

Reserve Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 22

Historical Information



*“Construimus, Batuimus”
“We Build, We Fight”*



Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 22 Command History

Naval Construction Battalion Twenty Two (NCB-22) was initially commissioned on September 2, 1942 at the Seabee Training Center, Camp Allen, Norfolk, Virginia. After advance military and technical training at Port Hueneme, California, NCB-22 arrived at its assigned duty station at Sitka, Alaska on November 28, 1942. While there, the battalion completed a total of 28 projects in seven months.

On July 6, 1943, TWENTY TWO moved farther west to Attu, an island of tundra and windswept mountains in the Aleutian chain. Two months earlier, U.S. Army units had captured the island from the Japanese. The Seabees' primary task was to build an airfield for U.S. Bombers. The airstrip work began on July 16 with men working 24 hour day basis in violent, unpredictable weather. After eleven days of constant work, "Twenty Two" completed the first usable section of runway. Before the winter approached, two 5,000 foot runways were in operation. At the same time, the Seabees had built hangers, Quonset huts, and a PT boat dock.

On March 14, 1944 Naval Construction Battalion Twenty Two "The Famous 22nd" departed Attu for Camp Parks, Shoemaker, California where she was decommissioned.

Reserve Naval Mobile Construction Battalion TWENTY TWO (RNMCB 22) was re-established on March 5, 1961. During Phase I of the Battalion's organizational training conducted at the Battalion Construction Center, Davisville, Rhode Island in 1961, the Battalion selected the name of Lone Star Battalion. At the time, only Texas Seabee reservists were assigned to RNMCB 22 and its emblem was the state outline. Later reservists from Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and New Mexico were assigned to the battalion. The Battalion emblem was changed to include all five states joined together as one solid block which symbolized the strength of the battalion. The Lone Star Battalion was awarded the RADM John R. Perry Trophy on November 5, 1967 at ceremonies conducted at Naval Air Station Dallas, Texas. This award is named in honor of the late Rear Admiral John R. Perry, CEC, USN. It was originated by the Bureau of Yards and Docks, approved by the Secretary of the Navy on July 22, 1964, and is awarded annually to the top reserve battalion in the country. At the time, RNMCB 22 was only the second battalion to receive the award.

Twelve days after release from Active Duty for Training at Camp Lejeune in 1968, RNMCB 22 received notice of "that long training duty", we were recalled to Active Duty. The battalion reported for mobilization to Construction Battalion Center, Gulfport, Mississippi on May 13, 1968. Upon commissioning RNMCB 22 became Mobile Construction Battalion TWENTY TWO (MCB 22). The Advance Party of MCB 22 deployed for Viet Nam in July of 1968 with the Main Body arriving in August 1968.

Serving under the THIRD Naval Construction Brigade while in Viet Nam, the Lone Star Battalion was awarded the Navy Unit Commendation and the Meritorious Unit Commendation by the Secretary of the Navy for outstanding service. While in Viet Nam

"22" established records in the field of construction that remain unsurpassed and received the title "The Professionals". It proved the worth of maintaining a Reserve Naval Mobile Construction Battalion as part of the Navy's "TOTAL FORCE IN READINESS".

In 1990 the Lone Star Battalion was again notified to prepare for recall in support of Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm. Due to early end of the operation the battalion was ordered to stand down and while deployed for training at CBC Port Hueneme, California the battalion was re-designated as Naval Mobile Construction Battalion TWENTY TWO (NMCB 22) signifying the integrated Active/Reserve Naval Construction Force. In October 1991 the battalion was again awarded the Admiral John R. Perry Trophy as "Best of Type" in the RNCF then in 1992 NMCB 22 was recognized as "Best of Type" in THIRD Naval Construction Brigade.

The Lone Star Battalion is still one of the top reserve units in the nation and is composed of detachments located in Texas and Oklahoma. The battalion portrays a large star containing the outline of the states of Texas and Oklahoma. During Fiscal Year 1997, NMCB-22 relocated its Ready Reserve Site (RSS) to NAS JRB Ft Worth, TX. In July 1997, "22" participated in Operation Ready Bee at Camp Bullis, San Antonio, TX, Operation Green Stinger, NAS Dallas, TX, and Operation Bearing Duel at Fort Hunter-Liggett, CA. The success of these missions was shown by NMCB-22 being awarded the Battle "E" and Best of Type in THIRD Naval Construction Brigade for Fiscal Year 1997.

