



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
U.S. NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION FORTY
UNIT 25306
FPO AP 96601-4891

3540
S3/____
31 Mar 06

From: Commanding Officer, U.S. Naval Mobile Construction
Battalion FORTY
To: Commander, THIRTIETH Naval Construction Regiment (R3)
Subj: JOINT TASK FORCE (JTF) AFTER ACTION REPORT FOR HURRICANE
KATRINA 2005 LOUISIANA/MISSISSIPPI COAST
Ref: (a) COMSECONDNCB/COMTHIRDNCBINST 3502.1A
Encl: (1) NMCB FORTY JTF HURRICANE KATRINA 05 After Action
Report

1. Enclosure (1) is forwarded in accordance with reference (a).
2. Following Hurricane Katrina's destructive landfall in the Gulf coast region on 29 August, NMCB FORTY rapidly organized and embarked over 400 Seabees to New Orleans, LA and Gulfport, MS to support relief, recovery and reconstruction efforts. Deploying the Air Detachment within 48 hours, we spent over a month helping the local communities restore order and assisted the local government in developing and executing project priorities. While continuing with a significant emphasis on individual assistance to homes, our secondary focus was on larger infrastructure; helping clear roads, get government facilities running, clear schools to reopen and provide temporary housing for displaced residents.


C. O. MITCHELL

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***NMCB FORTY
JTF HURRICANE KATRINA***



DEPLOYMENT 2005



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At 0610 on 29 August 2005, Hurricane Katrina made landfall along the Mississippi/Louisiana gulf coast. With maximum sustained winds near 160 mph, Katrina caused over \$200 billion in damage; the most expensive natural disaster in U.S. history. Tropical storm force winds extended outward up to 185 miles from center contributing to a death toll of over 1,100, over a million people displaced and approximately five million people without electricity.

In response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Fighting FORTY provided responsive support, disaster relief and recovery operations throughout the Gulf Coast. Support to the local government and communities included:

- 7500 man tent camp
- public works assistance and base restoration
- road clearing
- repairs to government facilities
- repairs to schools
- local government tents camps
- levee repairs
- temporary trailer parks
- crane operations
- debris removal at local city/parish parks.

Fighting FORTY represented the Seabee legacy in an outstanding fashion. Parish leadership and our Navy/Marine Corps customers were effusive in their praise of battalion responsiveness and professionalism. Although NMCB FORTY performed work in all four major parishes that make up the New Orleans metropolitan area, we expended the most effort and built the most enduring relationship with Plaquemines Parish. Parish leadership was highly appreciative of the Seabees and the partnership established between our organizations. To compensate for valuable training time lost in homeport, NMCB FORTY leveraged convoy, communications, project planning/execution, COC/command and control, and a variety of other opportunities during the operations to reinforce critical core competencies.

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

- 29 August 05** - Hurricane Katrina made landfall at 0610 near Louisiana/Mississippi gulf coast.
- 30 August 05** - NMCB FORTY was notified of mobilization.
- 1 September 05** - NMCB FORTY AIR DET arrives in Gulfport, MS.
- 1 - 3 September 05** - NMCB FORTY checked out CESE, tools and equipment from Gulfport, MS.
- 3 September 05** - First chocks flew into New Orleans, LA.
- 4 September 05** - First convoy departs Gulfport, MS. for New Orleans, LA.
- 8 September 05** - ALFA, BRAVO, CHARLIE and AIR DET complete 75 of a 500 man tent camp aboard JRB NAS New Orleans, LA.
- 9 September 05** - HQ, ALFA and CHARLIE begin road clearing and debris removal in Orleans, Plaquemines and Jefferson Parishes.
- 15 September 05** - ALFA and AIR DET perform crane operations in several areas throughout Orleans, Plaquemines, Jefferson Parishes and NAS JRB locations.
- 17 September 05** - DELTA erects Temper Tents at NSA West, New Orleans, LA.
- 18 September 05** - BRAVO continues operational repair, trouble desk set-up and base services restoration aboard JRB NAS, New Orleans, LA.
- 19 September 05** - ALFA completes Shell Levee repair at Port Sulfur, Plaquemines Parish, LA.
- 19 September 05** - AIR DET completes community clean-up of roads, grounds and buildings at Port Sulfur, Plaquemines Parish, LA.
- 20 September 05** - HQ, ALFA and CHARLIE completed clean-up at 25 city parks in both Orleans and Jefferson Parish, LA.
- 23 September 05** - AIR DET completed partial demolition and general cleaning of St. Rosalee Elementary School, Jefferson Parish, LA.

26 September 05 - CHARLIE completes window repair for Charity Hospital Downtown New Orleans, LA.

29 September 05 - AIR DET completed a Temporary Trailer Park Community in Plaquemines Parish, LA.

30 September 05 - BRAVO, DELTA and AIR DET complete clean-up at the Armed Forces Retirement Home, Gulfport, MS.

20 September 05 - First flight leaves New Orleans.

24 September 05 - Hurricane Rita makes landfall at 10:51 PM (CST) along the Texas/Louisiana gulf coast.

01 October 05 - Last NMCB FORTY personnel depart New Orleans.

PROJECT OVERVIEWS



JTF HURRICANE KATRINA

NAS JRB New Orleans, Louisiana, - 7500 Man Tent Camp/Galley Tents

Project Scope: Completed 37 tents plus galley deck construction and moved materials prior to landfall of Hurricane Rita.

Company: Headquarters, Alfa, Bravo, Charlie and Air Det

Personnel: 65 Seabees

Duration: 6 - 8 September 2005

Mandays Expended: NMCB 40: 195

Significant Safety Issues: Proper PPE, speed and supervision.



**JTF HURRICANE KATRINA
NAS JRB New Orleans, Louisiana, - Public Works assistance**

Project Scope: Bravo acted in conjunction with Public Works Department and was tasked with the overall operational repair and restoration of base services to JRB/NAS New Orleans, NSA New Orleans, and surrounding communities. A trouble desk was set-up and manned at JRB NAS New Orleans for 14 days.

Company: Bravo

Personnel: 36 Seabees

Duration: 5 - 18 September 2005

Mandays Expended: NMCB 40: 504

Significant Safety Issues: Chain saw, electrical and stray/wild animal life.



JTF HURRICANE KATRINA
Port Sulphur, Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana - Community clean-up

Project Scope: A crew of 29 cleared debris from parking lots, roads and grounds, to include the removal of damaged furniture and automobiles at the Port Sulfur Medical Center, High School and Fire Department. They also emplaced support equipment for the Port Sulphur COC and dug a 100ft sewer line trench.

Company: Air Det

Personnel: 29 Seabees

Duration: 14 - 19 September 2005

Mandays Expended: NMCB 40: 174

Significant Safety Issues: CESE operations and fallen debris.



**JTF HURRICANE KATRINA
Orleans/Jefferson/Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana - Road Clearing**

Project Scope: Seabees cleared MSR in all Parishes and aboard JRB NAS New Orleans.

Company: Headquarters, Charlie and Alfa

Personnel: 32 Seabees

Duration: 9 - 19 September 2005

Mandays Expended: NMCB 40: 352

Significant Safety Issues: CESE operations, fallen debris and supervision.



**JTF HURRICANE KATRINA
NSA West, New Orleans, Louisiana - Temper Tents Erection**

Project Scope: A 22 man crew erected 72 tents with assistance from the 82nd Airborne to provide housing for 1500 troops. Each tent will be fully set up with lights and HVAC.

Company: Delta

Personnel: 22 Seabees

Duration: 12 - 17 September 2005

Mandays Expended: NMCB 40: 154

Significant Safety Issues: Overhead hazards and electrical power.



JTF HURRICANE KATRINA
Port Sulfur, Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana - Shell Levee Repair

Project Scope: Performed earthwork operations to develop levee to prevent further flooding of Port Sulfur area. Approximately 45 yds of the Levee on the west side of the Mississippi River was eroded by the massive tidal surge. Repairs must be made to prevent water flow during high tides. Two Port Sulphur city barge cranes, bulldozers, and a fleet of dump trucks are making temporary repairs utilizing 3000 lbs sand bags and pushed up fill. The temporary repairs will be constructed on the riverside of the break, far enough back to allow permanent repairs. Temporary repairs will stop tidal flow and assist engineers with dewatering operations.

