



## Seabees help rehab school in Somalia

By JO2 Ron Schafer

**BALEDOGLE, Somalia**—Since coming to Somalia for Operation Restore Hope, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 1 has been supporting United Nations coalition forces. But the battalion is lending support to another community whose members couldn't be more excited.

Two years ago, Wanlewein was a bustling village where businesses thrived and people lived a simple life. Now, after clan fighting and famine, it has been reduced to a region of survivors trying to rebuild what's left of their shattered existence. Many of the children are orphans, their parents lost to violence or starvation. Most children have not enjoyed a stable home, much less school, for months. That situation is changing.

WHEN NMCB 1 was authorized to do civic action projects, finding work was not a problem. A United States Army liaison contacted the Seabees about providing Wanlewein a fully functioning school.

The battalion was to provide 10 desks and benches, an office door, two swing sets, wooden floors for six classrooms, two basketball goals and two soccer goals. According to Ens.

(See "School," page 3)



SW2 Kent France gets a hand from a Somali boy while drilling holes in a seat for a swing set built by NMCB 1's Bravo Company. (Photo by JO2 Ron Schafer)

# What's Buzzing?

*"What's Buzzing?" is a forum for opinions on matters affecting Seabees. Anyone in a Seabee leadership role is invited to contribute to this column.*

*Capt. Larry G. DeVries, a Civil Engineer Corps (CEC) Volunteer Training Unit (VTU) member, here expresses his ideas about the new magazine, The Beeline. Our comments, in italics, follow his.*

**DeVries: I HOPE YOU WON'T** break your new publication into "active" and "reserve" sections. It would be better to divide it into activities (schools, exercises, etc.), types of bases supported, commands or other categories.

**Beeline:** *Since The Beeline is for all Seabees, we don't plan to divide stories into categories that would polarize our readers. We will intermingle articles about Seabees, regardless of the types of units they are in or jobs they are doing.*

**DeVries: I HOPE YOU KEEP** the Seabee Veterans of America and their newsletter, *Can Do*, involved. Perhaps you can send a copy of *The Beeline* to their editor. They recently made some changes and have a nice-looking newsletter themselves. I'm sure they would send theirs to you. They could use your pub to reprint info for their members.

**Beeline:** *Seabee Veterans of America has been on our mailing list from the start. We receive Can Do, and reprinted one of their stories in*

*our first issue. Any group that wants to reprint our articles may do so.*

**DeVries: I HOPE YOU PRINT** articles about Seabee history. I think the young Seabees need to be reminded of their heritage.

**Beeline:** *We couldn't agree more. We welcome historical features—especially with photos—and will try to run at least one per issue. By the way, we need a catchy title for our historical column, so if anyone has a good idea, give us a buzz (sorry—couldn't resist the pun).*

**DeVries: I ALWAYS LIKED** *The Mobilizer* and looked forward to reading it. I gave a number of copies to civilians. I hope its format will continue to the degree it can. How do you intend to work with *Navy Civil Engineer*? It has Seabee info in it, too.

**Beeline:** *The Beeline strongly resembles the old Reserve Naval Construction Force magazine, The Mobilizer. Hopefully, The Beeline will be even better than The Mobilizer, a two-time Chief of Information Merit Award winner. Navy Civil Engineer, a trade journal for CEC officers, has a totally different thrust from The Beeline. However, we seek information and story ideas from all sources.*

**DeVries: A LOT OF RESERVE** units have Seabees in them. I hope your database has all the units, detachments, and other places for

*(See "What's Buzzing," page 19)*



## Interior View

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**DECOMMISSIONED--**NMCCB 2 furls its flag. Page 6.

**WHEN IT RAINS--**NMCCB 3 battles flood damage at Camp Pendleton. Page 9.

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**DISASTER RECOVERY--**Seabees help Hawaiian command recover from Hurricane Iniki. Page 12.