Again, NMCB-22 lived up to her reputation, being chosen as reserve battalion Battle "E" winner for Fiscal Year 1999. Through an aggressive and effective military Training Program all readiness goals were met while serving as Prime contractor on a joint reserve-active project we planned and completed a 3,000 square foot two story Pre-Engineered Building with outstanding results. "22's" CESE management program received the highest marks in the Reserve Naval Construction Force.

In response to 9/11, NMCB-22 proudly mobilized members to support Operation Enduring Freedom in which members were sent to California for training in preparation for service overseas.

In 2005, NMCB-22 was mobilized with over 600 strong in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom III-IV. After a successful FEX at Fort Hunter Liggett, NMCB-22 mobilized members to Afghanistan, Iraq and Kuwait in support of USMC and US Army.

Also in 2005, NMCB-22 mobilized members in response to Hurricane Katrina in the Mississippi and Louisiana areas. These members assisted in the relief and cleanup effort.

President Authorizes Activation of Reserves

Personnel from Mobile Construction Battalions Twelve and Twenty-two have been recalled for active duty effective 13 May. Men possessing drill pay orders and a mobilization assignment to one of these battalions will be recalled to active duty for a period not to exceed a maximum of 24 months.

Headquarters for MCB 12 is Boston, Massachusetts. Approximately 500 men from 18 Reserve Training Centers in the New England area will be affected by the call-up. It is hoped that volunteers will bring the battalion's strength up to more than 700.

The men of MCB 12 will be returning to Gulfport, Mississippi, after recently completing two weeks of active duty training there in February of this year. Gulfport will be twelve's processing center and homeport. The battalion's Commanding Officer is Commander James J. Lee, CEC, USNR, of Acton, Mass.

Construction Battalion Division 1-6 from Fields Point Training Center, Providence is the only Rhode Island division affected.

Individuals reporting for assignment to MCB 22 will come under the cognizance of Commander Eighth Naval District, New Orleans, Louisiana, with battalion headquarters ~~xxx~~ in El Paso, Texas.

The Davisville Yardarm, April 19, 1968, p 3

Reserve Mobile Construction Battalion Twenty-two

The Seabee Reserve units, composed of organized and volunteer units, were first established at the end of World War II. The function of the Construction Battalion Reserve organization is to be ready for possible mobilization in the event of war or national emergency. Reserve units were organized as divisions, each division representing a city. Larger cities sometimes had more than one division. Each Naval District was in charge of all divisions within its district. Reserve Mobile Construction Battalion Twenty-two was made up of the divisions under the cognizance of the Eighth Naval District which included Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas and New Mexico.

In May 1959 Seabee Reservists from the Eighth Naval District underwent two weeks of technical training with Mobile Construction Battalion One and Mobile Construction Battalion Four. Reservists from Naval Reserve Construction Battalion Division 8-14 of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma trained at Roosevelt Roads Naval Station, Puerto Rico. They were assigned to two special projects: the construction of a head wall and the beginning of a 60-inch concrete storm drainage culvert and the construction of a 12-inch cast iron waterline down the side of a very steep hill.

On 5 March 1961 the reserve divisions were organized into Reserve Mobile Construction Battalions for the first time. At that time the Seabee Reserve Divisions of the Eighth Naval District became Reserve Mobile Construction Battalion Twenty-two. In that same year, for its part in promoting the new Seabee Naval Reserve Program by staging a public demonstration, one of the divisions from Reserve Mobile Construction Battalion Twenty-two was commended for a job "well done" by the Chief of the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Rear Admiral Eugene J. Peltier.

In 1962 the Eighth Naval District's Reserve Mobile Construction Battalion Twenty-two was once again recognized for its outstanding performance. The J.J. Manning Trophy was presented to Naval Reserve Construction Battalion Division 8-15 of Amarillo, Texas for its overall performance, advancement of personnel, and rate of volunteers for active duty.

During the summer of 1961, the Bureau authorized the "four-year cycle training" for Reserve Mobile Construction Battalion unit training. The Twenty-second was one of the first to take its two weeks of active duty training as a unit at Davisville, Rhode Island.

