

## Seabees in Somalia

*'Bees support Operation Restore Hope in war-torn eastern Africa. Coverage begins on page 4.*

The

# Beeline



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**RESTORING HOPE--**Somali children gather to watch a Seabee making road improvements in Operation Restore Hope. Seabees from several units are participating in the relief efforts in eastern Africa. (Photo courtesy of Public Affairs Office, Construction Battalion Center Gulfport, Miss.)

# What's Buzzing?

By Rear Adm. Jack E. Buffington,  
Civil Engineer Corps, USN

IT IS A PLEASURE for me to contribute to this first issue of *The Beeline* by talking about one of my favorite topics: the Seabees. The "Can Do" tradition is a proud one filled with many legendary achievements.

In this time of a changing Navy, one constant amidst change is the Seabee commitment to succeed under all circumstances. Seabees continue to work long hours, improvise with materials at hand, and perform their jobs with great pride and spirit. However, as the Navy downsizes, we must continue to have an open and candid review of how we do our business.

**SELF-EVALUATION IS NECESSARY** to properly develop the best agenda for training and outfitting the Seabees. Leaders at every level need to continue to find ways to do things smarter. Each process affecting training, logistics and mobility must stand on its own merit as being value-added for the good of the Naval Construction Force or be changed. Real improvement requires change.

I expect "jointness" to be our way of life. Clearly, recent joint task force operations indicate how the sister forces complement each other in getting the job done. A well-trained, responsive engineer force is integral to supporting the theater joint force commander, and Operations Desert Storm and Restore Hope are representative of the missions we must prepare to meet in the future.

**JOINTNESS ALSO INCLUDES** disaster recovery operations, such as Hurricane Andrew, and documents the outstanding versatility of the Seabees in assisting communities across a broad spectrum of vital support. Additionally, senior military leaders recognize and appreciate the valuable role Seabees play in leading naval installation maintenance programs.

These are exciting times and offer unique opportunities for us to shape our future as a valued member of the national defense team. I look forward to working with you to meet the challenge.

*Rear Adm. Buffington is Commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command and the Navy's Chief of Civil Engineers.*

## HELP WANTED

Join worldwide construction crew--the Seabees. One weekend a month and two weeks a year. Sea-Air Mariners (SAMs) needed for May, June, July openings; no experience required. Experienced construction workers needed for advanced rates. SAMs needed for other fields. Spread the word! Call 1-800-USA-USNR or contact your detachment recruiting coordinator today.



## Interior View

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# Best of Type: *NMCB 133 is tops in Atlantic Fleet*

By JO1 Tom Logan

**GULFPORT, Miss.**—Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133 has been named the Atlantic Fleet Best of Type battalion for Fiscal Year 1992.

Despite five typhoons in three months, the "Kangaroo" battalion

*The 'Roos were completing one K-Span shell per week within two months after arrival on the island.*

compiled an impressive list of accomplishments. Challenged by the largest single battalion construction tasking on Guam since Vietnam, the 'Roos built 277 K-Span buildings for warehouse use and 19 pre-engineered buildings (PEBs) for offices for Navy units relocating from the Philippines. Before the exhausted Seabees left Guam, they also finished a firefighting training complex and renovated a 44,000-square-foot telecommunications facility for the State Department.

**THE 'ROOS WERE** completing one K-Span shell per week within two months after arrival on the island.

In August, Typhoon Omar blasted Guam with 155-mph winds, causing widespread devastation. Guam's Navy and civilian community repeatedly turned to NMCB 133 for help. The Kangroos worked around-the-clock, clearing debris, dispensing potable water, and servicing and delivering emergency generators to water-pumping stations and communication centers. After three weeks, the battalion returned to the critical Philippine rollback projects.

The battalion's Alpha Company endured a particularly tough sched-

ule. The maintenance division received 319 pieces of heavy equipment and vehicles in May. They immediately started a comprehensive inspection, maintenance and repair program. The company began pulling equipment from warehouses, assessing it and performing badly needed maintenance and repairs.

**EXTENSIVE REPAIRS** were needed before the Orote Point Mineral Products Facility could be brought up to full production. The cost of the battalion's equipment repair parts alone was over \$1.5 million. The Alpha Company provided uninterrupted equipment support. At two quarry sites, crews excavated 42,000 cubic yards of material—enough to fill seven football fields over three feet deep.

Reserve Seabees from NMCBs 15, 25 and 28 and Construction Battalion Hospital Unit 11 helped the 'Roos catch up on vehicle repairs and assisted in quarry operations. The reservists proved to be excellent teachers as well as apt pupils.

NMCB 133's 30-man Diego Garcia detachment worked on six projects including site work and erection of a 24-by-40-foot PEB and 500 square-foot reinforced concrete emergency fuel distribution facility.

The 18-man Civic Action Team sent to Palau worked on 18 projects including a PEB, installed a bauxite cap on 16 miles of roadway and constructed a reinforced concrete basketball court.

*Logan is a public affairs representative for NMCB 133.*



BU2 Eric Hass (left) and BU3 Gary Kozlowski of NMCB 133 seam K-Span building panels at a site in Guam. (Photo by PH1 E. S. Furjes)

# NMCB 40 helps Restore Hope

BY JO1 Mark Wallace

**MOGADISHU, Somalia**--The Seabees of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 40 have been making things happen since arriving in Mogadishu. The battalion's contribution to Operation Restore Hope includes projects for the Marines,

the wires, causing the whole system to go out. Our Seabees spent long hours trying to find and repair the loose connections."

Except for 10 men, the balance of NMCB 40's air detachment arrived between Dec. 17 and 21. Some of the heavy equipment went into use immediately after the plane arrived.

first plane was to land. They finished in 23.

The 'Bees cleared sites for tents for the Marines, Army, Air Force, the Canadians and the French among others. Construction is underway on a parking apron for the New Zealand Air Force and a helicopter pad for the U.S. embassy. The Seabees built a galley and a stage that President Bush spoke from at the airfield, and strung several miles of wire to power critical command centers.

*"Every time one of the big jets would go by, it would blow over the lights and disconnect the wires, causing the whole system to go out. Our Seabees spent long hours trying to find and repair the loose connections."*

Army, Air Force and the rest of the Allied Forces in Somalia.

The first NMCB 40 Seabees arrived Dec. 10 to set up and maintain lights at the Mogadishu airfield. "That may not sound like a big deal, but the system that was installed wasn't made for big jets such as C-5's and 747's to pass over it," explained Cmdr. William Rudich, battalion commanding officer. "Every time one of the big jets would go by, it would blow over the lights and disconnect

"We took graders straight off the plane to level an area for large fuel bladders," Rudich said. "The job was critical because the fuel was to be unloaded from a ship through a marine pipeline the next morning and the area had to be ready."

