnam Bonus Division, 150 North 3rd St., Baton Rouge, La. 70801.

Department of Veterans' Affairs, State of Delaware, Dover, Dela. 19901.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts, State Treasurer, Bonus Division, Room 227 State House, Boston, Mass. 02133.

It seems appropriate to remind ourselves of the principal cause of death and crippling injuries on the highway with the start of the new year—driving after drinking.

Blood analysis of 675 of the 4,754 persons killed in Massachusetts in the past six years showed that more than half of the victims "were impaired" by alcohol, according to Leo L. Laughlin, state public safety commissioner.

Mr. Laughlin said that of 301 drivers killed in one-car accidents, 207, or 68 percent, were impaired by alcohol, 8 per cent had been drinking and only 24 per cent were sober.

Mr. Laughlin's statistics showed that out of 181 operators killed in multiple vehicle accidents, 48 per cent were impaired by alcohol, 14 per cent had been drinking and 38 per cent were sober.

Out of 192 pedestrians killed, 51 per cent were impaired by alcohol.

Every year during the festive seasons hundreds of homes are shrouded in sorrow because someone, not necessarily the victim, drives his car after drinking. An unfortunate characteristic of alcohol is that it gives the drinker false courage and deludes him into believing his driving skill is enhanced. Consequently he takes chances he would not take if he were in possession of his senses.

No person has the right to jeopardize the safety of other travelers on the highway or the passengers in his own car.

The first drink could be the fatal one.

Navy Exam Dates Set

WASHINGTON (NAVNEWS) . . . The Navy has announced the dates for personnel taking part in February's advancement in rate tests.

The schedule is as follows: E-4—Tuesday, Feb. 4; E-5—Thursday, Feb. 6; E-6—Tuesday, Feb. 11; E-7—Thursday, Feb. 13; E-8 and E-9—Tuesday, Feb. 25.

Time waivers for E-4 and E-5 candidates are spelled out in BuPersNote 1418 of Nov. 21. Details about automatic advancements are also given in the notice.

For those taking the E-8 and E-9 exams, BuPersNote 1418 of Nov. 18 sets forth the candidate's eligibility requirements.

Briefly stated, all senior and master chief candidates must have completed all required practical factors by Jan. 25, be recommended by their commanding officer and appear before a board of officers for a personal interview prior to taking the exam.

Additionally, senior chief candidates must have completed 11 years' service, three of them as an E-7 by Nov. 16. They must also have successfully completed the Navy Regulations correspondence course (NavPers 10740-A4) by Feb. 25.

Master chief candidates must have completed 13 years' service, two of which as an E-8 as of Nov. 16, and have successfully completed the Military Justice in the Navy correspondence course (NavPers 10993-5) by Feb. 25.



Chaplain Fiel

This week we find ourselves really involved in the glitter and lights, gift shopping that goes with Christmas time. Maybe we're looking for some gift that is "way-out" or we're looking for this Christmas to be better than any other. Teenage vocabulary has a phrase "out of sight" which depicts something that is too much for anyone to really understand.

That's what we can say about a certain person who lived quite some time ago—Jesus Christ.

Do you want to know what God is like — this one that no one has seen, this one that many people want to become involved with? Then look at Jesus Christ. He is actually God in human flesh. As someone has written: "The almightiness of God now moved in a human form; the infinite love of God now beat in a human heart; the unbounded compassion of God now glistened in a human eye."

This means that God, who is seeking you, is not "way out there somewhere", disinterested in you and me and our world. He came into sight and into focus in Jesus Christ to show us who He's really like.

What a picture! Jesus Christ shows us that God cares for people, loves them, is willing to forgive them.

Too good to be true? Out of sight? Maybe. But that's what is meant, what I mean by Christmas.

Family Protection Plan (RSFPP) Tuition Assistance Cutback

1. The President signed Public Law 90-485 on 13 August 1968, which amends and considerably expands the RSFPP. (Formerly the Contingency Option Act.)