In 1962 Phase I of the program was staged at Port Hueneme, California with organizational training as the main objective. Camp Pendleton, California was headquarters for the 1963 Phase II program for the 10 divisions of Reserve Mobile Construction Battalion Twenty-two. The reserve battalion was trained in Marine field combat-type training which included weapon familiarization by firing on a variety of ranges. It also underwent basic individual and unit defense training.

Besides their activity during the two-week training period each year, the divisions frequently trained as a unit in doing needed construction, repair, and improvement for various naval and community organizations. In 1963, for example, Reserve Mobile Construction Battalion Twenty-two constructed a chapel, keels for 30 aqua parade floats, and facilities for several naval stations.

The chapel was constructed for Naval Air Station, Alvin Calendar Field, Louisiana. In furnishing the chapel the Seabees of Reserve Mobile Construction Battalion Twenty-two donated an unused mantel which they had transformed into an attractive altar, one division commanding officer donated new carpeting, and another division commanding officer persuaded his church to donate pews.

In the summer of 1963, in less than a week, the Texan Seabees of the battalion constructed keels for 30 water floats for the Austin Aqua Festival's Water Parade. This was a rescue operation, because the construction of the float fleet was lagging far behind schedule. With the help of the Seabees, Austin had its Water Parade. Thus, in the tradition of their World War II forebears, the reserve Seabees proved that they too could build anything, anywhere, anytime.

Dallas Naval Air Station was the training grounds for the Seabees of the battalion in July 1963. Commander William M. Peterson, Commanding Officer of Reserve Mobile Construction Battalion Twenty-two scheduled

multiple drills in constructing and reconstructing base facilities. Ten divisions participated in the construction of baseball backstops, dugouts, a boat house, air conditioning and plumbing for the Enlisted Men's Club, an access road, and a small pier.

In 1964, training once again centered at Port Hueneme. Nearly 500 Seabees of the Twenty-second Battalion constructed a tent camp, a runway, a steel building, and all of the utilities and services necessary to operate the camp.

In 1965, to complete the four-year-cycle training schedule, Reserve Mobile Construction Battalion Twenty-two reported to the United States Naval Amphibious Base, Coronado, California. By this time the battalion comprised 17 reserve divisions from Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico. Training in theoretical and practical aspects of amphibious warfare, such as the construction of pontoon causeways and the unloading of heavy equipment from ships, was completed by the reservists on June 18.

With the completion of all four phases of training, the Seabees were not only thoroughly skilled in construction but also were ready for immediate mobilization should the need arise.

The two week active duty training did not stop after the four-year-cycle program was completed. To maintain its military readiness, the battalion trained at Gulfport, Mississippi in 1966 and at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina in 1967. Construction projects were the keynote to training at Gulfport. There they constructed camp facilities, roads, and many other structures. At Camp Lejeune the Seabees were trained in hand-to-hand combat, field fortifications, and other military defense techniques.

In recognition of its many achievement and its readiness to fulfill its military mission, Reserve Mobile Construction Battalion Twenty-two was presented the John R. Perry trophy in 1967. Commander Raymond C. Ward was Commanding Officer during the period in which the battalion was judged "Best of Type" of the Reserve Seabee Battalions.

One of the latest construction training projects completed by the battalion was the Fellowship Hall at Corpus Christi, Texas in the spring of 1968.

Because of the augmentation of Naval Construction Forces required for the war in Vietnam, Reserve Mobile Construction Battalion Twenty-two, with Commander Roy L. Dunlap, CEC, USNR, as Commanding Officer, was ordered to active duty at Gulfport, Mississippi, effective 13 May 1968. On that date, it lost its reserve status and became Mobile Construction Battalion Twenty-two.

AWARDS WON BY NMCB 22, 1968 - 1969

Navy Unit Commendation

11 August 1968 - 31 December 1968

Meritorious Unit Commendation

01 January 1969 - 15 March 1969

Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation (Gallantry Cross,
Medal Color with Palm)

13 August 1968 - 06 March 1969

Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation (Civil Actions Medal
First-Class Color with Palm)

13 August 1968 - 06 March 1969

Vietnam Service Medal

13 August 1968 - 06 March 1969

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 22 was called to active duty at the Naval Construction Battalion Center, Gulfport, Mississippi in May 1968. The battalion was deployed to Danang, Republic of Vietnam, between August 1968 and March 1969. On 28 March 1969 the battalion reverted to reserve status.



NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION

22

TWENTY TWO