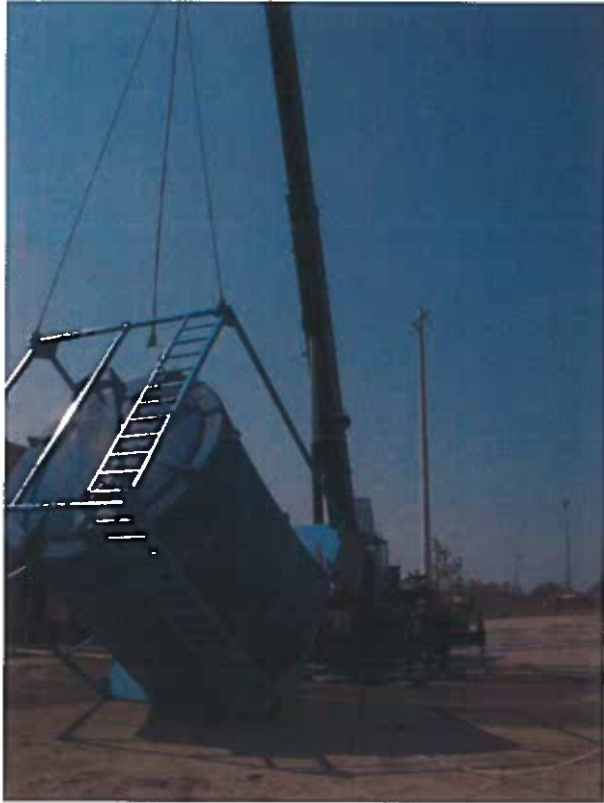
Company: Alfa

Personnel: 4 Seabees

Duration: 14 - 19 September 2005

Mandays Expended: NMCB 40: 24

Significant Safety Issues: Remote location, transportation to site and through deep water.



JTF HURRICANE KATRINA
New Orleans, Louisiana/Gulfport, Mississippi - Crane operations

Project Scope: Crane operations were conducted at Port Sulfur High School by Air Det and by Alfa on board NAS JRB New Orleans.

Company: Alfa and Air Det

Personnel: 14 Seabees

Duration: 15-16, 19-20 September 2005

Mandays Expended: NMCB 40: 70

Significant Safety Issues: Crane operations.



**JTF HURRICANE KATRINA
Orleans/Jefferson Parish, Louisiana - City Park Clean-Up**

Project Scope: A 59 Seabee crew removed fallen trees and debris at 25 local parks to help prepare the park for future use.

Company: Headquarters, Alfa and Charlie

Personnel: 59 Seabees

Duration: 15 - 20 September 2005

Mandays Expended: NMCB 40: 354

Significant Safety Issues: CESE and chainsaw operations.



JTF HURRICANE KATRINA
Saint Rosalee Elementary School, Jefferson Parish, Louisiana - Clearing
Schools and Parks

Project Scope: A crew of 21 performed demolition of drywall, removal of saturated ceiling tiles and general cleaning at St. Rosalee Elementary School in Jefferson Parish. 2000 displaced students from local middle schools and City of New Orleans were able to start school in early October 2005 due to our efforts.

Company: Air Det

Personnel: 21 Seabees

Duration: 19 - 23 September 2005

Mandays Expended: NMCB 40: 105

Significant Safety Issues: Breathe hazards and mold.



JTF HURRICANE KATRINA
Downtown New Orleans, Louisiana - Charity Hospital Window Repair

Project Scope: To complete the weather-proofing of Charity Hospital in downtown area to ensure facility's readiness for incoming patients. A crew of 27 Seabees continued work installing boards on broken windows (approx. 300) for a 20-story hospital in Orleans Parish in order to prevent rain from penetrating the building with land fall of Hurricane Rita. Charlie also evaluated generator and power needs.

Company: Charlie

Personnel: 27 Seabees

Duration: 19 - 26 September 2005

Mandays Expended: NMCB 40: 216

Significant Safety Issues: Hygiene at hospital due to lack of water and poor cleanliness.



**JTF HURRICANE KATRINA
Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana - Temporary Trailer Park Community**

Project Scope: A crew of 12 Seabees planned, estimated and constructed a trailer park community of temporary housing for government officials in Plaquemines Parrish. Upon completion of this project, government officials were able to move out of a local auditorium and gym, and into the temporary housing.

Company: Air Det

Personnel: 12 Seabees

Duration: 20 - 29 September 2005

Mandays Expended: NMCB 40: 120

Significant Safety Issues: Safe CESE operations and shoring for utility trenching.



**JTF HURRICANE KATRINA
Gulfport, Mississippi - Armed Forces Retirement Home**

Project Scope: Performed debris removal and grounds clean-up. Bravo types re-established water flow on all floors. Seabees conducted over 100 dump truck runs of debris to an onsite dump. Seabees also helped complete a massive clean-up of the ground floor to include carpet and furniture removal.

Company: Bravo, Delta and Air Det

Personnel: 80 Seabees

Duration: 28 - 30 September 2005

Mandays Expended: NMCB 40: 240

Significant Safety Issues: General sanitation and fallen debris.

ADMINISTRATION

Administration tracked personnel during the embark process from Port Hueneme, CA to Gulfport, MS and during transitions between Gulfport, LA, New Orleans, LA. This process was difficult due to sporadic military flights and requirements to fill seats on short notice. PERSTAT reports were difficult to track due to extensive storm damage to the Gulf region communication infrastructure.

Administration also assisted with personal affairs to ensure Sailors were ready to deploy. Expeditious processing of Powers of Attorney's in a short amount of time was a significant challenge. Provisions of the Service Member's Civil Relief Act were invoked via the issuance of more than 250 deployment letters, requiring extensive legal research.

Emergency leave was processed for personnel forward deployed to the Gulfport, MS and New Orleans, LA areas. Transportation of personnel departing from the Gulf region on emergency leave was difficult due to extensive infrastructure damage to highways, railways and airports.

More than 400 sets of Temporary Additional Duty (TEMADD) Orders were issued for individuals deployed in support of JTF operations. Determination of pay (BAS and Per-diem) entitlements required extensive coordination with 1NCD, 22nd NCR and 30th NCR.

COMMUNICATIONS

Upon arrival into the New Orleans AOR, communications coverage was almost nonexistent. The primary means of communication was personal cell phones or Iridium phones issued by the 30th and the 22nd NCR's. HF data was used to pass message traffic back to the 22nd NCR. Communication was inconsistent due to the performance characteristics of HF transmission between New Orleans and Gulf Port. Cell phone coverage improved but was slow to recover in several areas, including areas south of New Orleans due to the massive destruction. UHF satellite communications were intermittent due to the high volume of users for a single channel.

Communications equipment was drawn from the 22nd NCR's TOA and was issued piece meal. Issuing a complete P25 would have been more efficient. Trouble-shooting and replacement of equipment utilized in convoys between New Orleans and Gulf Port was a significant logistic challenge that could have been mitigated with the addition of communications personnel.

DSN lines were available onboard JRB New Orleans after a week. Within the second week NMCI was back online. NMCB FORTY personnel had no access to NMCI accounts and were relegated to utilizing commercial and Seabee Mail accounts. Although, dial-up was available, JRB NAS, New Orleans discouraged its use.

DOLCH tactical laptops were used daily for operations and administration. White boards, copiers, and administrative gear were borrowed from tenant commands onboard JRB New Orleans.

Tactical radios were used sparingly due to the distance between work sites. XTS 5000's were used for in camp communications and convoys.

Many wireless providers had connectivity making cell phones an invaluable communications asset. Individual Seabees accumulated higher than normal wireless bills for personal and work related uses. In some, but not all cases, wireless providers adjusted billing in favor of the member.

The Iridium satellite phones were not very reliable.

EMBARKATION

Limited military airlift and TOA availability, at Gulfport, precluded delivery of NCF Civil Engineer Support Equipment from Port Hueneme. All embarkation to Gulfport was done utilizing NALO flights. Embarkation points of contact were through 31st NCR and 22nd NCR R33 personnel.

Chainsaws (120 count) and supporting equipment along with MRE's, water, and consumables were loaded onboard a C-130 with personnel in the initial airlift into Gulfport. Over 150 new jerry-cans were loaded in all available space aboard a C-40. All totaled of 120,000lbs of cargo, and 402 passengers were flown between Point Mugu and the Gulf Coast Region. Seven flights departed Point Mugu between 01 Sep 05 and 14 Sep 05. Six flights returned to Point Mugu between 01 Oct 05 and 07 Oct 05. The types of aircraft included; C-9, C-40, C-130, 737.