**THE BATTALION** built toilets for all services. Fifteen men went to Kismayu to clear vegetation and debris from the airfield. They had 36 hours to complete the job before the

**A UNIQUE OPERATION** was clearing the streets of Mogadishu of old cars, debris and sand to break up traffic congestion.

NMCB 40's Seabees are living on the southwest corner of the Mogadishu airfield. They have named their camp Camp Stalder after UT2 Jack Stalder, who passed away during the past homeport period.

"We get a continuous 10-knot breeze that keeps it cool and makes it too hard for mosquitoes to fly," said Rudich. "However, it's very dusty and noisy. We're about 200 feet from the edge of the runway, but we can cope with that." The camp is secluded from the airport perimeter, so the Seabees have extremely secure living conditions.

**EACH SEABEE** puts in 12-hour days, with some on night shifts. Recreation is very limited. "We run along the road and use our home version of Gold's Gym," said Rudich. "We built a chin-up bar and sit-up board from scrap wood, and made weights from metal bars and various items that we found in the area."

"Our Seabees have been extremely busy and are doing outstanding work," Rudich said. "They have improvised, jury-rigged, and found ways to get things done that have kept this operation going."



**STACKING THE DECK**--Seabees at Construction Battalion Center Port Hueneme, Calif., load equipment to be shipped to Somalia.

*Wallace is a public affairs representative for NMCB 40.*

# Seabees supporting relief efforts

By Linda Wadley

**PORT HUENEME, Calif.**—Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 40's 600 Seabees are supporting relief efforts in Somalia. On Dec. 18, the last group in the battalion's 200-man air detachment boarded a C-5 aircraft for Somalia.

**NMCB 40'S MISSION** is to support the Marines from Camp Pendleton, Calif. "We will be going into a very austere theater. Very different from last time, when the Seabees went into Desert Shield/Storm," said Cmdr. William Rudich, the battalion's commanding officer.

The air detachment plus water buffaloes, generators, water purification equipment, supplies and materials began deployment in early December. The rest of the battalion followed in the next several weeks.

"Seabees are flexible," said Capt. David Nash, commanding officer of Construction Battalion Center (CBC) Port Hueneme, Calif., NMCB 40's homeport. "We are going to provide the support that is requested. We can do anything in the construction line."

Battalion and CBC personnel worked long hours in order to procure materials, palletize and containerize materials and supplies, and prepare more than 300 pieces of heavy equipment for deployment by air and sea.

"**IF WE DON'T BRING IT**, we will not have it," Rudich said. The American Condor, a 635-foot vessel loaded with equipment and supplies, left Port Hueneme Dec. 17 for

Somalia. Over 270 pieces of heavy equipment, 250 tons of cargo and more than 100 containers are being transported by the Condor.

NMCB 40 made preparations to deploy to Guam the first week in

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*"We are going to provide the support that is requested. We can do anything in the construction line."*

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December. However, orders were received to change the deployment site to Somalia to support relief efforts. "It's a different type of deployment than anticipated," said Rudich. "We're preparing for what needs to be done."

*Wadley is a public affairs representative for CBC Port Hueneme.*

## Reservists help prepare materials for Somalia

By UTC A.A. Echarren

**PORT HUENEME, Calif.**—The call for people to assist Somalia rang all over the world. The President of the United States ordered the military to maintain security for relief workers. Construction Battalion Center (CBC) Port Hueneme responded to the presidential order.

Due to short notice for support of Operation Restore Hope and limited personnel assigned to the CBC, a request was made to two reserve units, Naval Reserve CBC (NRCBC) Port Hueneme and Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 17. Seventy-three volunteer storekeepers, mechanics and equipment operators arrived for duty within two weeks. They documented and packed approximately 400 bill of material line items and over 10,000 unit load repair parts in 150 containers, and prepared 370 pieces of civil engineering support equipment and break bulk cargo for a total of 23,000 metric tons.

The mountout was completed by air and sea shipments to Somalia.

*Echarren is a member of NRCBC Port Hueneme.*



**BOX LUNCHES**--At Construction Battalion Center Port Hueneme, Calif., Seabees pack Meals, Ready-to-Eat for shipment to Somalia.

## Seabees involved in Restore Hope

ALEXANDRIA, Va.—The Seabees are doing their part to make Operation Restore Hope a success. As of Dec. 21, 1992:

- Six personnel from the 30th Naval Construction Regiment were in Mogadishu, Somalia to establish Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) taskings.

- NMCB 1 was scheduled to deploy to Somalia from Rota, Spain.

- Command and air det personnel (217 people) from NMCB 40 were in Somalia. Their taskings include airfield and port repairs and camp construction for deploying Marine Corps and Coalition forces.

- The American Eagle, carrying the NMCB 1 table of allowance (TOA), and the American Condor, carrying the NMCB 40 TOA, were enroute to Mogadishu.

- Amphibious Construction Battalion One (148 personnel) arrived in Mogadishu Dec. 10. They helped offload the MV Lummis and installed distribution systems to download fuel and water from the Maritime Prepositioned Ships to shore.

- Construction Battalion Center (CBC) Port Hueneme, Calif., prepared the NMCB 40 TOA for shipment and will serve as the primary seaport for materials and equipment sent from the West Coast to support Marine Corps and Navy forces in Somalia.

- CBC Gulfport, Miss. is preparing an NMCB TOA for shipment to Rota to replace the NMCB 1 TOA shipped to Mogadishu.

- The Officer in Charge of Construction (OICC) East Africa has five people operating in Mombasa, Kenya and one in Mogadishu. The OICC is providing bottled water, emergency generators and construction support by contract to the Joint Task Force. Also, the OICC has established leases for warehouse space in Mogadishu and aircraft maintenance facilities in Mombasa. It is providing airfield landing lights maintenance, laundry and landfill services. The OICC has also been tasked to drill six water wells.

(Courtesy of CEC Biweekly.)

# Teamwork:

## *The secret to success for 'Bees in Somalia*

By JO2 Ron Schafer

**BALEDOGLE, Somalia**—Teamwork. It can be the difference between success and failure. In Baledogle, 55 kilometers west of Mogadishu, U.S. Marines and Seabees are driving home that very point.

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 1 arrived here Dec. 31 to aid Marine Wing Support Squadron (MWSS) 372 from Camp Pendleton, Calif. Their mission: establish landing and staging areas for CH-53 helicopters and a taxiway and turnaround pad for C-130 aircraft used to carry personnel and cargo to Baledogle.

**THE TEAM** is using AW2 matting, lightweight metal divided into two-foot-wide strips, either six or 12 feet long, laid out and locked together like pieces of a puzzle. To lay almost 600,000 feet of the matting seems like an enormous task.