2. The following provisions became effective on 13 August:

A. Initial elections which are immediately valid, may be made at any time prior to the completion of 19 years of service for pay purposes.

B. Elections made after completing 19 years will be effective if made at least 2 years before retired pay is granted.

C. Elections, revocations, or changes made before 13 August, may operate under the old law, that is, member may request prior to 1 September 1969 that his election, revocation, or change become effective only if 3 full years elapse from date of submission to date of retirement.

D. Restoration of full retired pay when retiree no longer has eligible beneficiaries (Old Option 4) is automatic for all members retired on or after 13 August. Members retired before that date who did not have option 4 may now elect to purchase coverage under Option 4. The decision to purchase Option 4 must be made before 1 September 1969.

E. Retirees may reduce coverage or withdraw from participation without demonstration of hardship, but for members retired before 13 August, they must either have Option 4 or purchase it. The reduction or withdrawal will become effective on the first day of the seventh month following request, and no portion of the cost of participation is refundable. Navy members send applications to NFC, Cleveland; Marine Corps personnel send applications to MCFC, Kansas City.

WASHINGTON (NAVNEWS) . . . The Navy announced recently a new dollar limitation on Navy Tuition assistance funds for Fiscal Year 1969.

The Navy will now pay 75 per cent of tuition costs, not to exceed \$45 per participant in any one term, if the school operates on a semester hour basis; or \$30 per participant in any one term, if the school operates on a quarter hour basis.

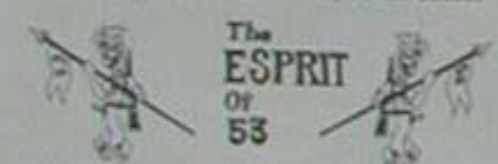
What this means is that no matter how many courses you take, you cannot expect to get more than \$45 in any one term.

The smart thing to do is to shop around and find a college which offers the lowest tuition rates and operates on several terms per school year.

While no sharp decline in enrollments by Navy men is expected, it is anticipated that a shift toward community and junior colleges, where tuition rates are generally lower, will develop.



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The MCB FIFTY-THREE ESPRIT is a service publication of MCB-53 and is published monthly using appropriated funds in compliance with NAVEXOS P-35.

Opinions expressed in this newspaper by the writers herein are their own and are not to be considered an official expression of the Defense Department, the Navy Department or of the Commanding Officer unless otherwise indicated. The ESPRIT uses AFNB material.

Commanding Officer CDR R.K. MILLER
Executive Officer LCDR R.H. KNAUF
Public Affairs Officer LTJG B.L. CRAIN
Editor JO3 F.F. HUTCHINS



Warrant Officer Lavin is sworn in to his present rank by Lieutenant Commander Richard H. Knauf, Executive Officer of MCB-53.

Promoted To Warrant Officer

Construction electrician Chief Francis J. Lavin, Jr. was recently promoted to Warrant Officer in a ceremony performed by Lieutenant Commander Richard H. Knauf, Executive Officer of MCB-53 and at the time, acting Commanding Officer.

Warrant Officer Lavin graduated from Cranston High School, Cranston, Rhode Island in 1951. He has attended Providence College for one year and the U.S. Naval Academy. He was employed as an electrician before being called to active duty in May, 1968.

His previous duty assignments include service with the 1st Marine Division in Korea during the Korean War. He was discharged from the Marine Corps in 1955 to attend the U.S. Naval Academy.

He left the Academy in 1955 and affiliated with the Marine Corps Reserve Program. He joined the Seabee Reserve in 1960 as a Second Class Petty Officer. In 1962 he was advanced to First Class and then in 1965 he made Chief Petty Officer. Warrant Officer Lavin joined MCB-53 from MCB-12 in June, 1968.

Decorations received by Warrant Officer Lavin include the Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal.

He is married to the former JoAnn P. D'Ordine of North Providence, Rhode Island. He has three sons, Francis III, Keith, and Christopher, and two daughters, Pamela and Michelle, aged 10, 5, 7 weeks, 8 and 7 respectfully.