SUPPLY AND LOGISTICS

The majority of the tools and equipment were drawn from 22nd NCR's TOA in Gulfport. NMCB FORTY coordinated with 30th NCR and 1st NCD to get specialized equipment (chainsaws & PPE), food, and water prior to deploying. NMCB FORTY purchased 120 chainsaw and associated PPE to support five detachments conducting independent clearing operations. NMCB FORTY also procured and transported water and MRE's with each group as they deployed. The following is a breakdown by classes of material and their sources during JTF Katrina.

CLASS I - Each group sent to the Gulfport/New Orleans took enough MRE's and water to support themselves for five days. Galleys in Gulfport and NAS New Orleans provided essential messing for deployed units.

CLASS II - 20th SRG and 22nd NCR provided TOA items and tool kits.

CLASS III - 22nd NCR provided gas cards for diesel and gasoline needs to support generators and hand-tools.

CLASS IV - 20th SRG provided most of the construction materials. Other construction material was provided by NAS New Orleans or by the counties and parishes that received projects.

CLASS V - No requirement.

CLASS VI - Each member deployed with a 45-day supply of personal demand items. Additional items were available for purchase at the Navy Exchange outlets in New Orleans and Gulfport.

CLASS VII - 22nd NCR TOA Manager provided all CESE equipment.

CLASS VIII - The corpsmen had sufficient supplies and medication to treat minor injuries and, as required, to stabilize casualties prior to medical evacuation.

CLASS IX - 22nd NCR provided all repair parts.

CIVIL ENGINEER SUPPORT EQUIPMENT (CESE)

ALFA Company took part in a wide and varied spectrum of operations in support of JTF Katrina. ALFA was directly responsible for the line haul of 91 pieces of CESE from Gulf Port, Mississippi into New Orleans and returned. These convoys were all completed without incident, except for breakdowns due to the condition of equipment.

ALFA also directly supported St. Bernard Parish in the removal of 200+ flooded and abandoned vehicles away from the main Parish government building complex, thereby speeding the return of key access in and around the facility. ALFA was additionally responsible for miles of road clearing in St. Bernard Parish and the Lower Ninth Ward, actions that were essential to the timely access into flooded areas by search and rescue crews.

The crane crew performed 39 individual lifts with a 40-ton crane throughout the greater New Orleans area, again without incident. Most complex of these lifts being a three part lift as associated with the demo and removal of a collapsed radio tower.

Additionally, ALFA sent a crew to support levee repairs in southern Plaquemines Parish. NMCB 40 ALFA reps were the only dozer crew backfilling a damaged levee for several days.

91 Total pieces of CESE
90 Percent of availability
Tab 'A' CESE used:

Dump	MTVR
40 Ton Crane	Grader
D5 Dozer	1160 Dozer
4k Forklift	12k Forklift
20k Forklift	Fuel Truck
Maintenance Truck	HMMWV
Stake Truck	Highboy Trailer
Lowboy Trailer	Front End Loader
Tractor	

ALFA made an extensive and important contribution to getting the Parishes of New Orleans back on their feet.

MEDICAL

The Senior Medical Department Representative (SMDR)/Independent Duty Corpsman (IDC) for NMCB FORTY plus two more IDC, Preventive Medicine Technician (PMT), and three general duty Hospital corpsman (HM) deployed in support of Joint Task Force Katrina in New Orleans, Louisiana. One IDC was permanently assigned with the Air Detachment.

The PMT deployed with the first flight and was responsible for overseeing all preventive medicine issues were addressed both at the battalion's base camp at Naval Air Station/Joint Reserve Base Bella Chase, Louisiana and at all project sites. The rest of the Corpsman were assigned to cover daily tasking or projects.

Corpsmen had sufficient supplies and medication to treat minor injuries and, as required, to stabilize casualties prior to medical evacuation (medevac) if it need be. In addition, a U.S. Joint Medical Task Force Katrina promulgated standard operating procedure that listed Navy Ship's Medical as well as local treatment facility assets for the next echelon of care.

At the base camp, a Battalion Aid Station (BAS) was established for everyday sick call and follow on treatment for personnel from the project site. Naval Medical Clinic and Air Force Field hospital was used for referral or emergency services.

At each project site, the Corpsman was the first aid provider as well as safety observer. Medical and safety briefs were given prior to commencement of work. The Corpsman is directed to use the battalion's organic medical assets. Project site Corpsmen were directed to utilize local ambulances and medical facilities in case of emergencies, but only if absolutely necessary. Additionally, MEDEVAC helicopters were available if needed.

A Health Records review and all immunizations check was done prior to deployment for this joint task force. Medical situational report (SITREP) was called in daily to HMC(SW) Dave Calderon of 22nd SRG at Gulfport, Mississippi. Communication with the battalion medical officer (LT Cross at Port Hueneme) and SMDR was maintained at all times.

Sick call case encountered was mostly minor ailments, i.e. contact dermatitis and viral upper respiratory infection. There were two cases of work related injuries, (reported to safety) namely a head injury and a minor laceration (chain saw). No

reported case of dehydration because of the chain of command's proactive initiative that Camelbacks and/or canteens will be carried at all times. All reported injuries were treated locally and did not necessitate medevac.

SAFETY SUMMARY

NMCB FORTY

# FATALITIES	0
# DAYS LOST TIME	0
# CASES LOST TIME	0
# DAYS LIGHT DUTY	2
# CASES LIGHT DUTY	1
# FIRST AID MISHAPS	5
# HEAT CASUALTIES	0

Safety during the execution of this exercise was of paramount concern to the OIC's and AOIC's. Because of the uniqueness of this exercise and the unit being dispersed in several remote locations, each individual had to be vigilant in their efforts to avoid any safety mishaps. While the construction projects were no more dangerous than an average site, there remained many opportunities for mishaps throughout the evolution.

The light duty days in the table above were as a result of a chain saw incident that was minor because the individual was trained on the proper use of personal protective equipment "PPE" and was wearing it properly. The first aid mishaps were from minor lacerations that did not result in any light duty days, or lost time.

LESSONS LEARNED

KEYWORD: CESE

1. Observation: Poor condition of CESE to complete operations.

Discussion: The track loader on site had bad seals that could not be quickly replaced and overall was not enough to complete the operations. The site had enough work for two track loaders. A wheeled loader was being used in place of a track loader that eventually cost us several tires because of the flat tires that occurred as a result of using equipment not suitable for the operations.

Recommendation: Assess the level of damage and work requirements in the area of operations to better plan for possible problems that may occur.

2. Observation: The need to establish a full maintenance program.

Discussion: The maintenance plan was under AIRDET Ops at the beginning of JFT Katrina. Once, a larger portion of mainbody personnel arrived, a transition shift occurred between AIRDET and ALFA. This shift left gaps in the maintenance plan turn over because there was no formal maintenance program established.

Recommendation: To better identify the procedures needed and personnel responsible for operations turnover in place and dedicated sooner.

3. Observation: Planning of the retrograde evolution.

Discussion: Eight days were planned for retrograde back Port Hueneme from Gulfport and New Orleans. The battalion checked out a large amount of CESE and containers. Retrograde was difficult to complete on schedule in the eight days provided.

Recommendation: Too many units turned gear at the same time. Priority should be given to out-of-town units.

4. Observation: Insufficient CESE assets to operate and complete all projects and tasks due to condition of equipment.

Discussion: The amount and type of CESE brought to New Orleans was not sufficient enough to sustain operations tempo when breakdowns occurred.

Recommendation: Need more repair parts and CESE in better quality.

KEYWORD: COMMUNICATION

1. Observation: The CESE assets did not contain radio mounts.

Discussion: Many of the convoys and working parties were traveling to area outside of Saber radio range. Cell phones were capable in some areas but not at all times. The lack of radio mounts in many of the vehicles made communication in those areas difficult.

Recommendation: Ensure that CESE assets have radio mounts installed prior to leaving warehouse.

2. Observation: Satellite communication was not utilized to its capability to support verbal and digital communication.

Discussion: During the JTF evolution there were problems communicating with higher headquarters. Satellite communication is a clear direct circuit that could have provided a direct link from the AOR to higher.