**SAVED--**Two Seabees are rescued, and another rescues someone else. Page 13.

**CPO CENTENNIAL--**April 1 marks the 100th anniversary of chief petty officers. Page 15.

**MOREELL MEDAL--**Lt. Cmdr. Frank Aucremanne of NMCCB 1 is the #1 CEC officer for 1992. Page 15.

**GOLDEN ANCHOR--**NMCCB 3 is tops in retention. Page 16.

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## Seabees help rehab school in Somalia

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James J. Boudo, officer in charge, problems with materials prompted several changes. "The shortage of wood and the existence of termites got us to rethink our plan," he said.

SW2 Kent France, job supervisor, found an abundant supply of scrap steel at a former Soviet air base. By cutting and welding the steel and using lampposts at the project site, the Seabees made swing sets,

*"If we made this stuff of wood, it would never last. These will stay put."*

soccer goals and basketball goals that would be the envy of any recreation center in America.

"If we made this stuff of wood, it would never last," said France. "These will stay put."

Because of the termite problem, the idea for wooden floors was scrapped in favor of concrete. The wood was used to build desks, benches and doors with locks for all six classrooms.

"WE'RE VERY EXCITED and very appreciative to all the American forces, and in particular to the Seabees for their work on this school," said Mohammed Mohammud, a supervisor for the relief agency Irish Concern and one of Wanlewein's village elders. "The Americans have taught us how to rebuild. We're glad to be able to get our education back the way it was."

"At first," said France, "we were all apprehensive. But after a while, we knew we were wanted. They knew who we were and they welcomed us with open arms. I think we made a lot of friends here."

UTC Charles Sineway, officer in charge of the Civic Action Team, said a second job is in the works: constructing a new roof at another school. He expects little trouble finding participants. "The guys are supporting the other forces here so they're not able to see first-hand how their work supports the Somalis," Sineway explained. "But these guys are able to have a direct impact on the Somali people and that really puts a smile on their faces."

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



SWCN Richard Pugh welds steel beams together for a soccer goal to be used at a new school in Wanlewein, Somalia. (Photo by JO2 Ron Schafer)

## Grenade!

### NMCB 1 finds ordnance at job site

By JO2 Ron Schafer

**BALEDOGLE, Somalia**—Danger lurks in this nation in the form of loose ordnance. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 1's Civic Action Team learned that while working at a school in Wanlewein.

The team was providing floors for classrooms when a security team member found a grenade with the pin mechanism still intact. An explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) team was called to remove the grenade.

GMG1 Harry Moore identified the ordnance as an incendiary grenade, which is filled with white phosphorous and black powder, producing flames when it explodes. "Anyone in the area is in danger," he said, "because when it explodes, it creates a fireball with a radius of about 15 feet."

Moore locked the pin mechanism with wire, making the grenade stable enough to transport to an EOD team for disposal. Moore suggested that the grenade may have been left over from an abandoned Soviet air base nearby, or from one of many trades between rival clans.

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

## Removing debris makes streets safer

**MOGADISHU, Somalia**—Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 40, along with Marine units, have entered the second phase of an operation to clear streets of dirt and debris left by warring factions in Somalia.

In Operation Clean Street II, Marines secure the area to be cleared. They control vehicle and pedestrian traffic while Seabees collect and load debris into dump trucks for removal.

"Basically, we're clearing the roads of anything that can be used as a barricade," explained CM1 Raymond E. Cooper. In the process of making the roads safer for travel, the Seabees are also cleaning up the neighborhoods and removing constant reminders of a grim and dangerous environment.

"People will sweep trash from their shops or businesses out into the street for the Seabees to pick up," said Cmdr. James L. Gustafson,

operations officer for the 30th Naval Construction Regiment. "They're trying to help in any way they can."

There are still areas in Mogadishu which remain unsafe. But with the Seabees, Marines and Somalis working together, conditions are getting better and there is hope that normalcy will someday return to Somalia.

*Story by Joint Task Force Somalia.*



CMCR Michael Bost (left) and CM3 Kenneth Wernau of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 40 repair brakes on a 12-ton crane. (Photo by PH2 Todd Naber)

## 'Bees clear brush for large aircraft

By Sgt. B.W. Beard

**KISMAYU, Somalia**—Nearly two million square feet of land around the perimeter of the airport here had to be cleared of brush and trees within 36 hours of the Marine assault to allow quicker delivery of relief supplies, equipment and personnel.