"The key word here is teamwork," explained UT1 Gordon Etchison, site supervisor. "We've got builders, electricians, steelworkers, even mess specialists out here. And they're all turning to and getting it done."

Gunnery Sgt. Dave Hays, site supervisor for MWSS 372, commended the Seabees for their determination in the face of adversity. "These guys were great, just super. They never quit; they just kept going. You couldn't ask for a better team to work with," he said. Hays added that the team was on a record pace to finish the job, but logistics problems kept them from receiving the materials necessary to continue. In other words, the team



EO2 Victor Valdez, crane operator for NMCB 1, loads gear as the battalion prepares to mount out for Operation Restore Hope. (Photo by PH2 Ron Heppner)

(See "Baledogle," page 7)

# 'Bees lend hand in Somalia

**ALEXANDRIA, Va.**—Amphibious Construction Battalion (PHIBCB) 1 arrived in Mogadishu, Somalia Dec. 10 as part of the Naval Support Element. As of early January, PHIBCB 1 had offloaded five ships, refurbished the port and provided fuel and water for military forces in Somalia.

The 150-person Seabee contingent has provided camp support and security in the port area. Other PHIBCB 1 accomplishments include:

- Installed and operated four water purification units to become the single water-producing point in the country for all military units.
- Built the first showers.
- Established the first fully functional battalion aid station, supporting 1,000 people in the port area, including Somali relief workers, until Marine medical supplies arrived.
- Opened the first hot chow galley in-country. Using food and supplies from the USS Niagara Falls, the

PHIBCB teamed up with nearby Marine units to run a combined galley that served an average of 2,000 hot meals per day. On Christmas, 3,205 people were served turkey dinner.

- Assisted Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 40 with crews, tools and equipment to install a helicopter pad at the U.S. embassy.

- Loaded rice onto relief trucks at the port.

**THE 30TH NAVAL** Construction Regiment, located in Mogadishu, is providing command and control to the two deployed NMCBs.

NMCB 1's main body arrived in Mogadishu Dec. 27 and immediately began conveying personnel and equipment to Baledogle, Barbera and Baidoa. They are tasked to complete airfield repairs and improvements and construct base camp facilities for deploying Coalition forces. NMCB 1's air det has started its air movement from Rota to Baledogle to

complete much-needed repair of a long-neglected former Soviet airfield there.

**NMCB 40'S** 209-man air detachment remains in Mogadishu, building and repairing troop support facilities for the large contingent of Coalition forces in the area. They have completed Operation Clean Sweep, removing debris such as trash and car hulks from critical areas throughout Mogadishu. They are working to complete site preparation for a 300-bed Army evacuation hospital and installation of 90,000 square feet of airfield at Mogadishu airport.

Personnel from NMCB 40 also participated in the amphibious landing at the port of Kismayu and quickly completed repairs to the Kismayu airfield, which allowed the rapid deployment of follow-on Coalition forces into the city.

*(Courtesy of CEC Blweekly.)*

## Baledogle

*(Continued from page 6)*

was laying down the matting faster than supply could get it to them!

"The thing that has impressed me most is the teamwork I've seen between the Seabees and Marines," said Capt. John R. Faunce, commander of the 30th Naval Construction Regiment. Faunce toured the site on a visit from his headquarters in Mogadishu.

The landing and staging area is expected to be completed in a day. The taxiway and turnaround pad should take another four to five days.

Supply channels have promised to deliver the materials to complete the job. The teamwork is already here in abundance.

*Schafer is a public affairs representative for NMCB 1.*

## President Bush meets Seabees in Somalia

By JOC Dave Evans

**BAIDOA, Somalia**—For 22 members of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 1, New Year's Day will always be remembered as the day they met President George Bush in Somalia.

Enduring 95-degree heat in full battle dress, the Seabees listened closely as Bush thanked them for the American people. "I wanted to be here on New Year's Day to thank you," he said. "We are proud of you and this wonderful thing you are doing for mankind. You are the best, the finest and most dedicated."

The Seabees were sent to Baidoa for runway repair and maintenance of supply routes. One day before the president's visit, detachment members devoted their skills to constructing the speaker platform, steps and other support facilities used by the president.

Bush gave a nod to the Gulfport, Mississippi-based Seabees, telling them, "The Seabees do wonderful work. Clearly, you are capable of anything." In closing, the president said, "I'm proud of you and your noble purpose benefitting mankind. You will be remembered for this mission."

*Evans is a public affairs representative for NMCB 1.*

# LEISHMANIASIS:

*"It's no mystery," doctors say--but diagnosing the disease that strikes Gulf War veterans is no easy task*

By JO1 Kevin Miller

**ASHEVILLE, N.C.**—"Leishmaniasis is no mystery," said Lt. Cmdr. Christopher Ohl, a researcher at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md. Branded in headlines as a "mystery," leishmaniasis is a disease transmitted by a bite from a Southwest Asian sand fly.

Reserve Seabees and spouses visited the Naval Reserve Center here Nov. 14-15 to learn more about leishmaniasis. Representatives from the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery

(BUMED), Bureau of Naval Personnel (BUPERS) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) addressed the Seabees' concerns.

**ABOUT 75 MEN** of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 24 have reported symptoms they believe are related to service in the Persian Gulf during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. The Seabees lived in tents near Jubail, Saudi Arabia, where leishmaniasis is present.

Doctors presented the latest info on ailments thought to stem from the

Gulf War. VA reps told how to get care, gave local VA contacts, and explained VA's Persian Gulf War Registry, which tracks veterans with medical problems from Desert Shield/Desert Storm. BUPERS representatives discussed benefits and Naval Reserve Incapacitation Pay.

**OHL AND OTHER** physicians told what the Navy is doing to fight the illness. Specialists have tested bone marrow, lymph nodes and blood samples to try to isolate the parasite. "One Seabee in NMCB 24 has been diagnosed as having viscerotropic leishmaniasis," said a BUMED news release. "Leishmaniasis parasites were not found in any other members of this reserve contingent."

"We are using the best tests in medicine today," said Ohl, "but leishmaniasis is very hard to diagnose."

Bites from an infected sand fly produce an ulcer in three to four months. "Many people don't see the ulcer," said Ohl. "Most of the time the immune system works and the parasite loses the battle."

**THOSE INFECTED** probably experienced a high fever soon after returning from the Persian Gulf. "Most got better," said Ohl, "but not everyone got 100 percent better." Common symptoms include night sweats, headaches, fatigue and skin ulcers.

Ohl said, "No one is in the hospital, no one has died [from leishmaniasis], no one has even come close to dying. Many people are getting better and many are fully recovered."