Recommendation: The NCF should establish its own satellite CKT. This would give NCF units easier access to adjacent and higher commands and help reduce lag time.

3. Observation: Lack of communication plan and assets from the beginning of operations.

Discussion: NMCB FORTY deployed from Port Hueneme without any communication assets of our own. The equipment we checked out from Gulfport was from different TOA's, which made accountability of communication gear difficult to manage.

Recommendation: Communications capability needs to be a higher priority at all levels prior to deploying. Allow S6 to establish a start to finish plan of execution in order to ensure that the right assets are in place to complete operations.

KEYWORD: PLANNING

1. Observation: Company ownership of task assigned from JTF-Parish level planning meetings.

Discussion: Planning meetings were being held at the JTF-Parish level. Company Commanders did not attend some of these meetings to experience that level of planning discussion.

Recommendation: When possible, assign companies/detachments to customers or AOR's to spread responsibility.

KEYWORD: OPERATIONS

1. Observation: Confirmation and Convoy Brief to COC.

Discussion: The briefings developed, provided by mission/convoy commanders to COC watch officers was minimal compared to the brief outline requirements of the Field Reference Handbook.

Recommendation: Companies to take more charge of the briefs to ensure full planning.

KEYWORD: MEDICAL

1. Observation: The importance of a Preventive Medicine IDC during JTF Katrina.

2. Discussion: NMCB FORTY'S PMT conducted both environmental studies and analysis which were essential to NAS, JRB New Orleans.

3. Recommendation: Units should plan to take a Preventive Medicine IDC with to any contingency that has environmental and health hazard present.

KEYWORD: SUPPLY/MATERIALS

1. Observation: Local funds were not available.

Discussion: During JTF, there was a need to procure supplies from local sources, using local funds. Without local

funds, customers had to call Gulfport for parts and supplies, which took 1-2 days to get and complete assigned task.

Recommendation: Method to expedite funding requirements and authorize more use of credit cards.

2. Observation: Accountability of extra gear, not needed in AOR, shipped in containers.

Discussion: During JTF, containers were shipped from Gulfport to New Orleans with gear that was not specifically required for operations. Each container was shipped full, which created an accountability problem for the extra gear.

Recommendation: Check inventory sheets prior to shipping containers to ensure that only the gear and supplies needed are shipped.

3. Observation: Ensuring accountability of CTR/Supply operations.

Discussion: CTR/Supply was established and manned properly by Air Det upon arrival to JTF. As time continued and more personnel arrived to AOR, MLO/CTR standards slipped.

Recommendation: CTR/Supply needs to maintain accountability and full service of operations throughout.

KEYWORD: EMBARKATION

1. Observation: The MOCC was never fully established.

Discussion: An MOCC was needed through the entire mount-out in order to have a central element in control of all embark information. During JTF Katrina there were problems with personnel accountability in New Orleans and Gulfport; the personnel movements happened quickly and were difficult to keep track of.

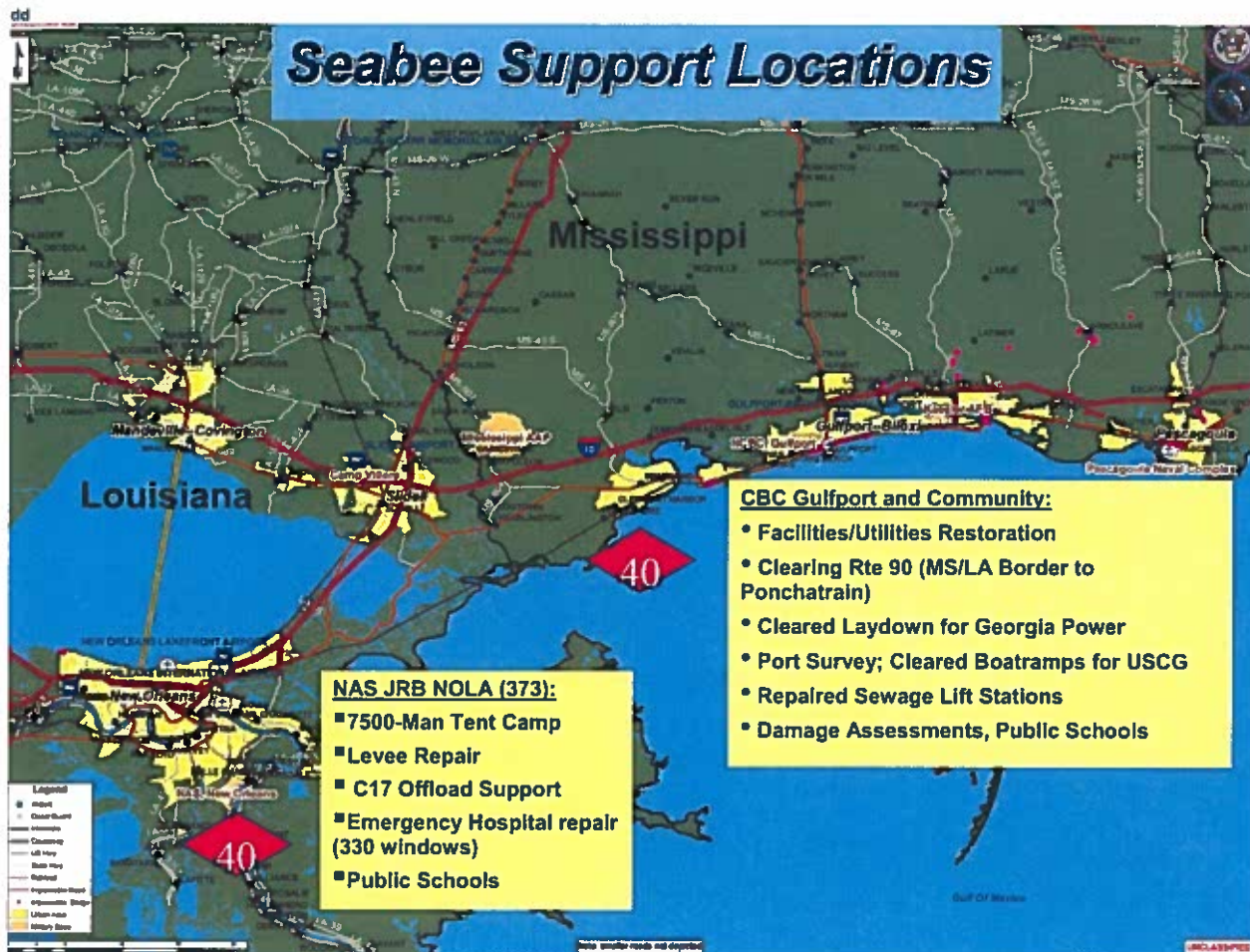
Recommendation: Maintain a full MOCC for any future real world contingencies.

2. Observation: Flight Manifest accountability.

Discussion: The musters of personnel prior to departure from Port Hueneme to AOR were incomplete.

Recommendation: Flight OIC's should re-validate manifests with Embark prior to departure. In turn, Embark should ensure valid manifests are disseminated.

APPENDIX A



APPENDIX B

PROJECT STATUS

Project No.	Project Description	Contract Value	Contract Type	Contract Status	Contract Completion Date
N05-300	Tent City berthing tent platforms	195	100%	Complete	
N05-902	JRB/NAS Belle Chasse PW Support	300	100%	Complete	
N05-902	NSA New Orleans PW Support	300	100%	Complete	
N05-903	Port Sulphur High School	58	100%	Complete	
N05-903	Port Sulphur Fire Department	58	100%	Complete	
N05-903	Port Sulphur Command Post	58	100%	Complete	
N05-903	Roads Clearing: Plaquemines, Jefferson, Orleans, St. Bernard Parishes and JRB NAS/NSA New Orleans	708	100%	Complete	
N05-902	Temper Tents for 82 nd Airborne	154	100%	Complete	
N05-903	Levee repair, Port Sulphur	24	100%	Complete	
N05-301	Crane Operations: Plaquemines, Jefferson, Orleans, St. Bernard Parishes and JRB NAS/NSA New Orleans	70	100%	Complete	
N05-903	Jefferson and Orleans Parishes City Park (approx. 25) Clean-up	354	100%	Complete	
N05-903	St. Rosalee Elementary School	105	100%	Complete	
N05-700	Charity Hospital window repair	216	100%	Complete	
N05-301	Temporary Trailer Park Community, Plaquemines Parish	120	100%	Complete	
N05-902	Armed Forces Retirement Home, Gulfport	240	100%	Complete	
N05-700	Building 333 Roof Repair	30	100%	Complete	