The All-Around Skipper

It had been rumored for sometime that MCB-53 was due for a Change-in-Command, and, much to the dismay of the men who had served with Commander R.A. Bowers since he took charge of the battalion in June, 1967, this rumor proved true on December 6, 1968. At this time Commander Robert K. Miller, CEC, USN, took over command of MCB-53.

It was apparent that MCB-53 had done an outstanding job during its eight months in Vietnam under Commander Bowers, but when the relieving battalion arrived and many of its men showed their astonishment at the output of MCB-53, there was no doubt that the deployment had been a complete success. Much of this must be credited to the men's personal pride that was constantly being instilled by Commander Bowers. His encouragement, assistance and fairness in all situations made the men of MCB-53 proud to be under his command. His interest in the men's welfare brought the battalion together as a team and produced as only a team could under the circumstances. Those men who stepped out of line for some reason or another and had "to go see the man" would return from the visit saying, "All you can do is look real sorry and hope for the best." Commander Bowers' stare could make the greatest storyteller think twice before being cross-examined by one who, shall we say "knows what's happening". Commander Bowers was even active in sports during the battalion's deployment to Vietnam. His "spike" had a good deal to do with the Officers winning the volleyball tournament.

Yes, you might say the men of MCB-53 will miss Commander Richard A. Bowers.

The Legal Beagle

By Cal Bridgers

Well it seems everyone had a nice leave and are ready for the homeport period. What's surprised me is that we did not hang a single person late returning from leave and that is something to be proud of.

However, there are a few things that are troubling us. One is the number of men that have

been caught by the local shore patrol for making unauthorized stops off base while wearing the utility green or undress blue uniform.

The only time you are authorized to stop while in greens or undress blues is when you have a bonafide emergency with your vehicle. This does not include stops for fuel or to pick up your laundry.

Just remember one thing, no stops going home means no stops at legal.

Another sore spot is another old problem; that of minors and drinking at the Seair and Seabee Clubs.

The Rhode Island State laws state that no one under the age of twenty-one shall buy, or give alcoholic beverages to minors.

Anyone caught violating the law, or the battalion instruction pertaining to drinking, will be brought before the Commanding Officer.

Let's all work together to eliminate these problems and have a happy homeport deployment.



HM3 Dawson

Accident Fatal To Corpsman

An accident on Route 95 at 12:25 P.M., 20 December proved fatal to MCB-53 Hospital Corpsman Chris A. Dawson, 21, who was returning from Pawtucket accompanied by Hospital Corpsman Fred L. Allen. Hospitalman Allen, with the exception of a few bruises, was uninjured in the mishap.

The car overturned after hitting the median throwing Dawson from the vehicle. He was pronounced dead from internal injuries at 12:40 P.M., approximately fifteen minutes after the accident occurred. Allen, who was sleeping in the front seat at the time, was thrown into the back seat as the car overturned.

Petty Officer Dawson had served with the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division in Vietnam from August 1966 to October 1967. During this time he was awarded the Bronze Star, 2 Purple Hearts and the Presidential Unit Citation. He joined MCB-53 half way through the battalion's deployment to the Republic of Vietnam.

He is survived by his wife Angela M., his parents William O. and Kathryn Dawson of Enid, Oklahoma, and two brothers and a sister whose names were not available.

AWARDS Continued from P. 1

Storekeeper Second Class Richard E. Lee received a "Letter of Appreciation" from the Commanding Officer of Seabee Construction Battalion EIGHT. Petty Officer Lee was temporarily attached to MCB-8.

The following men received "Letters of Appreciation" from 53's Commanding Officer, Commander R. A. Bowers, for their efforts and actions while on duty in the Tra Bong Valley of South Vietnam: BU1 J. W. Caraway; BU2 L. W. Garden; BU3 T. D. Flood; SW2 R. C. Clemens; BU3 L. S. Langford; BU3 N. C. Pelletier; BU3 R. H. Boudreau; CN T. L. Noggle; EA2 D. R. Fahringer and EOCN G. A. Mattone.