According to BUMED, symptoms of the milder forms of the disease usually go away without any treatment. Treatment consists of a drug

(See "Leishmaniasis," page 9)



CEC Andrew Jones and wife Doretha listen intently to the BUMED lecture. Chief Jones is a member of Asheville's NMCB 24 Detachment 1324. (Photo by JO1 Kevin Miller)

*Flexible drills for reservists:***Out of the drill hall, into the field**

By JO1 Calvin F. Gatch, Jr.

**GULFPORT, Miss.**—A pilot "flexible drill" program allows reserve Seabees to perform up to 20 days of Inactive Duty Training Travel (IDTT) after Annual Training (AT) for 37 days of continuous military or construction training.

"Flexible drills could significantly increase the productivity and efficiency of the reserve Seabees," said Capt. Lee Tuthill, training and mobilization officer for the Reserve Naval Construction Force Support Command (RNCFCSC). "Flexible drills can enhance training opportunities for reserve Seabees and increase contributory construction support they can render the Navy."

**TWO THIRDS** of reserve Seabees surveyed said they would like a change in the drill structure. Drill flexibility is desirable for many whose work schedules have seasonal slowdowns.

"Participation in the flexible drill program is voluntary," said Lt. Cmdr. Mary E. Kappus, former RNCFCSC mobilization officer and a key person in implementing the flex drill program. "Drill flexibility offers Seabees a chance to get out of their reserve centers for extensive on-the-job train-

ing, hands-on time with equipment, and chances to complete construction jobs they start. We can send someone to an active duty battalion for a month. Whereas two weeks at Sigonella was not feasible because of the travel expenses, a month makes the opportunity possible."

**EXISTING REGULATIONS** limit the number of paid drills per quarter to 18. The flex drill program increases that to 40 drills, or 20 days. The drills must be performed

at the end of an AT. A maximum of 48 drills per year remains in effect.

"If the results meet our expectations, I wouldn't be surprised to see the program become standard throughout the Naval Reserve," said Tuthill.

At least two drills per quarter must be performed at the regular training site for in-rate and leadership exams, physical testing, fitness testing, mobilization screening, directed training,

uniform issue and maintenance, and general military training. Payment for IDTT and AT will be made as it now is.

*Gatch is a public affairs representative for Commander, RNCFCSC.*



Reservists with Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 26 prepare for personnel inspection. Under flex drills, reservists will spend less time in the drill hall and more on OJT. (Photo by PH1 Dale Scherfling)

**Leishmaniasis no mystery, doctors say***(Continued from page 8)*

called Pentostam, which is very toxic. Because of this, treatment is recommended only for very serious cases. Transmission of the disease seems to be limited to the bite of the sand fly.

In the "Persian Gulf Family Support Program (PGFSP)," VA medical centers help veterans who have prob-

lems with medical care, employment, family relationships, drug/alcohol abuse, etc. Veterans with problems that may be associated with their service in the Persian Gulf may call their local VA medical center for referral to a counselor. The VA has also established environmental medical referral centers to handle unusual symptoms in Persian Gulf veterans.

A similar meeting was held that weekend in Columbus, Ga. Future briefings are planned in Huntsville, Ala., Greensboro and Charlotte, N.C., Greenville, S.C., and Chattanooga, Tenn.

*Miller is a public affairs representative for Naval Reserve Readiness Command Region 7.*



MSC James Kuenle guides the tour group through the camp galley, pointing out various kitchen utensils the mess specialists use.

## TOUR GROUP

By JO1 Mark Everts

**CAMP MOSCRIP, Puerto Rico**—Eyes wide with amazement, 15 students from the U.S. Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico Youth Center visited the Seabees of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 4.

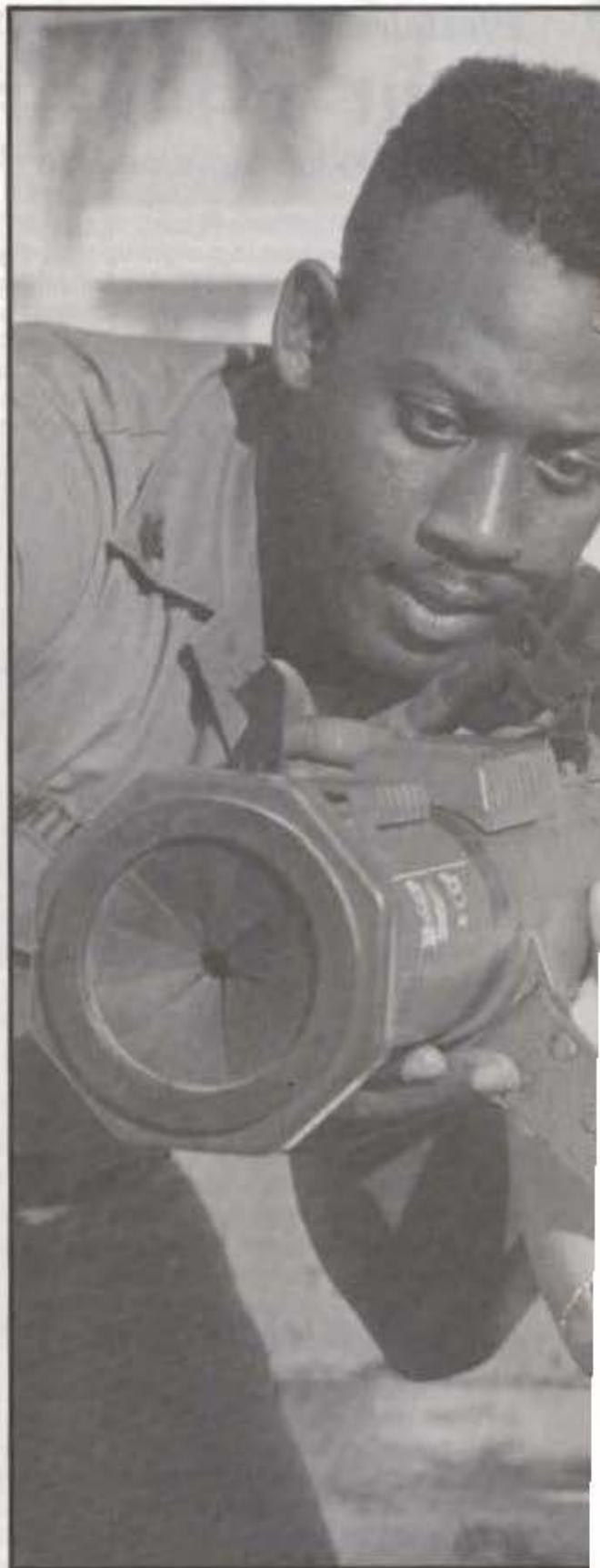
Deployed to Camp Moscrip, the men of NMCB 4 set aside time to educate the second through fifth graders on the battalion's role and jobs the men perform as Seabees.