PROJECT STATUS

Project ID	Project Name	Units	Quantity	Progress	Completion
NO5-902	JRB/NAS Belle Chasse PW Support		300	100%	Complete
NO5-902	MWR Awning		10	100%	Complete
NO5-902	MWR Stage		60	100%	Complete
NO5-903	Belle Chasse Primary School		30	100%	Complete
NO5-903	Arch Bishop Blenk High School, in Gretna		4	100%	Complete
NO5-902	Quarters "A" Repair, Flag housing		30	100%	Complete
NO5-902	NSA fence repair		25	100%	Complete
NO5-902	NSA New Orleans Shower/Laundry		6	100%	Complete
NO5-902	Belle Chasse Water Valves		25	100%	Complete
NO5-902	St Bernard Parish water valves		8	100%	Complete

APPENDIX C







APPENDIX D

State of Louisiana
House of Representatives



First Extraordinary Session, 2005

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 8

BY REPRESENTATIVES BRUNEAU, ALARIO, ALEXANDER, ANSARDI, ARNOLD, BADON, BALDONE, BARROW, BAUDOIN, BAYLOR, BEARD, BOWLER, BRUCE, BURNS, BURRELL, K. CARTER, R. CARTER, CAZAYOUX, CRANE, CRAVINS, CROWE, CURTIS, DAMICO, DANIEL, DARTEZ, DEWITT, DOERGE, DORSEY, DOVE, DOWNS, DURAND, ERDEY, FANNIN, FARRAR, FAUCHEUX, FRITH, GALLOT, GEYMAN, GLOVER, GRAY, GREENE, E. GUILLORY, M. GUILLORY, HAMMETT, HARRIS, HEATON, HEBERT, HILL, HONEY, HOPKINS, HUNTER, HUTTER, JACKSON, JEFFERSON, JOHNS, KATZ, KENNARD, KENNEY, KLECKLEY, LABRUZZO, LAFLEUR, LAFONTA, LAMBERT, LANCASTER, MARCHAND, MARTINY, MCDONALD, MCVEA, MONTGOMERY, MORRELL, MORRISH, ODINET, PIERRE, PINAC, PITRE, M. POWELL, T. POWELL, QUEZAIRE, RICHMOND, RITCHIE, ROBIDEAUX, ROMERO, SALTER, SCALISE, SCHNEIDER, SMILEY, GARY SMITH, JACK SMITH, JANE SMITH, JOHN SMITH, ST. GERMAIN, STRAIN, THOMPSON, TOOMY, TOWNSEND, TRAHAN, TRICHE, TUCKER, WADDELL, WALKER, WALSWORTH, WHITE, WINSTON, WOOTON, AND WRIGHT

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 40 for its singular contributions to the greater New Orleans area in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to commend Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 40 for its outstanding contributions and achievements during a three-week period following Hurricane Katrina in the greater New Orleans area; and

WHEREAS, Naval Mobile Construction Battalions provide responsive military construction support to Navy, Marine Corps, and other forces in military operations, construct base facilities, and conduct defensive operations, and in times of emergency or disaster, they conduct disaster control and recovery operations; and

WHEREAS, following the destruction of Hurricane Katrina, NMCB 40 provided vital services and assistance in the greater New Orleans area, performing a wide variety of crucial operations; and

WHEREAS, in Orleans Parish, NMCB 40 carried out clearing within City Park, the demolition of damaged buildings within City Park, and the removal of debris in and around City Park; cleaned up Audubon Park by removing debris; and stabilized and did structural assessment of Charity Hospital, boarding more than three hundred windows prior to Hurricane Rita; and

WHEREAS, in St. Bernard Parish, NMCB 40 opened main roads throughout the parish, cleared debris from and stabilized the parish government office building, removed boats and cars from the courthouse and other government buildings, and ran sonar scans of St. Bernard's port facilities and the Violet Canal; and

WHEREAS, in Jefferson Parish, NMCB 40 cleared three playground facilities, cleared and stabilized four grammar schools and three high schools, and assisted with debris clearing at hospitals and nursing homes; and

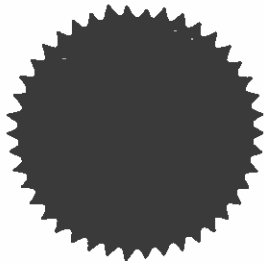
WHEREAS, in Plaquemines Parish, NMCB 40 reopened the Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base, building a five hundred-man tent camp, establishing a trailer park for parish employees, and providing general engineer support; cleared and stabilized three schools, one library, and one post office; helped with the establishment of ferry service, ran sonar scans of the port facilities, and assisted with the raising of sunken barges; cleared much of the Port Sulfur area; worked on levee repair and construction and culvert construction and built at least one bridge; and cleared a school for the relocation of the Disaster Recovery Center; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, this exceptional unit will be deploying to Iraq to provide further service to the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Louisiana sincerely appreciate the unique skills and talents and the tireless dedication of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 40.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 40 for its singular contributions to the greater New Orleans area in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, does hereby extend enduring gratitude to these fine Navy Seabees for their assistance to the people of Louisiana during a very dark hour, and does hereby extend to this outstanding unit best wishes for success and safety in its future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Lieutenant Colonel Paul B. "Bubba" Deckert.



SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

APPENDIX E

Seabees Help School Recover, Prepare to Reopen

9/30/2005

By Journalist 1st Class (SCW/SS) James G. Pinsky, Navy News Service

JEFFERSON PARISH, La. (NNS) -- Seabees of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 40, deployed to the Gulf Coast region in support of Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita relief efforts, are helping a private school here to recover from damage caused by the hurricanes.

Students at Saint Louis King of France Catholic School are on schedule to meet their self-imposed Oct. 10 deadline to be back in the classroom, thanks to the Seabees.

"The hurricane affected everybody, and that includes the [repair] contractors," said Pam Schott, Saint Louis King of France's principal. "So there's no one here to help us get our school back on track, especially by Oct. 10. But the Seabees are here, and they have answered all our prayers."

The Seabees cleared wind-blown debris, removed broken glass, cleaned classrooms, put up plywood on broken windows, and even mowed the school's lawn, all the while working independently so school staff personnel could concentrate on academic taskings.

"I kept offering the Seabees help, tools, and just about anything I could think of to make their job easier," said Schott, "but they really didn't need me to do anything."

In addition to keeping the school on pace to reopen their doors in early October, the Seabees' humanitarian assistance saved the school an estimated \$50,000 that Schott said would have had to come out of the students' yearly budget.

"Doing work like this for these kids is great," said Chief Hospital Corpsman (SW/FMF) Cecilio Liwanag. "This is what Seabees do. We help those who can't help themselves."

While the work necessary to have Schott's school up and running was considered basic to the Seabees, their work ethic and "Can Do" Seabee ingenuity left quite an impression on Schott and her staff.

"The Seabees work 10-12 hour days, never complain, and always show up to do what they say they're going to do," said Schott.

But Seabee sweat wasn't the only thing Schott noticed.

"These Seabees are the most polite people I've ever met," said Schott. "My own kids don't say 'yes, ma'am' to me, but these guys do. They're all business."

Schott is more than pleased with the final product. "Our school looks better now than it did before the hurricane thanks to the Seabees," she said.

For the latest Navy news on hurricane relief efforts, visit www.news.navy.mil/local/hurricane/.



050928-N-2653P-048 Jefferson Parish (Sept 28, 2005) - Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Four Zero (NMCB-40) Operations Officer Lt. Cmdr. Christopher Adams meets Saint Louis King of France Catholic School Principal, Pam Schott, after his Seabees helped get the school ready for a targeted Oct. 10th, 2005 reopening. The Navy's involvement in the Hurricane Katrina humanitarian assistance operations are led by the Federal Emergency management Agency (FEMA), in conjunction with the Department of Defense. U.S. Navy photo by Journalist 1st Class James Pinsky (RELEASED)

NMCB 40 Builds Tent City for FEMA, Parish

9/30/2005

By Journalist 1st Class (SCW/SS) James G. Pinsky, Navy News Service

PLAQUEMINE PARISH, La. (NNS) -- Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 40 built a 500-man tent city in September for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) officials in Plaquemine Parish so the officials could relocate from temporary accommodations at Belle Chasse Primary School.