A 15-man Seabee detachment from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 40 worked around-the-clock, using three bulldozers and a front-end loader to push debris 75 feet from all paved surfaces of the runway, taxiways and apron. The Seabees were augmented by four Marines and heavy equipment from the 1st Force Service Support Group Landing Support Battalion.

**TONS OF BUSHES** and small trees had grown up along the edge of the airport. Larger aircraft have wingspans that extend past the 150-foot runway surface. A tree or bush could damage wings and possibly destroy an engine.

The Seabees and Marines completed the mission 12 hours ahead of schedule, enabling even the largest aircraft in the U.S. inventory, the C-5, to land safely.

Seabees and Marines combined assets to complete this mission on time, according to Chief Don Fuller, CPO in charge of Detachment Kismayu. "We didn't have all the manpower or heavy equipment to get a job this size completed on time," he said. "But with a hand from the Marines, we worked hard together and shined."

The detachment landed at the port of Kismayu with

(See "Airport," next page)

# Airport project clears runways

(Continued from page 4)

the rest of the amphibious assault forces Dec. 20, and an armed convoy allowed Fuller to get his personnel and equipment to the airport. The Seabee/Marine team was "on the clock" as soon as it arrived. Clouds of dust and sand surrounded vehicles and operators as they pushed mounds of earth in temperatures near 120 degrees.

**A FEW HOURS AFTER NIGHT FELL**, the next crew came on and continued working with the aid of lights mounted on their vehicles. Just before 2 p.m., the heavy equipment sat idle. Seabees then began clearing brush and establishing a clear defensive perimeter around the airport and runways.

Within a half-hour of the arrival of the convoy and Seabees, the first C-130 landed.

*Beard is a Marine Corps public affairs representative serving in Operation Restore Hope.*



BUCN David Pacheco of NMCB 40 builds a shaving table in Somalia. (Photo by PH2 Todd Naber)

## Instant buildings: Just add Seabees

By PH2 Ron Heppner

**BALEDOGLE, Somalia**—A method of prefabricating sheet metal panels called K-Spans is being used by Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 1 Seabees to provide roofs for U.N. forces in Operation Restore Hope.

"K-Span construction gained a lot of notice during Operation Desert Storm," according to BUC James A. Mihalik. As a result, the equipment for K-Span operation has been added to battalion tables of allowance (TOA) to keep the Seabees on the cutting edge of construction technology. K-Span panels are used to construct huge, curved, Quonset hut-type buildings that are remarkably strong. The panels are also used to build flat roofs and walls.

The TOA that NMCB 1 picked up from Rota, Spain, had not yet been furnished with the K-Span machin-

ery, so NMCB 1's 'Bees are using equipment from NMCB 40. "It's the mobility of the K-Span machine that makes it so valuable," explained SW2 Charles Bigelow of NMCB 40. The machine at Baledogle was hauled up from NMCB 40's main body site at Mogadishu. Baledogle tasking includes putting roofs on several buildings occupied by Moroccan forces. Once these are completed, the K-Span machine is slated to go to Baidoa to provide roofs for Australian forces.

**THE K-SPAN ROOFING** process begins at the prefabricating machine. Coiled sheet steel is fed into the machine where, through a system of rollers, the panel sections are bent into U-shapes. The sections are cut to size and then crimped to form a watertight panel. While the metal is being formed, crews construct wooden frames.

"We have to hand-dig post holes because the post hole-digging equipment can't fit into the building," said SW3 James Scott. Once the 4-by-4 supporting posts are cemented in place, the rest of the framework is nailed up. Then the K-Span roof is secured to the wooden frame.

**SOME SEABEES INVOLVED** in the K-Span operation have had prior experience. NMCB 1's SW2 Steve Wilson was part of a crew that set up K-Span buildings at Naval Station Subic Bay before the Navy moved out of the Philippines. "I've talked with K-Span technical representatives about some ideas for streamlining the system," said Wilson. "Research and development takes a while, but I hope that one day I'll see my ideas in action."