CS2 John N. Green was selected Petty Officer of the Month of September and CM2 D. D. Elder was chosen for the same award for the month of October. Recipients of the Seabee of the Month Award were CMCN R. A. Holmes, Jr. for the month of September and CMCN N. P. LeBorde for the month of October.

New Company Will Function As "Small Battalion"

Fox is the name for a new company which has recently been added to the other five companies that make up Mobile Construction Battalion 53. This company is comprised of just about every rate involved with a construction battalion and will in itself, function as a small battalion. At last count there are 162 men in the company and their rates consist of builders, steelworkers, equipment operators, mechanics, utili-

tiesmen, electricians, surveyors, disbursing clerks, personnelmen, yeomen, and commissarymen.

The company will go North on detachment when the battalion redeploys to the Republic of Vietnam and will work in support of the Allied Forces in those Northernmost Provinces. The detachment is presently under the Command of Lieutenant Commander W. M. Ivie. Lieutenant (junior grade) C. W. Anderson is Assistant Officer-in-Charge.



PLAY BALL — Jacqueline Hunter readies herself for a day at the beach. Jacqueline is featured in American-International's film, "Wild in the Streets."

Training Schedule

The men of MCB-53 will begin military training on 6 January 1969 at Camp Fogarty. The training will last until 22 January and at this time flights will begin for Camp Lejeune, North Carolina and another training period under Marine instructors from 27 January to 13 February.



Commander R.A. Bowers (fourth from the left) receives an "Outstanding Officer" Award from the Chief Petty Officers of MCB-53. The certificate stated: "This award is presented to Commander R.A. Bowers for outstanding loyalty, devotion and leadership to the men of U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion FIFTY-THREE. From the moment you assumed command you have labored untiringly and through your efforts have molded this battalion into the best. We, the CPO's, with gratitude and deep affection, wish you fair skies, smooth sailing and following seas."

CRUISEBOOKS ARE ON ORDER IN PAO

53 Leading Hoop League

The basketballers from MCB-53 are presently untouched in their first half of play in the Davisville Intramural League.

On December 9 the men of 53 squeaked out a 39 to 37 victory over the USS Mazama. High men for MCB-53 were Kiebach (12) and Smith (10). Mazama's McMa-

hon led all scorers with 15 points.

In their next encounter, MCB-53 had a much easier time in trouncing Army's 24th Artillery Group 64-48. Schmidt and Runberg led the Seabees with 17 and 13 points respectively. Army's Burgie scored 12 for the losers.

League play will resume after the holiday leave period.

League Standings

Team	Won	Lost
MCB-53	4	0
USS Mazama	2	2
NAVSCON	2	2
MCB-71	2	2
21st NCR/CBLANT	2	2
MCB-58	1	3
24 Arty Gp.	1	3



New Supply Officer

Lieutenant Robert F. Cairo, SC, USN, recently reported aboard MCB-53 and has assumed the duties as Officer-in-Charge of the Supply department from Lieutenant Commander James Lytle.

Lieutenant Cairo is married to the former Miss Ruth E. Miller of Toronto, Ohio.

"Piped Over" Second Time

In ceremonies held at Davisville, Rhode Island on November 14, 1968, Bullder Chief Petty Officer Robert E. Neal was "piped over the side" for the second time in his Naval career. Chief Neal, USNFR, son of Mrs. Leo B. Neal of Fort Worth, Texas, had previously retired after 20 years of active Naval service in 1960 and was recalled in December, 1966.

Since his recall to active duty, Chief Neal has served as petty officer-in-charge of Planning and Estimating for U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion FIFTY-THREE's Operations department. He has seen prior service with Seabee battalions 7 and 58.

Chief Neal will now go to the Naval Fleet Reserve. He is married to the former Miss Ida Mae Lattinville of Portsmouth, Virginia.