The tent city, which includes air conditioned tents, showers and a 40 ft. by 60 ft. dining facility, will allow FEMA to conduct their day-to-day

operations while Belle Chasse Primary School concentrates on getting their students back in class.

"Disaster recovery is part of our job," said Steelworker 1st Class (SCW) James Reddinger, project crew leader. "And we know by helping FEMA, we're helping a lot of other people. FEMA helps everybody, so this is a good project for us."

The Seabees have found the hurricane relief efforts challenging in that most of their project planning has been on short notice, and Louisiana's heat is a lot different than that of southern California, where the battalion is based.

"Out here we've had to do a lot of thinking on our feet," said Reddinger. "Things change day to day and minute to minute. But the hardest part of being here has been the heat. It takes a lot out of our people just because we're not used to it."

Constant changes and humid conditions aside, the Seabees are glad they're here.

"We're a lot more motivated to be here now that we're out of the debris-clearing business. What we really love is working directly with the people who were affected by the hurricane."

The Seabees' work ethic and dedication to duty has left a strong impression on civilian contractors who work directly with the Seabees.

"These guys are good at what they do," said Randy Hinton, a tent contractor. "They are willing to do whatever it takes to get the job done. It's very inspiring."

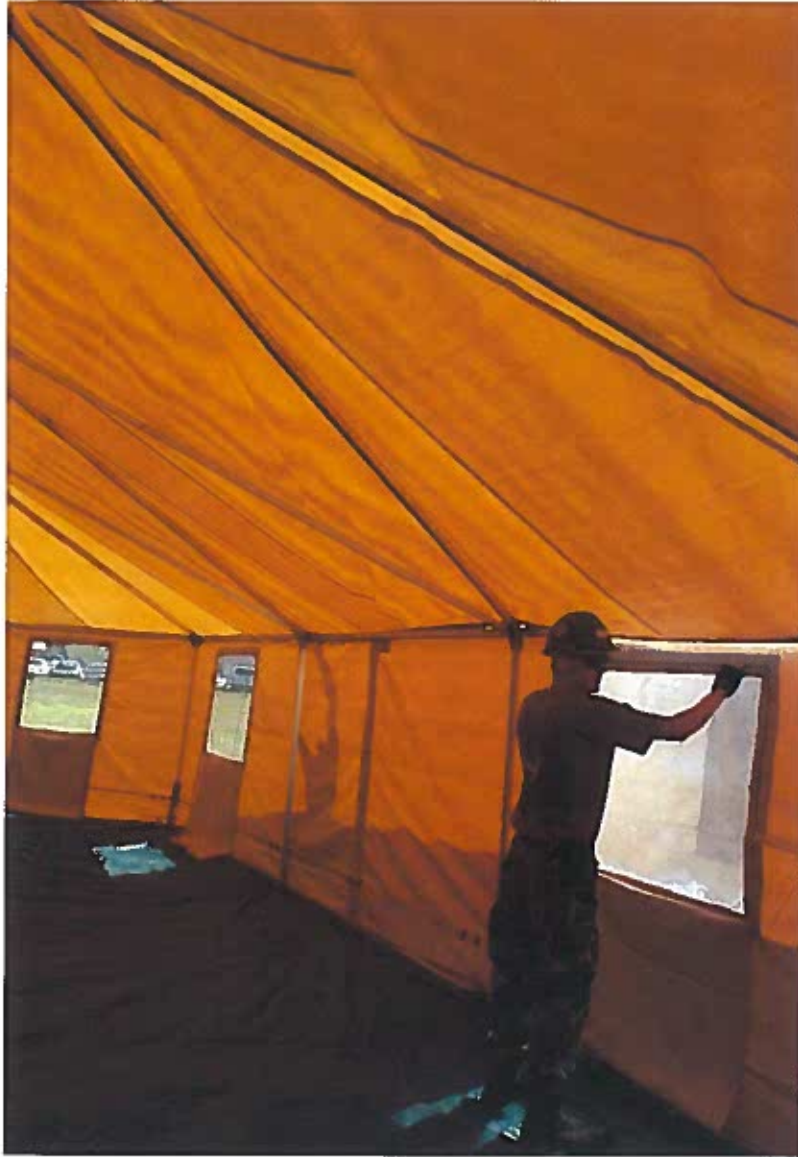
While the Seabees' "Can Do" spirit serves to inspire others, what motivates the Seabees most of all is being able to see the people their work affects.

"It warms our hearts to not only help people like we are here, but to be able to meet the people we're helping and see their gratitude," said Reddinger. "Because their gratitude is the best reward we could ever ask for."

For the latest Navy news on hurricane relief efforts, visit www.news.navy.mil/local/hurricane/.



050928-N-2653P-027 Plaquemines Parish (Sept 28, 2005) - Construction Electrician 3rd Class German Carillo assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Four Zero (NMCB-40) helps assemble a tent, which is part of a larger 500 person Federal Emergency management Agency (FEMA) tent city. The camp will allow FEMA officials to move from Belle Chasse Primary School so school officials can expedite getting the school open for students. The Navy's involvement in the Hurricane Katrina humanitarian assistance operations are led by the Federal Emergency management Agency (FEMA), in conjunction with the Department of Defense. U.S. Navy photo by Journalist 1st Class James Pinsky (RELEASED)



050928-N-2653P-035 Plaquemines Parish (Sept 28, 2005) - Construction Electrician Tom Lucy assigned Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Four Zero (NMCB-40) helps assemble a tent, which is part of a larger 500 person Federal Emergency management Agency (FEMA) tent city. The camp will allow FEMA officials to move from Belle Chasse Primary School so school officials can expedite getting the school open for students. The Navy's involvement in the Hurricane Katrina humanitarian assistance operations are led by the Federal Emergency management Agency (FEMA), in conjunction with the Department of Defense. U.S. Navy photo by Journalist 1st Class James Pinsky (RELEASED)

Seabees, Local Residents Establish Temporary Housing for Hurricane Victims

9/30/2005

By Journalist 1st Class (SCW/SS) James G. Pinsky, Navy News Service

PLAQUEMINE PARISH, La. (NNS) -- Seabees of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 40 and local Plaquemines Parish residents teamed up in September to help the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) expedite establishing housing for hundreds of Hurricane Katrina evacuees.

One of FEMA's plans for relocating evacuees involved Plaquemines Parish landowners like Ray Tolar, who volunteered his land to host trailers for local families to stay in.

In Tolar's case, FEMA placed 19 trailers in his front yard, and Seabees are installing water, sewage and electrical connections for the trailers.

"The faster and better we can install these lines," said Construction Electrician 3rd Class (SCW) Matthew Huston, "the sooner the evacuees can get into these trailers."

The plumbing and electrical work is a welcome change to Seabees who have seen more than their fair share of debris clearing throughout the hurricane-ravaged Gulf Coast.

"I love a job like this trailer park," said Huston, "because we're actually doing something for the hurricane victims directly."

In addition to making sure the 19 trailers have safe sewage, water, and electrical connections, the Seabees are helping volunteers like Tolar with their own concerns as well.

"The Seabees are doing good," said Tolar, who is a contracted plumber by trade. "They helped me change my tractor's tire. We're friendly to each other, bring them coffee and iced tea. They've been very courteous, and I'm just glad to see them here to help us."

For the latest Navy news on hurricane relief efforts, visit www.news.navy.mil/local/hurricane/.