The students were greeted by Lt. Greg McClellan, who gave them a brief introduction on the dual role of the Seabees as builders and fighters. The students then met the commanding officer, Cmdr. John Dunbar, who welcomed them aboard and provided them a chance to ask questions about the Seabees and the camp.

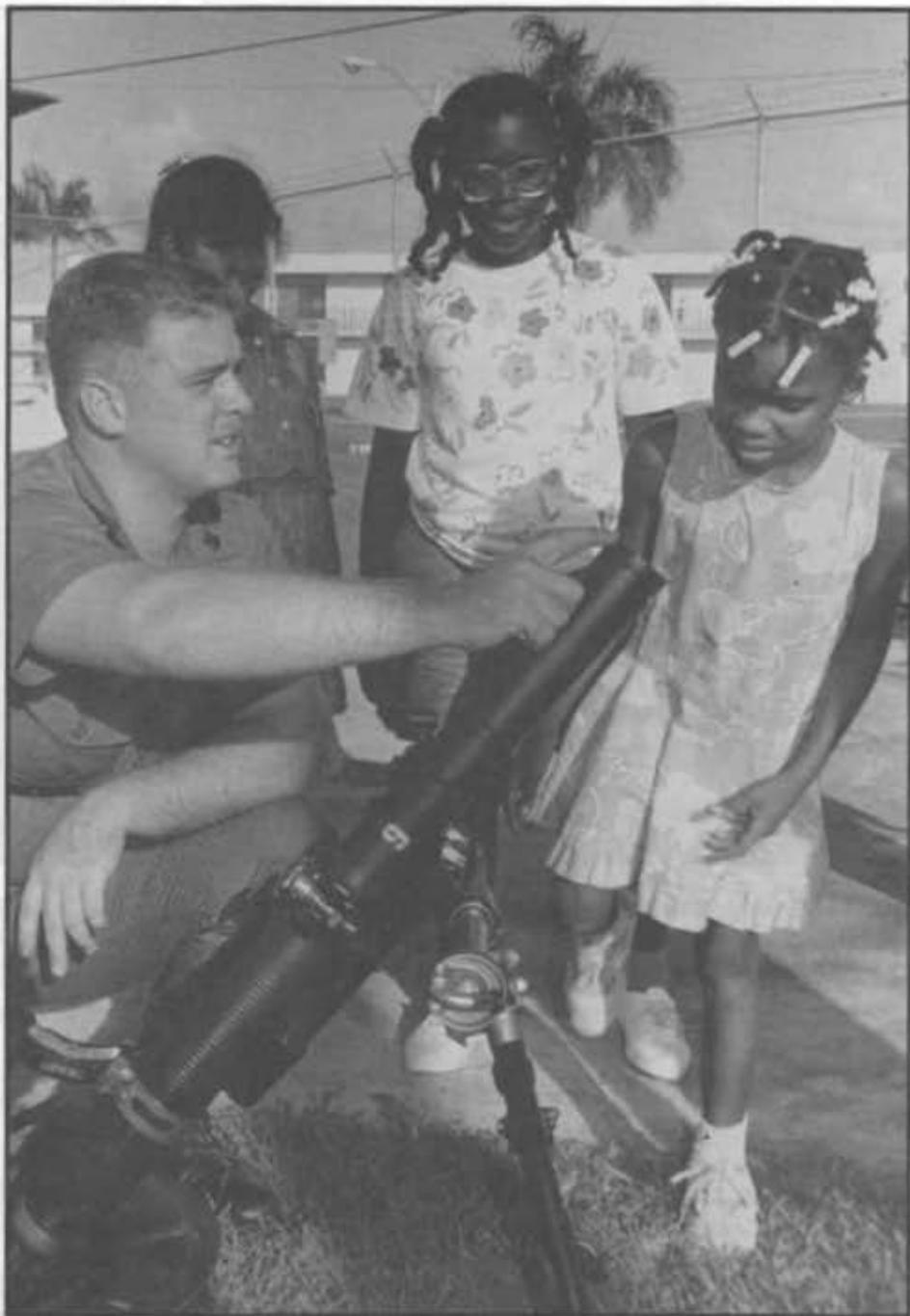
After the question-and-answer period, the students were divided into two groups for a tour of the camp armory and Bravo Company spaces. At the final stop, the camp galley, each was given a cup of hot chocolate and a variety of cookies.

After finishing their snack, the students began their trek to the cars, but suddenly stopped and in unison yelled "Thank you!" Bits of conversation began to echo, but one comment seemed just a little louder than the rest: "When I grow up, I wanna be a Seabee!"

*Everts is a public affairs representative for NMCB 4.*



Showing a student an AT4 rocket launcher at C Knighten of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion



A young girl gets a closer look at the 60mm mortar, as GMG2 Nathan Pierce points out a feature of the weapon to the students.

*Photos by  
JO1 Mark Everts*

Moscip, Puerto Rico is CE2 Victor



Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 4, deployed to Camp Moscrip, Puerto Rico, move swiftly on the largest concrete pour of the deployment. The men poured 50 cubic yards of concrete with a cement bucket in a five-hour period at the Small Craft Boathouse. (Photo by BUC Billy Stanfill)

## *Environmental team heeds call to Middle East*

By Lt. Dale Uyeda

When Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command (COMUSNAVCENT) had to resolve environmental issues at naval activities in the Middle East within three weeks, he called an Environmental Assist Team from the Civil Engineer Corps Officer School (CECOS), Port Hueneme, Calif. Within a week, three reserve environmental specialists were at work at Administrative Support Unit, Southwest Asia (ASUSWA).

**IN ONLY TWO WEEKS** the team, working with the ASUSWA staff, did an Environmental Compliance Evaluation (ECE) and developed a hazardous waste management plan.

The assist team focused on ASUSWA, the only permanent shore-based Navy activity in the Middle East. Located in Juffair, Bahrain, ASUSWA is the major logistics activity for ships deployed to the Central

Command area. ASUSWA supports 24 tenant commands and is the transportation hub for personnel moving between ships and a key liberty port.

**INSTRUCTIONS AND PLANS** developed by the team will help the Navy manage hazardous waste in a safe, environmentally acceptable manner. Capt. B. Leon Tempel, commanding officer of ASUSWA, said, "The team achieved a phenomenal level of success in synthesizing a challenging array of federal, DOD and Navy regulations into a manageable plan." The plan details over \$4,000,000 in construction needed to implement the environmental program in the Central Command area.

Reserve personnel cost a fraction of the \$250,000 the Navy would have spent on consulting engineers.

*Uyeda is a member of Reserve Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command.*

# Air Force loss is Seabee gain

By JO2 Mike Smith

**ROTA, Spain**—The closure of the U.S. Air Force Base at Zaragoza in Northeastern Spain has resulted in major benefits for Naval Station Rota, Spain and Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 3.