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

***Decommissioned:*****2nd Battalion furls flag for third time**

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 2, headquartered at Naval Support Activity Treasure Island, San Francisco, Calif., was decommissioned March 7.

The 2nd Construction Battalion

was commissioned on April 3, 1942 at Camp Allen, Norfolk Va. It was divided into the 4th and 5th Detachments. Both detachments served in the Pacific theater, although the battalion never worked or traveled as a

complete unit. The battalion arrived in San Francisco on March 7, 1944, to a tumultuous welcome as one of the first homecoming Seabee battalions. The 2nd was inactivated in June 1944.

***Reservists build new training complex for cargo handlers in Bessemer, Ala.***

By Lt. Cmdr. Stephen J. D'Angelo and Lt. Bill Buhner

Reserve Naval Cargo Handling Battalion 12 in Bessemer, Ala. has a new training complex, thanks to reserve Seabees and Engineering Field Division Pacific (EFD PAC).

**EFD PAC MANAGED** the project, coordinating the work of Naval Mobile Construction Battalions 15, 22, 24, 26 and 28, as well as a civilian contractor who graded the site. BUCS C.A. Atkinson of the Reserve Naval Construction Force served as on-site construction manager, coordinating manpower and materials and providing project continuity.

The training complex, which consists of a command/administration building, training building and vehicle maintenance facility, was completed on Nov. 6, 1992. The pre-engineered metal buildings are climate-controlled and have finished interiors.

**THE COMPLEX WAS** dedicated on Feb. 27, 1993. Attending the ceremony were reservists' families, personnel who took part in the construction, and a number of Navy and local civilian officials.

Construction began on April 26, 1992. The use of Naval Reserve assets saved an estimated \$850,000. Reserve Seabees provided 3,546 man-days of labor. The facility will produce cargo handlers better

trained for the regional conflicts the Navy now faces. Approximately 1,800 Naval Reserve cargo handlers, as well as cargo handlers of other services, will train at the site.

*D'Angelo is a member of EFD PAC. Buhner covered the dedication of the new training facility for Naval Reserve Readiness Command Region 9.*



**Seabee team finishes gypsum board at new training complex in Bessemer, Ala.**

**MOBILE CONSTRUCTION** Battalion 2, the first battalion commissioned during the Korean War, deployed to Japan in October 1950. Its major effort there was building U.S. Naval Air Station Atsugi to support operations in Korea. Detachments of NMCB 2 built and repaired landing strips, taxiways, and parking aprons for the 1st Marine Air Wing operations at Pohang, Korea, and at Bofu, Japan, and the ammunition storage facilities at Port Hueneme, Calif.

After leave and refresher training, NMCB 2 deployed to Cubi Point in the Philippines to develop the new Naval Air Station. They continued to work at Cubi Point for the next several years with annual rotation back to Port Hueneme. MCB 2 was decommissioned in August 1956.

**RESERVE NAVAL** Mobile Construction Battalion (RNMCB) 2 was established on April 1, 1962, with 11 divisions in California. The battalion was reorganized in July 1968 to include divisions from RNMCB 28, which was transferred to Texas. Until December 1973, RNMCB 2 drilled at Naval Air Station Alameda, Calif. It was then relocated to Treasure Island.

In a decommissioning certificate issued to battalion members, Capt. J.M. Nagashima, battalion commanding officer, said, "We will close this chapter in our battalion's history for the moment, but leave the book open for others to write upon when called to serve."

*(Information contributed by BU2 Patrick Phillippe, a former member of NMCB 2.)*

## Seabees clean weapons before coming home

By JO1 Mark Everts

**CAMP MOSCRIP, Puerto Rico**—As Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 4 finish projects and set their sights for home, every man is also ensuring that the weapons he was issued are

*Every groove, corner, hole, spring, edge and hard-to-get-to surface is rubbed, scraped and soaked to remove dirt, caked-on oil and dust.*

thoroughly cleaned and inspection-ready upon departing the Caribbean.