050928-N-2653P-067 Plaquemines Parish (Sept 28, 2005) - Utilitiesman Gregory Knight and Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Joshua Ross assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Four Zero (NMCB-40), dig trenches for sewage lines for 19 trailers for evacuee families. The Navy's involvement in the Hurricane Katrina humanitarian assistance operations are led by the Federal Emergency management Agency (FEMA), in conjunction with the Department of Defense. U.S. Navy photo by Journalist 1st Class James Pinsky (RELEASED)



050928-N-2653P-007 Plaquemines Parish (Sept. 28, 2005) - Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Four Zero (NMCB-40) prepare to install sewage pipes for an evacuee relocation trailer site. The land, donated by a local Plaquemines Parish resident, will house 19 families and will have full water, electrical and sewage facilities. The Navy's involvement in the Hurricane Katrina humanitarian assistance operations are led by the Federal Emergency management Agency (FEMA), in conjunction with the Department of Defense. U.S. Navy photo by Journalist 1st Class James Pinsky (RELEASED)



050928-N-2653P-009 Plaquemines Parish (Sept 28, 2005) - Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Four Zero (NMCB-40) install sewage pipes for an evacuee relocation trailer site. The land, donated by a local Plaquemines Parish resident, will house 19 families and will have full water, electrical and sewage facilities. The Navy's involvement in the Hurricane Katrina humanitarian assistance operations are led by the Federal Emergency management Agency (FEMA), in conjunction with the Department of Defense. U.S. Navy photo by Journalist 1st Class James Pinsky (RELEASED)

NMCB 40 Helps Restore School in Plaquemine Parish

10/4/2005

By Journalist 2nd Class Barbara Silkwood, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 40 Public Affairs

NEW ORLEANS (NNS) -- Nearly a month after Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 40 deployed to Southern Louisiana in support of Joint Task Force Katrina relief efforts, the Seabees continued working in October with Parish residents and local government officials to help rebuild the surrounding communities as quickly as possible.

Crews from NMCB 40's Air Detachment finished a project restoring St. Rosalee elementary - one of the largest schools in the New Orleans Archdiocese.

"After the storm hit, debris, roofing and fallen trees scattered the courtyards," said school principal Mary Wenzel. "You couldn't even recognize the place."

The Seabees cleaned up the courtyards, took out wet ceiling tiles and sheet rock, checked for electrical hazards, mopped up standing water, and carried out all the damaged desks and chairs.

"The crew was wonderful; they did anything and everything possible to make it safe for the children to return," said Wenzel. "In less than a week, they basically gutted the entire campus, so all we need to do now is get some contractors in to start fixing the damage," she said.

Although the school lost six classrooms due to water damage, the school is scheduled to reopen soon.

"After we saw the damage, we didn't even know where to begin," said Wenzel. "Without the Seabees we wouldn't have been able to open back up for at least another couple of months. We can't thank them enough for the work they have done."

For the latest Navy news on hurricane relief efforts, visit www.news.navy.mil/local/hurricane/.



050922-N-9712C-005 New Orleans (Sept. 22, 2005) - U.S. Navy Equipment Operator 3rd Class Slade Miller, assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Four Zero (NMCB-40), removes water damaged insulation from the ceiling at Saint Rosalie School in New Orleans. The Navy's involvement in the

Hurricane Katrina humanitarian assistance operations are led by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), in conjunction with the Department of Defense. U.S. Navy photo by Photographer's Mate 3rd Class John P. Curtis (RELEASED)



050922-N-9712C-004 New Orleans (Sept. 22, 2005) - U.S Navy Builder Constructionman Joseph Godfrey, assigned to Naval Mobile Construction

Battalion Four Zero (NMCB-40), sweeps-up debris at Saint Rosalie School in New Orleans. The Navy's involvement in the Hurricane Katrina humanitarian assistance operations are led by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), in conjunction with the Department of Defense. U.S. Navy photo by Photographer's Mate 3rd Class John P. Curtis (RELEASED)

CNO Stops in Gulfport to View Hurricane Damage and Recovery Efforts

9/11/2005

By Journalist 3rd Class Chris Gethings, U.S. Fleet Forces Command Public Affairs Detachment, Gulfport

GULFPORT, Miss. (NNS) -- Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Michael G. Mullen and Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) (SS/AW) Terry Scott made Gulfport, Miss., their first of seven scheduled stops to personally assess damages caused by Hurricane Katrina and to get a firsthand view of the progress Seabees are making in repair and relief missions Sept. 10.

Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) Gulfport Commanding Officer Capt. George Eichert, Commander, 22nd Naval Construction Regiment Capt. Eric Odderstol and NCBC Executive Officer Capt. (sel.) John Rice met the CNO and MCPON upon their arrival at the base. They, among other senior officers and enlisted staff, escorted the visitors around the base, stopping at the regimental operations tent, family support center, and the new temporary base commissary.

The visit included detailed briefings to the CNO by senior officers about hurricane damage and Seabee reconstruction and cleanup efforts, both on and off base; a visit to about 30 Seabees by the CNO, where he expressed gratitude for all their hard work; and along with Eichert, the store director and store administrator, took part in the ribbon-cutting ceremony at the new temporary base commissary, which had to be built, as the main store was damaged by Hurricane Katrina.

"The efforts the Seabees are making are being highly recognized," Mullen told the Seabees regarding their progress in the Hurricane Katrina humanitarian relief mission. "I'm very appreciative of what you're doing and I'm proud to say I serve with [Sailors] like you. Take care of yourselves."

The Seabees in attendance couldn't have felt more appreciated.

"It felt really good to see both the CNO and MCPON stop by our base and express his gratitude and appreciation for all of our hard work," said Construction Electrician 1st Class Joseph Lebovitz, an instructor with the 20th Seabee Readiness Group.

Lebovitz, a Boston, Mass., native, said the CNO had a few brief concluding words for him: "Keep up the good work."

After visiting the base, Mullen was taken to the Port of Gulfport, a major commercial area devastated by hurricane Katrina. There, he received a firsthand view of what Seabees were doing for the community, along with a

briefing from the commanding officer of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 7.

For the latest Navy news on Hurricane Katrina relief efforts, visit www.news.navy.mil/local/hurricane/.



Seabees Help Clean up Community

9/20/2005

By Journalist 2nd Class Barbara Silkwood, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 40 Public Affairs

NEW ORLEANS (NNS) -- Several groups of Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 40 are working to clean up debris and remove fallen trees throughout Southern Louisiana as part of Hurricane Katrina relief efforts since their arrival in September.

The Seabee Engineering Reconnaissance Team (SERT) toured through several parishes of New Orleans checking Parish priorities such as road accessibility and clearing routes, annotating schools or other public areas along the way in need of repair.

After consolidating information and organizing a plan of action, SERT and Bravo company loaded up an MTRV (medium tactical vehicle replacement) with chain saws and clean-up equipment, and headed for Plaquemine Parish's highest priority, the Belle Chase post office.

"The postal trucks were blocked in by large trees which fell during the hurricane, so the idea was to clear the parking lot so the post office could start functioning again as quickly as possible," said Construction Mechanic 2nd Class Matt Klier. "There were also a lot of downed power lines, so we ended up cutting the lines and moving them out of the way as well," he said.

The crew finished the job quickly and began searching for other work in the area.

"We found a historical landmark which had been turned into a library. There were about 12 trees down, roofing was laying everywhere, so we cut the trees up, stacked them in a pile and cleaned the area up the best we could," Klier said.

The crew piled in the truck again and went searching for more work.

"We know we can't help each individual citizen, so we look for government or public facilities within the community. If we can help citizens out in the process, we will do what we can, but we also understand we can't just start attacking houses one by one," Klier said.

As an example, the team found a middle school several miles up the road with severe damage to the roof, and trees and debris scattered through the school yard. The crew spotted a couple across the street who had returned to their home for the first time since the storm. One by one they made their way to the yard and began cutting and stacking the enormous tree branches littering the front and back yard.

"They just came over and asked if they could help," said local resident Theresa Wade. "We really appreciate their help."

The Seabees were more than happy to help and were delighted when the Wades' daughter-in-law offered them freezer pops for their hard work.

"It was a good feeling to be able to help some of the residents," said Klier. "We will continue to do what we can to ease the burden of the community."

For related news, visit the Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 40 Navy NewsStand page at www.news.navy.mil/local/nmcb40/.

For the latest Navy news on Hurricane Katrina relief efforts, visit www.news.navy.mil/local/hurricane/.