5301 Continued from Page 1

Seabee Team 5301 also consists of: CM2 E. Brown from Charleston, South Carolina; UT2 W. C. Sparkman from Tucson, Arizona; HM1 J. P. Davis from Arvin, California; EO2 W. P. Kalbach from Haddon Heights, New Jersey; EO2 J. R. Vaness from Waldo, Wisconsin; SW2 C. D. Belcher from Mount Olive, Alabama; BU3 D. G. Smith from Brookhaven, Mississippi; BU2 F. W. McCoy from Grand Junction, Colorado; CM2 E. S. Kalmbacher from North Babylon, New York; EA2 E. M. Charles from Germantown, Maryland and CE2 C. J. Moxley from Brooklet, Georgia.



Storekeeper Third Class Alvin E. Stephens, USN, a member of U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion FIFTY-THREE, ships over for six year as Commander R.A. Bowers, Commanding Officer of MCB-53, administers the oath. The ceremony took place on November 22.



Commander R.K. Miller (right) addresses the battalion after relieving Commander R.A. Bowers as Captain of MCB-53.

RSFPP Continued from Page 2

F. Members who on the date of retirement had Option 3 and have no children under age 18 or children above that age who are incapable of self support may change to coverage under Option 1.

G. The survivors of a member retired for total disability may not be eligible for annuity payments if the member dies during first 30 days after retirement from the cause for which he retired. Survivors may be eligible, however, if the disability was the result of armed conflict, or if widow is not eligible for die. This rule applies only to members who retired having elections or changes made on or after 13 August 1968.

3. For members who retire on or after 1 November 1968, the following provisions become effective:

Changes or revocations made

after completing 19 years become effective if the member remains on active duty for 2 years. Certain members before may however, request that their elections, revocations, or changes made before 13 August operate under 3 Year Rule. (See 2C above.)

B. If major changes in family status occur during 2 year period before retirement, elections may be revoked or modified to reflect changes. Change will be effective on retirement.

C. Cost will be based on selection of annuity amounts in dollars, rather than percentages of reduced retired pay. Minimum will be 12 1/2 per cent of unreduced retired pay, but not less than \$25. New cost tables will be forthcoming.

D. A member who elected Option 3 and who after retirement is widowed or divorced, will continue to have full coverage for eligible children with no further deductions from retired pay.

E. For members who elected

Options 2 or 3, children between 18 and 23 are eligible if in full time attendance at an educational institution. The member may, however, designate that children over 18 not be eligible if he so desires, and such designation will be effective to terminate deductions from his retired pay if he has no other eligible child.

4. Special note for reserve members who have or will become entitled to retired pay after 13 August 1968. If all other eligibility requirements for reserve retired pay are met, the date of eligibility for retired pay is the sixtieth birthday instead of the first day of the following month. This means that the date of eligibility for retired pay and coverage under RSFPP coincide.

5. Those provisions of references A and B which are in conflict with this notice are superceded. Detailed instructions will be forthcoming under revisions to references A and B.



CURVACEOUS CAMI — Cami Sebring, one of the country's most popular high fashion and television models, made her movie debut this year with Walt Disney Studios.



Headquarters Company

By Hutch

Welcome aboard to all the new "smiling" faces of Headquarters Company. That goes for you to YNSA Hammerling-ing-ing!

Well things haven't really changed so much since the battalion has returned to homeport. H-Co. is still carrying the load, ahem. The men of H-Co. are so salty that they can fire one magazine of an M-16 rifle while working and not even miss a key. That one was pretty sick, wasn't it? Seriously, though, I think the Disbursing department should receive some recognition for their hard work not only throughout the deployment but even more so since returning home. Look at DK2 John Welch for instance. He's turning grey from devotion.

Now we even have a "Rosie" in the battalion. Yep, YN2 Rose is working in the Personnel department so if you're in need of help "go down and see Rosie."

GMG3 Thuringer recently returned from a Small Arms School in which he finished top in his class. Of course it was somewhat expected seeing how the rest of his class was made up of Jarheads.