The men know the importance of a clean weapon. It makes not only for more reliable firing, but also demonstrates pride in the handling and care of the weapon.

**EACH SEABEE HAS** maintained his weapon and cleaned it monthly. Proper cleaning usually takes two hours. The M-16A1 rifles are completely disassembled and cleaned piece by piece. Every groove, corner, hole, spring, edge and hard-to-get-to surface is rubbed, scraped and soaked to remove dirt, caked-on oil and dust.

The battalion's gunners' mates go over the weapons meticulously. With the inspection complete, all parts of the weapon are then wiped with an oil-dampened cloth to retard rust.

The gunners' mates know how dirty a weapon can get in the field, and in how many places dirt, oil and dust can hide. That is why each Seabee spends time each month cleaning a weapon. Weapons cleaning is a vital part of the battalion's training and also part of keeping the battalion prepared for any operation.

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



CE3 Eric White of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 4 cleans his M-16A1 rifle, ensuring the weapon is ready for inspection. (Photo by JO1 Mark Everts)

Using a cotton swab, CE3 Mario Castaneda cleans all the dirt and oil from the bolt assembly of his M-16A1 rifle. (Photo by JO1 Mark Everts)



# New unit: *Engineers train to augment joint task force operations*

By JO1 Eugene Fleming

**SAN FRANCISCO**—Naval Station Treasure Island is home to the newly formed Joint Task Force Construction Management Detachment 1 (JTFCM Det. 1). Organized under Director of Contingency Engineering Programs (DCEP), Austin, Texas, it reports to the facilities division of U.S. Commander-in-Chief Pacific (CINCPAC), Camp Smith, Hawaii.

JTFCM Det. 1 includes officers with diverse civil and military engineering backgrounds. The unit trains Naval Reserve Civil Engineer Corps officers and Army, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard personnel. Their mission is to augment engineering or logistics staffs of Joint Task Force (JTF) organizations in the Pacific Command. A similar detachment, Det. 2, operates out of San Diego, servicing the 7th Fleet in its role as a JTF commander.

**THE FOCUS OF** joint operations in CINCPAC's area is forward presence and crisis response. Engineering support ranges from humanitarian assistance and civic action in peacetime to major regional contingencies in war. Forward presence will enhance the crisis response of the joint task force.

CINCPAC oversees the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force, 7th Fleet and 1st Army Corps as JTF commanders. Each command uses JTFCM dets as civil engineering staffs, gathering engineering intelligence and preparing engineering aspects of JTF plans.



Capt. Daniel T. Schultes, officer in charge of JTFCM Det. 1, reviews area of responsibility with Cmdr. Gene Molr. (Photo by PH2 Dorothy Panlon)

**THE ARMY,** Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard are joining the Navy's effort. Each service has its own unique role in providing input and support, and their coordinated efforts can take advantage of each service's engineering and construction-related strengths. The JTFCM engineering staffs are truly "purple suited"—Army, Navy and Air Force engineers working together and pooling their knowledge and resources to solve problems.

**JOINT OPERATIONS ARE** becoming a normal role for most military commands with like missions. One key facet to such operations is providing CINCPAC's joint task force commanders with the JTFCM staff advisors to respond to engineering challenges likely to affect the success of the JTF commanders' crisis response.

*Fleming is assigned to Navy Public Affairs Center Detachment 220, San Francisco.*

## Improving quality of life:

# Civic Action Team completes two projects

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 3's Civic Action Team (CAT) 0330 was involved in two building projects in February. Team building is one of the first steps in molding the 13-man team into a cohesive unit, and includes cross-training each member in construction ratings other than his own.

The first project will improve the quality of life for families at Naval Air Warfare Center Point Mugu, Calif.

The CAT team assembled and placed various pieces of playground equipment at four different sites in Point Mugu housing areas. At one playground, the team erected a model of the familiar space shuttle, allowing children to launch many simulated space missions.

**THE SECOND PROJECT,** accomplished with help from personnel at Coast Guard Station Channel Is-

lands, Calif., required removal of old fencing and replacement with new redwood fencing. This will improve the security and appearance of the Coast Guard housing area.