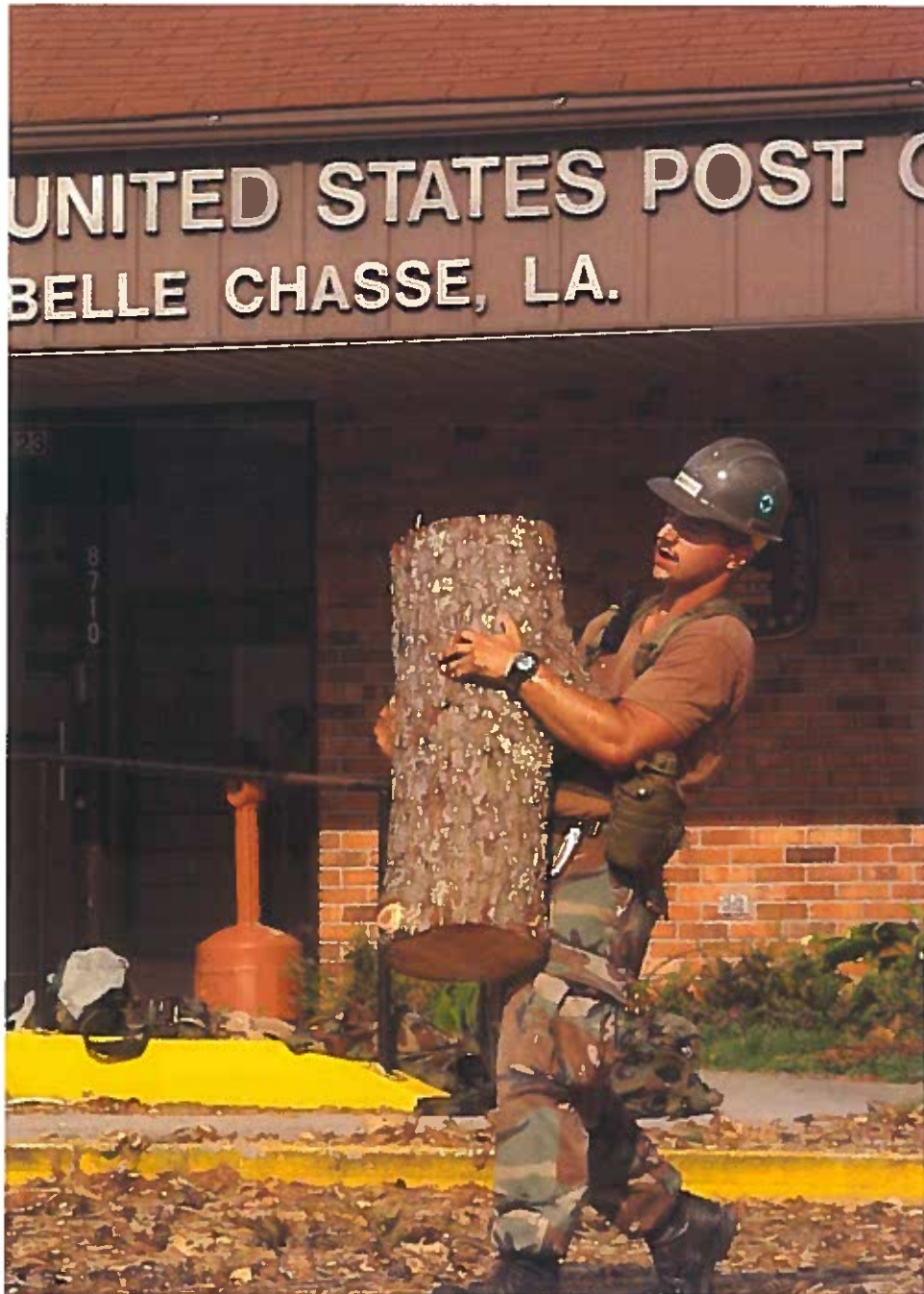
050909-N-5526M-004 New Orleans (Sept. 09, 2005) - U.S. Navy Seabee's assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Four Zero (NMCB-40) load metal Debris left behind from hurricane Katrina at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base New Orleans. U.S. Navy photo by Photographer's Mate 1st Class Robert McRill (RELEASED)



050924-N-0000X-001 New Orleans (Sept. 24, 2005) - U.S. Navy Builder 1st Class Daniel McKee (right), assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Unit Four Zero (NMCB-40), hands-off a sandbag to another Seabee while repairing a levee. The Navy's involvement in the Hurricane Rita humanitarian assistance operations are led by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), in conjunction with the Department of Defense. U.S. Navy photo (RELEASED)



050915-N-9712C-002 Buras, La. (Sept. 15, 2005) - U.S. Navy Equipment Operator 1st Class Max Lopez, assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Four Zero (NMCB-40), uses a bulldozer to supply a crane with loose dirt to block the area where Buras Levee broke during Hurricane Katrina. The Navy's involvement in the Hurricane Katrina humanitarian assistance operations are led by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), in conjunction with the Department of Defense. U.S. Navy photo by Photographer's Mate 3rd Class John P. Curtis (RELEASED)



050912-N-9458H-003 Belle Chasse, La. (Sept. 12, 2005) - Utilitiesman 3rd Class Shaun Collins, assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Forty (NMCB 40) out of Port Hueneme Calif., clears away downed trees and branches caused by Hurricane Katrina from around the towns local post office facility. U.S. Navy photo by Photographer's Mate 3rd Class Patrick Hutchison (RELEASED)



050912-N-9274T-006 New Orleans (Sept. 12, 2005) - Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Four Zero (NMCB 40) out of Port HUENEME Calif., clears away debris around the Plaquemine Parish Post Office in Louisiana in support of Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. The Navy's involvement in the Hurricane Katrina humanitarian assistance operations are led by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), in conjunction with the Department of Defense. U.S. Navy photo by Photographer's Mate 2nd Class William Townsend (RELEASED)



050906-N-9712C-005 Belle Chasse, La. (Sept. 6, 2005) - U.S. Navy Seabees, assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Four Zero (NMCB-40), use a crane to unload equipment and supplies on board Naval Air Station New Orleans. NMCB-40 is currently aiding in the disaster recovery effort from Hurricane Katrina that struck the Gulf Coast. The Navy's involvement in the Hurricane Katrina humanitarian assistance operations is led by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), in conjunction with the Department of Defense. U.S. Navy photo by Photographer's Mate 3rd Class John P. Curtis (RELEASED)

Navy Seabees Remain on the Job After Katrina

9/22/2005

By Journalist 3rd Class Chris Gethings, U.S. Fleet Forces Command Public Affairs Detachment Gulfport

GULFPORT, Miss. (NNS) -- A little more than three weeks after Hurricane Katrina hammered Mississippi, Alabama and Louisiana, U.S. Navy Seabees continue to work to help rebuild lives and city infrastructure with the same determination they had when their work began Aug. 30.

More than 3,000 Seabees from all over the U.S. have aided in disaster relief efforts.

The 22nd Naval Construction Regiment (NCR), based in Gulfport, Miss., serves as the head command for all Seabees attached to Joint Task Force Katrina.

"Our first priority after the storm was the accountability and safety of our troops," said Lt. Cmdr. Scot Sanders, operations officer with the 22nd NCR. "After that, we began clearing roads and getting basic routes cleared for emergency recovery and rescue operations."

The Seabees have cleared debris from more than 720 miles of roadway since they began, giving emergency vehicles vital access to damaged areas. All work performed immediately following the storm was considered Disaster Recovery Phase I by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). During this phase, emergency work was authorized without FEMA tasking or funding.

Sanders explained how the next steps, which took effect when the FEMA declared hurricane recovery at phase II, included focusing on critical infrastructure items such as restoring water, sewage and electricity. "The city can't effectively operate relief missions without the basic necessities," he said, "and one of our many jobs was to get them operational again."

The Seabees haven't been alone in the disaster relief operations. They've worked with local sheriffs' departments, the American Red Cross and military components from Mexico, the Netherlands and Canada.

"All of the organizations involved have been doing an outstanding job," said Master Chief Constructionman Matthew Cabral, operations chief for the 22nd NCR. "All of us work flawlessly together. We're glad we have the resources to contribute the way our Seabees have to this mission."

Cabral spent a great deal of time visiting the various sites his Seabees were at to gather feedback and monitor progress. "I'm not surprised at the performance and dedication of these Seabees one bit," he said. "It's our nature. It's part of our motto even - 'With compassion for others, we build, we fight.'"

Not much preparation was needed prior to the hurricane because Seabees keep their equipment operational and ready to go at a moment's notice, explained Sanders. Disaster relief is one of their main missions, so they've been training for a situation like this since becoming Seabees.

While Seabees still work at assisting in Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts, many of them are watching Hurricane Rita, heading through the Gulf of Mexico toward Texas. Preparations are also being made for high winds and heavy rains expected in the immediate area.

For the latest Navy news on Hurricane Katrina relief efforts, visit www.news.navy.mil/local/hurricane/.