Zaragoza's closure provided a large amount of equipment and supplies no longer needed by the Air Force. Naval Station Rota was quick to get in line for giveaways, but accepting the paperwork was only the beginning. Getting the stuff to Rota required the help of NMCB 3.

**THE BATTALION ACCEPTED** the job readily since it would not only save the naval station money, but would also provide "behind-the-wheel" training for battalion members. "We are training our younger

equipment operators in tractor-trailer operations," said EOC Alan Hill, who supervised the shuttle project. "It's not very often we get a chance to do 'line haul,' so this is invaluable, over-the-road experience for those guys."

**THE TRANSFER BEGAN** last summer with an average of three tractor-trailers a week making the 1,200-mile round trip. To maximize the line haul training, mechanic and operator crews were rotated. The trip began in Rota and continued to Torrejon Air Force Base, 400 miles northwest of Madrid, where the weary 'Bees spent the night. The next day they resumed their trek to Zaragoza, arriving in the early afternoon.

At Zaragoza, they loaded the trailers with Step Vans, pickups, dump trucks, supplies, buses and bulldozers. When the trailers were

fully loaded, the Seabees returned to Torrejon, where they ran maintenance checks on the rigs and again stayed the night before completing the final stretch back to Rota.

This operation saved American taxpayers more than \$5 million by reusing equipment and supplies that would have been scrapped or salvaged at pennies on the dollar.

**"WITH THE BASE CLOSURES** and everyone trying to save money, this is a great opportunity to get more bang for our buck," said Hill. "The materials had already been procured, so we're saving mega-dollars and getting experience for the equipment operators which doesn't come along very often at all."

*Smith is a public affairs representative for NMCB 3.*

## Field trip:

### Second graders visit NMCB 3's Alpha Company

By JO2 Mike Smith

**ROTA, Spain**—Remember elementary school field trips? Always to a library or somewhere you had to be quiet and couldn't touch anything.

On Oct. 27, Patricia Atkinson's second grade class from DGF Elementary School here took a field trip of a different kind. They visited Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 3's Alpha Company.

**ALPHA COMPANY** is manned with equipment operators and construction mechanics who operate and maintain the battalion's vehicles and heavy construction equipment. Lt. Terry Preble, company commander, welcomed the 24 youngsters and introduced the "Alpha-Bees" serving as tour guides. EO2 Mark Hays spoke

briefly about safety, and then the students split into groups supervised by Seabees and school chaperones.

A tour of the "live storage" area allowed the children to see the construction equipment up close and learn what each machine does. The next stop was the heavy equipment shop where the students learned about repair and maintenance of large pieces of equipment.

**THE GRAND FINALE** was a live demonstration, complete with roaring engines and belching exhaust stacks. The kids saw various pieces of equipment in action at the mineral products yard. Afterwards, the class took turns riding in the 20-ton dump trucks and the huge water tanker.

Each child had a favorite part of the tour. Riley Burk liked the vibratory roller. Courtney Kimball preferred riding the dump trucks. James Hipp liked watching the bulldozer.

*"One of my also favorites was the smoother."*

*--Second grader James Hipp*

"One of my also favorites was the smoother," he said.

The morning visit concluded with a group photo in front of the Camp Mitchell Seabee statue.

*Smith is a public affairs representative for NMCB 3.*



Seabees maintain vehicles during a drill weekend at Naval and Marine Corps Reserve Center Cincinnati. (Photo by Lt. Cmdr. Jerry Willett)

*When the money is about gone and the Reserve Center is about to fall apart, who you gonna call?*

## CINCINNATI SEABEES

By Lt. Cmdr. Jerry Willett

**CINCINNATI**—Air conditioning quit, water's seeping in, cracks are getting wider and the budget's shrinking! Who you gonna call? Seabees took the call at Naval and Marine Corps Reserve Center Cincinnati.

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 20 Detachment 0320 consists of some 50 enlisted reservists. The detachment implemented a maintenance program for the center that includes an extensive safety checklist and periodic surveys. Three construction crews are on call during weekend drills.

**NEARLY HALF** of the facility was built into the earth. While ideal for energy conservation, the building is subject to seepage and drainage problems.

"The Seabees came up with a creative solution of landscaping to combat the heavy rains," said center

skipper Cmdr. John Holzworth. Along the exterior wall, they layered gravel, geofabric material (to prevent soil from clogging drains) and soil so the water would drain away from the wall. "We haven't had any problems since," Holzworth said. The Seabees completed a project estimated at \$12,000 for only \$1,200.

**EA2 JIM LIPNICKEY** planned, provided drawings, and coordinated manpower and materials for 20 projects in 18 months. Holzworth said, "He approached me about getting the Seabees more active. I challenged him with clearing the Marine compound, an area where trees and vines had overtaken the security fencing. Before I knew it, there were chain saws buzzing and the area had been cleared for the first time in years."

*Willett is a member of Naval Reserve Office of Information Midwest 113.*

### *GI Bill revisions mean more money, expanded eligibility*

**WASHINGTON**—Beginning April 1, Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) rates will increase from \$350 to \$400 per month for up to 36 months for full-time students. Reservists will receive an extra \$20, up to \$190 per month. Part-time students will also get a pro-rated increase.

Those who separate under the Voluntary Separation Incentive or Special Separation Benefit (VSI/SSB) program can enroll in the MGIB. VSI/SSB participants who enrolled in the Veterans Educational Assistance Program (VEAP) can get a refund and enroll in MGIB.

MGIB enrollees must earn a high school diploma or GED during their first enlistment to draw benefits. Those on active duty Aug. 2, 1990 may take an extra two years to do so. This protects those unable to complete GED programs because of Operation Desert Storm.

Members who initially obligated for two years, but served more, are now eligible for the same MGIB benefits as those who obligated for three years.

MGIB participants who leave the service because of hardship, disability or reduction in force before finishing 12 months of active service and later come back on active duty are considered to have served with no break. Previously, benefits were paid for each month of service during the first enlistment only.

For more info, see NAV-ADMIN 199/92 or call 1-800-982-1425.

*(Courtesy of Navy News Service.)*

**Force integration moves ahead:****Memo defines responsibilities**

By JO1 Calvin F. Gatch, Jr.

**GULFPORT, Miss.**—A memorandum of understanding (MOU) among the Atlantic and Pacific Fleets and Commander, Naval Reserve Force (COMNAVRESFOR) addresses integration of reserve and active duty Seabees into the Atlantic Fleet's 2nd Naval Construction Brigade (NCB) and Pacific's 3rd NCB.