PNSN Vic Colon put in a Special Request chit before he went on leave for one .45 caliber pistol. This was to assure Vic that his flight home to Puerto Rico would get there without any unscheduled stops.

Military Training next and then a short break before we hop on the great white bird for the land of sun tans and dysentery. If things start to get you down and you have someone to turn to, keep a stiff lower lip and a strong right wrist and drink Hombree!

Alpha Company

By Roger Current

Changes come to everyone sooner or later and that seems to be the current trend in the Big "A." It seems that about half the company is being stolen right from under our noses. Heard rumors that it is the Fox Company led by the Old Grey Fox himself, Mr. Ivie. Of course he is getting some help from his accomplices in the undermining of our company. The only thing I have to say about it is, "Thanks a lot just a few less headaches for me and my friends. The only thing you really have to look out for is your typewriter, file cabinets and office supplies. It seems that they are in very bad need of them."

Well, guess I've rambled on long enough about the stealing that has been going on around here. We still have the Old and the New men to keep the outstanding name of Alpha Company going. Of course with a name like ours we have no problem keeping ahead of the Jones's. We have new people like Mr. Green, our new Company commander, who seems to be doing OK so far. Of course he has the old timers like us to keep him going straight. I'll tell you one thing if we can't, there is a certain CMCS I know who can. Really it is the old men from the deployment of RVN that will be needed to keep all those Instant Petty Officers going on the right track. By helping each other I know that we can have a

better deployment than we had previously in RVN.

Sure hope all you AlphaBees have your woolies all bought and paid for. Old Jack Frost said he's going to be at Camp Fogarty and Camp Lejeune waiting for all those unprepared. So my advice is to rush down to the nearest store and get some.

Guess I've said enough this time around so try to keep your noses clean. Mr. Green sure is getting under the weather with all of those report chits.

By the way, I just heard a rumor that the Old Grey Fox is shirking his duties as Fox Company Commander.

Charlie Company

By Charlie Brown

Homeport training, schools, schools and more schools are keeping the Charlie boys pretty busy. BU1 Ousley and crew are getting the Team Training Barracks out of the mud and we should be seeing building above ground before long.

Military Training is next in line. Camp Fogarty in January and we all wonder how much snow we will have for the FEX, interesting question to ponder what say? Three weeks later "SWAMP" Lejeune comes up and weather will be a subject of discussion for a time no doubt.

With the company strength at 97 as of 3 December we are looking forward to Block Training for a test of the mettle of our new additions, our "Old Timers" we know what to expect from them and of course we are expecting great things not only on Military Training but in-country also.

Pax River was invaded by a Charlie Company crew under the direction of Ltjg Stahl and it's good to have them back so we can put them to work.

All of us in Charlie Company want to extend our Best Wishes to our departing Commanding Officer, Commander Bowers, and welcome aboard our new skipper Commander Miller. Welcome aboard CAPTAIN ...



Commander Richard A. Bowers (right) stands at attention as Captain Donald G. Iselin, COMCBLANT, pins on the Bronze Star Medal.

Delta Company

By Karl Schilling

This column will be somewhat different than most. The purpose behind this one is to look into the latest scuttlebutt and provide authoritative information for the men of Fifty-three. First of all we must dispell a few of the false rumors. No embarkation drill to Puerto Rico is planned. There are no plans on this date for a detachment to Hanoi. Capt. Lovell is not a Seabee. (This writer suspects that the Navy Department is saving the Seabees for the landing party but this has no confirmation and is not official.) The Navy Regulations for saluting and showing the traditional military courtesies have not been revoked. This writer has looked into the matter and found what the basis for the rumor is. In 1946, a bill was introduced in Congress calling for such a revocation and a committee was formed to study the matter. As soon as the committee report is completed this writer will advise the troops, until then the traditional ways will remain in effect.

There is at least one rumor that this writer has found to be absolutely true, its veracity cannot be doubted for it has been scientifically proven. It has been reported that a man just checking into the battalion must do a fantastic amount of walking about and that the distances he must walk are tremendous. To test this out, I sent a man out to walk through the check in procedure with a mileage meter strapped to his foot. Our findings confirm that there is no place in Davisville or Quonset that is less than three quarters of a mile from any other place. Personal testimonies on the part of 53 personnel confirm this.

