

5 ton dump trucks, one (1) 210 trailer mounted air compressor, one (1) 16s concrete mixer, and one (1) 2½ yard front loader. The platoon was required to construct five (5) protective revetments for O1E aircraft, shower and latrine facilities, a building extension for living quarters, and a reinforced concrete communications bunker. Over 100 tons of construction materials had to be requisitioned in Qui Nhon drawn and packaged for air lift to the camp. Difficulty was encountered in airlifting the front loader which did not exceed total weight or dimensions but which exceeded point load capacity for a C-130 aircraft. The loader was finally airlifted with the load being distributed in the aircraft by placing the bucket down and lifting the front wheels into the air. This project is now 60% complete despite delays in aircraft shipment of materials and heavy rains in the area.

This unit was also tasked to requisition, draw and package for airlift over 210 tons of materials for similar construction for the Air Force detachment at Khe Sanh Special Forces Camp near the North Vietnamese border. Materials have been received by Naval Construction Units who are performing the work on site.

For the period 12 September to 31 October 1966, this Battalion provided extensive support to the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) in combat operations in the Qui Nhon and Bong Son areas.

14 September - 19 September (A Company, 509th Engineer Company)

This operation required an amphibious landing north of Bong Son, construction of 250' DD bailey bridge, construction of 70' DS bailey bridge, and clearing of 12 kilometers of road, during which 11 mines and 8 booby traps were destroyed in place. The purpose of the operation was to pass an Engineer Construction Company, including heavy earth moving equipment, from the beach landing site (BS924102) to English Airfield (BS878012) so that construction work could be initiated so that the airfield would be improved to handle C-130 traffic. Area security was provided by elements of one (1) ARVN battalion with support of U.S. Naval gunfire. Units were harassed with sporadic sniper fire and the unit area was probed twice during hours of darkness. A Company sustained one WIA during the operation. The mission was successfully completed on 18 September 1966 and units returned by land to the Qui Nhon area.

13 September - 17 October (B Company)

This operation required continuous upgrading and maintenance of Route 1 for Class 31 traffic from the RJ 1 and 19 (BR986331) to Hammond Airfield (BR883536), construction of two access roads to Hammond Airfield, construction of an access road to 1st Cav Div Arty headquarters, and construction of a forward 16 pad heliport facility at Phu Cat ARVN Training Center (BR913459). During this period over 18,005 cubic yards of fill were hauled, 5,000 square feet penoprime, and 450' of culvert placed. The responsibility for work in this area was transferred to the 6th ARVN Engineer Group on 17 October 1966.

KHE SANH

OPERATION  
"DUKE"  
PHASE I

SEP 1966