"The MOU establishes the relationships among COMNAVRESFOR, the Reserve Naval Construction Force Support Command (RNCFSFC), and the two fleets," said Rear Adm. M. H. Chiogioji, commander of the 2nd NCB and an architect of the integration. "The MOU is noteworthy because it truly establishes one Navy within the Seabee community. As the changes take effect, reserve Seabees will discover that their military and construction training and mobilization mission are affected in a positive way. At the same time, the Navy will benefit from the construction and management expertise of 17,000 reserve Seabees."

**THE MOU COVERS** administrative control (ADCON) and operational control (OPCON). ADCON of reserve Seabees, formerly under COMNAVRESFOR, will be split among the fleet commanders and COMNAVRESFOR. OPCON, previously vested in the RNCFSFC, was given to the fleet commanders by direction of the Chief of Naval Operations in July 1992. The MOU further clarifies details of that OPCON.

Implementation is in three phases, the first of which began in July 1992 with transfer of OPCON and training to the fleets.

Phase two transfers ADCON of certain functions and resources from COMNAVRESFOR to the fleets by Oct. 1. Included are: equipment and

materials management, Readiness Support Site (RSS) management, awards processing, inspections, oversight, personnel and funding.

**DURING PHASE THREE**, admin functions not assigned to the fleets will be analyzed. These include such things as Reserve Personnel Navy budgeting, mustering, pay, personnel recordkeeping, medical/dental support, mobilization, exams, and other tasks now performed by RNCFSFC.

Reserve Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command and Directorate, Wartime Construction Management report to RNCFSFC. Changes

most visible to reservists involve the flexible drill program (see page 9).

"**THE ULTIMATE** beneficiary, and the real reason for the integration," Chiogioji says, "is the Navy itself. We will greatly increase fleet support. This allows the reserve Seabee program to become more efficient, more effective, and more capable of serving the needs of the Navy during both peacetime and in the event of war."

*Gatch is a public affairs representative for Commander, RNCFSFC.*



**FACE IT:** This battalion's "outa here." Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 12 Seabees apply camouflage for their last major exercise. The battalion was decommissioned Aug. 2, 1992. (Photo by EO1 Kevin Sullivan)



Charlie Company prefabricates Southeast Asia hut framing for later construction. (Photo by JO1 G. P. Russo)



Charlie Company constructs Combat Operations Center. (Photo by JO1 G. P. Russo)

## Field Exercise

*A photo essay featuring Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 5*



A Bravo Company crew digs a leach field. (Photo by Lt. E. W. Hansen)



Construction electrician builds sandbag screen around generator for sniper fire protection and to muffle noise. (Photo by JO1 G. P. Russo)

# Short Bursts

**'BEES TO GET CAMMIES—** Seabees will soon wear battle dress utilities (BDUs).

Rear Adm. Jack Buffington, Commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, said, "Since Operation Desert Storm we have wrestled with the issue of which uniform is appropriate for Seabees to support the Marine Corps. With Operation Restore Hope we again found ourselves hustling to change into cammies in order to fulfill our mission. We can no longer cling to the idea that we will remain in greens forever.

"BDUs are the uniform of jointness and jointness is the way of the future. Seabees are the last major user of greens and we have been pressed over the last few years to eliminate greens from the organizational clothing list."

Buffington added, "I see two or three years to complete the transition. We must put to good use the remaining stocks of green uniforms." He is forming a team to develop "an aggressive transition plan."

**HONOR GUARD—**Standing honor guard for six hours gave BU3 Brian Pittman, a reservist with Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 22, a chance to honor men who fought America's wars.

East Texas State University held ceremonies Nov. 4 and 7. Pittman stood watch at a vigil flame and participated in various ceremonies.

The university wanted to honor veterans and POW-MIAs. Various servicemen guarded the flame for 72 hours. There was also a military fly-over, a 21-gun salute and the playing of taps before the flame was extinguished at the opening ceremonies of the East Texas State-San Angelo State football game. (Submitted by EO2 Mark P. Yablon, NMCB 22)

**FOOD DRIVE—**Nov. 21 was a cold, rainy day in Southington, Conn., as reservists came together to help the needy. Seabees from NMCB 27 Detachment 1327 joined with the Connecticut National Guard to help in the annual food drive of the Long River Council Boy Scouts.

Seabees and Guardsmen received, sorted and packaged food collected by Boy Scouts in surrounding towns. Food was then palletized and made ready for shipment to local food banks for Thanksgiving.

Besides helping others, this annual exercise gives Seabees a chance to train on forklifts and practice disaster recovery. The Seabees and Guardsmen handled over 11 tons of food items. (Submitted by MS2 Mark R. Krob, NMCB 27)

**EXPERIENCE DOCUMENT—**A summary of Navy training and experience is now available to separating Seabees in one document, the Verification of Military Experience and Training Document (DD Form 2586).

The document lists schools attended, Navy Enlisted Classification codes earned, and enlisted ratings and how they relate to civilian occupations. For more information, contact the Bureau of Naval Personnel at (703) 697-6621, or DSN 227-6634.

**CHAMPUS HANDBOOK—**The new Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services (CHAMPUS) Handbook is now available to service families. The book contains the latest info on CHAMPUS benefits, procedures and eligibility.

Requests for the book may be forwarded to the appropriate distribution center. Navy requesters should use stock number SN 0510-LP-209-3800. Other requesters should refer to their health benefits advisor.

**ORDERING FLAGS—**Do you need to order a flag for a retirement ceremony or to fly at home?

Fleet Reserve Association Branch 67 of Suitland, Md., runs the Navy Memorial Flag Program. For \$25, you will receive a 3-by-5-foot nylon flag, certificate, shipping and have made a donation to our memorial. For a flag request form, write: Navy Memorial Flag Program, FRA Branch 67, 5006 Suitland Rd., Suitland, MD 20746.

For a flag flown over the U.S. Capitol, work through the office of a senator or representative. Flags are cotton or nylon and come in sizes 3-by-5 or 5-by-8. To reach a senator or representative call the Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121.

For information on flags flown over Arlington National Cemetery, call (703) 695-1622.

## Kudos

### Navy Achievement Medal

- Lt. Jesse R. Deleon, Reserve Naval Construction Force Support Command (RNCFSU)
- CM1 William M. Griffin, Naval Construction Force Support Unit (NCFSU) 3
- EAC Roman Krupa, RNCFSU
- EO2 Michael T. Lanning, NCFSU 3
- Lt. James G. Mack, NCFSU 3
- SKC James R. Nelson, NCFSU 3
- Lt. Cmdr. Willard M. Thigpen, NCFSU 3

### Other Awards

- RNCFSU/1st Naval Construction Brigade Staff, Meritorious Unit Commendation

# Tough regs on sexual harassment

**WASHINGTON**—The Secretary of the Navy signed a new instruction on sexual harassment Jan. 11. The instruction, SECNAVINST 5300.26B, applies to all Department of the Navy (DON) members, military and civilian.