LUPPO SW2, SCHMIDT BU2 and EARNEST BU3 should be advised of the recent battalion instruction 31756895-4836201176945-830333658. Lt stating that newly married enlisted personnel must obtain a personal transfer card to be sent to past girl friends to be initialed and returned to your wife. Failure to comply will be punished as a court martial may direct.



Officers and enlisted men of MCB-53 hold their certificates after receiving their awards during the most recent ceremony held at the Quonset Theater.

This is national Ask-A-Jew-What-Hannaka-Was-All-About week. Hint: It has something to do with the Maccabees throwing off the yoke of Greek rule in what was then called Palestine. It's worth finding out. It's an interesting story really.

I'll wrap this up with a tidbit from my favorite game, trivia. The Chinese character for the word "war" is made by symbolizing two women under the same roof.

Buddy Bee Sez...

**SAFETY
FIRST
LAST
ALWAYS**

Be Right

Two wrongs don't make a right. That's a familiar old saw that makes a lot of sense when applied to life in general and driving in particular.

Now, when a guy blasts you unmercifully with his horn or refuses to switch from high to low beams you might like to see him get his comeuppance.

Sure, revenge is sweet and a little retaliation might make you feel better about the whole thing.

But revenge can be a crippler and a killer if it causes an accident.

Play it safe even if you do have to get a tight grip on your temper and swallow a little pride to do it.

Two wrongs don't make a right. But one right can keep a wrong from starting accident trouble.

SAFETY SAM

Promoted To Chief

Steelworker Robert Calder, USN, son of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel D. Calder of Grayville, Illinois, was recently promoted from First Class Petty Officer to Chief Petty Officer, while serving with MCB-53. Chief Calder is married to the former Miss Margaret Flynn from Penn Yan, New York.



CITY CHARMER — Attractive Helen Chambers is a new York City model and wishes Armed Forces personnel everywhere a "Happy New Year."

A Little Humor

While I was driving through a Navy installation recently, I listened to the base's radio station in my car. At one station break, the announcer gave the time: "It is now eight bells." After a brief pause: "For you Air Force personnel, that is 1600 hours." After a longer pause: "And for you Marines, the big hand is on ..."

To slow down the flow of complaints about air conditioning, hot water and crowded space in Saigon's military hotels, the men of the U.S. Army billeting office have posted a warning outside their door. It states that complaints heard by them are aired weekly on Armed Forces Radio — for the entertainment of the troops in field combat zones.

Last Spring I received this note from my wife, who was waiting for me in Honolulu: "On my 25th birthday, you were at war. On my 50th birthday, you were away at war. If this situation has not improved by my 75th birthday, I'm cutting out."

Reader's Digest



SITTING PRETTY — Raquel Welch, 20th Century Fox's sky-rocketing star, takes time out from a busy shooting schedule. She is currently featured in "Bandolero" with Dean Martin and Robert Mitchum.

BEST WISHES



HAPPY NEW YEAR — Las Vegas' Janet Headland offers a bright forecast for the coming year — "Things will be fine in '69."

IN THE



COLUMBIA CUTIE — Blonde Janet Landgard brightens the scene in Columbia Pictures' "The Swimmer." You can see she's well-dressed for the part.



20TH CENTURY ROYALTY— Lovely Stacey King is one of the beautiful young starlets at 20th Century-Fox Films and an intriguing addition to our file of pin-up pulchritude.



WORK OF ART — Paige Young, who graces the center pages of November's Playboy, normally works out of a Malibu, Calif., studio as a free-lance artist, creating everything from portraits to bold abstractions. Nothing abstract about her appearance as an art subject!



ONE RUNG UP — Lovely Brooke Bundy, who stars in MGM's "The Young Runaways," has at least one foot firmly on the ladder of success.

COMING YEAR!

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