The new instruction defines sexual harassment as "a form of sex

plicity or implicitly a term or condition of a person's job, pay, or career; (2) submission to or rejection of such conduct by a person is used as a basis for career or employment decisions affecting that person; or (3) such conduct interferes with an individual's performance or creates

military member or civilian employee is engaging in sexual harassment. Similarly, any DON member who makes deliberate or repeated unwelcome verbal comments, gestures, or physical contact of a sexual nature is also engaging in sexual harassment.

*Sexual harassment covers a wide range of behaviors, from verbal comments to rape. Therefore, the full range of administrative and disciplinary actions is available to address sexual harassment.*

**VIOLATIONS MAY BRING** punitive, disciplinary, or administrative action. The instruction prohibits reprisals against those who provide information on incidents; expands training requirements; mandates administrative separation (ADSEP) for certain offenses; and requires a system to resolve complaints.

discrimination that involves unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when: (1) submission to or rejection of such conduct is made either ex-

an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment."

A supervisor or commander who uses or condones implicit or explicit sexual behavior to control, influence, or affect the career, pay, or job of a

Sexual harassment covers a wide range of behaviors, from verbal comments to rape. Therefore, the full range of administrative and disciplinary actions is available to address sexual harassment. For military personnel, these include informal counseling, comments in fitness reports and evaluations, ADSEP, and punitive measures. For civilians, options include informal counseling, comments in performance evals, and disciplinary action including dismissal.

**SAILORS AND MARINES** will be processed for ADSEP on the first substantiated incident involving action, threats, or attempts to influence another's career or job for sexual favors; or physical contact of a sexual nature which, as a violation of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, could result in a punitive discharge.

An incident is substantiated if there has been a court-martial conviction or the commanding officer determines that sexual harassment has occurred. Commanders may initiate ADSEP proceedings in other situations for individuals whose conduct warrants separation. The new instruction takes effect immediately.

*Story by Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Manpower and Reserve Affairs.*



*It's murder trying to park this thing!*

(Photo by PH1 Dale Scherfling, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 26)

# CHRISTMAS 1944:

A World War II Seabee recalls that the South Pacific jungle was no place like home for the holidays. And yet . . .

By Joseph Degl

**NONE OF US** in the 119th Construction Battalion was in the mood for Christmas. No wonder! Two hundred of us had been stuck for months in the steamy tropical jungle, installing fuel tanks that were supposed to figure, somehow, in the last stages of this war with Japan. It was so hot we pitched our tents on platforms and slept in hammocks to catch any passing breath of air.

The lonesome, muggy, homesick days were far removed from the Christmases we remembered. We didn't even have a chaplain to help us celebrate. In fact, our only regular visitors were jungle tribesmen who haunted the edges of our camp. Dressed in loincloths, the small, bronze-skinned men would materialize in the undergrowth, staring at us from the shadows of the New Guinea rain forest, vanishing as noiselessly as they came. Short and stocky, with flat faces and kinky hair, they were said to have been ferocious warriors.

Certainly that was our reaction on that unforgettable Christmas Eve of 1944.

**SHORTLY BEFORE DUSK** that day, there they were again, peering from the forest edge. We were standing around the mess tent, not doing much, not saying much, just sweating and brushing away the insects and trying not to think about what day this was, when suddenly from all around the clearing they began to advance, scores of scowling, nearly naked tribesmen. Never before had they ventured beyond the cover of the jungle, and instinctively we Seabees moved closer together.

There was nothing to fear from these solemn-faced unarmed men,

but we couldn't talk to them and we didn't know what they wanted. The natives began to circle us. Then they stopped and stood still.

The forest itself became very, very quiet, as if even the jungle were

their deep guttural voices. For half an hour these men sang us the songs of home, carols they must have learned from some unknown missionary in the brush.

That night, after our guests

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*Suddenly from all around the clearing they began to advance, scores of scowling, nearly naked tribesmen. Never before had they ventured beyond the cover of the jungle, and instinctively we Seabees moved closer together.*

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on alert. Then, incredibly, the little men began to sing. Strange, harsh-sounding words in their native tongue, but the tune was unmistakably, "Oh little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie..."

**BLINKING BACK** the sudden moisture in my eyes, I mentally supplied the familiar English lyrics. When the former warriors finished, they launched into more songs in

slipped back into the rain forest, I lay in my hammock, sweating, uncomfortable as ever, but no longer quite as melancholy. Through their music and through their caring, these strangest of strangers had made us feel the familiarity and warmth of home.

*A former Seabee, Degl lives in Copperas Cove, Texas. Reprinted with permission of Can Do.*

## History of the Seabees available

Enjoy Seabee history? Here's a chance to learn more.

In connection with the 50th anniversary of the Seabees, an effort is underway to publish a limited edition review of the first 50 years of the Navy's elite combat engineers. The book will be the most comprehensive history of the Seabees ever published. It traces the development of the Seabees from their origins in World War II through more recent deployments in peacetime, disaster recovery, and Operation Desert Storm. The book is scheduled for publication this summer, and orders are being taken through March.

Order forms are available at unit headquarters, or orders may be placed by calling 805-982-5167 or 805-982-5163. If you desire a book, order now--no extras will be printed.

## Introducing The Beeline

# Seabees have their own magazine

By JOCS Tim Padgett

**WE ARE PLEASED** to introduce *The Beeline*, a magazine for all U.S. Navy Seabees.

*The Beeline* is published by Commander, Reserve Naval Construction Force Support Command (COMRNCFSC), but it isn't just for reservists. It's for all 'Bees, in all types of units. Copies are mailed to Seabee units, as well as to major Navy and Marine Corps installations. Department of Defense (DOD) regulations prohibit mailing copies to individuals.

**YOUR INPUT IS NEEDED** to make *The Beeline* a success. No formal deadline will be set for future issues. We will print high-quality articles and photos, and if we get them too late for one issue, we will hold them for the next one. However, please don't send items that are more than three months old—otherwise they become "old news." Send input to Editor, *The Beeline*, COMRNCF Support Command, 5000 Marvin Shields Blvd., Bldg. 121, CBC Gulfport, MS 39501-5016. For a copy of the guidelines for preparing articles and photos, contact the magazine staff at 1-800-782-3510 or (601) 871-5010.

**WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO HEAR** from former Seabees, especially "sea stories" of their Seabee days. DOD regs do allow us to mail you a copy of the issue in which your story appears.

Thanks to the writers and photographers who helped

us put together this first issue. Please help us make *The Beeline* the topnotch publication our Seabees deserve.

*(Padgett is a public affairs representative for COMRNCFSC and editor of The Beeline.)*

## Back- blast



"President's Council on Physical Fitness!  
You're under arrest!"

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