The projects laid the foundation for the team's intensive training cycle, administered by the 31st Naval Construction Regiment. In addition to the Seabee ratings, training will cover small boat handling, disaster recovery, and other areas.



A diver from UCT 2 returns to diving platform from underwater project. (Photo by PH3 Tony Koch)

## Under the sea:

*Underwater Construction Team 2 completes diving projects ranging from arctic to tropic*

By Lt. D.K. Weil

**UNDERWATER CONSTRUCTION TEAM (UCT) 2** finished 1992 with deployment sites ranging from the cold Arctic Ocean to the tropical waters of Hawaii and the Gulf of Mexico. Tasking included over 300 dives using scuba and MK-21 diving equipment.

Six men from Alpha Air Detail deployed to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, where they moved 31 pilings in record time from Pier K-7 at the Naval Supply Center. The work was critical to the berthing of the new submerged waterplane area twin hull (SWATH) vessels, which play a key role in undersea surveillance in the Pacific. The group redeployed to Pacific Missile Range Facility Barking Sands, Kauai, to repair and stabilize undersea cables for the acoustic range facility.

**BRAVO AIR DETAIL** braved Arctic storms in support of the Arctic Research Lab to make underwater repairs for the Arctic West project. After that, Bravo was part of a joint-service exercise, Ocean Venture '92, at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla. Bravo personnel helped Amphibious Construction Battalion 2 install the system used to pump fuel from offshore tankers to combat forces ashore.

Air Detail Charlie was off to Alaska where they constructed and lived at the Arctic Ice Camp. In Ice Exercise '92, they manned and maintained a self-sufficient, independent camp for 21 days near Barrow, Alaska. The detail practiced survival and diving skills, completing 28 dives under ice. The next assignment for Charlie personnel involved underwater repairs to Pier 23, Naval Station Treasure Island, San Francisco, Calif. Heavy underwater construction work required dives of more than two hours each. Over 100 surface-supplied dives, with over 200 hours of bottom time, were completed.

*Weil is a member of UCT 2.*

## 'Three-Bees' help Camp Pendleton recover from floods

By Lt. Cmdr. C. Cassidy

January rainstorms created mudslides and flash floods in California. Particularly hard hit was the Marine Corps Air Station at Camp Pendleton.

The station is separated from the normally dry Santa Margarita River by an earthen dike. During flash floods, the river broke through and caused considerable damage. On Jan. 23, the Marines asked the Seabees to help remove 100,000 cubic yards of mud and debris left by the flood.

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 5 began the cleanup, but due to their deployment,

they were replaced in February by NMCB 3. "Three-Bee" equipment operators and construction mechanics used bulldozers, front-end loaders and dump trucks to move silt, mud and debris from the runway and surrounding areas.

As more rain threatened on Feb. 18, the Three-Bees were asked to help contractors repair the damaged dike. The Seabees transported clean fill material from a nearby quarry.

NMCB 3 continued supporting the recovery operations until late March.

*(Cassidy is NMCB 3's operations officer.)*

# ENDURING NEED

*The Soviet Union is dead. Gone is the Berlin Wall. With communism apparently coming apart at the seams, wouldn't this be a great time to dismantle our armed forces?*

*Not if we hope to meet the challenges of what one senior military leader has called "the new world disorder."*

**WASHINGTON**—The Navy and Marine Corps, and the support of the Seabees, are as important as ever.

Our focus has shifted from a single global threat to regional challenges. This demands forces that can respond quickly in regions critical to American interests. The unique capabilities of naval forces—worldwide presence, deterrence, and timely crisis response—are essential to America's security.

**WE HAD HOPED** that the fall of the Soviet Union would bring more stability, but since 1985, the Navy and Marine Corps have responded to 35 international crises—none of

which involved the Soviet Union. For example:

- In 1987, the Navy began escorting U.S.-flagged tankers through the mined Persian Gulf. This continued for years to ensure the unimpeded flow of oil from Southwest Asia.

- In 1990, a Navy-Marine Corps amphibious group remained off the coast of Liberia for over six months and evacuated 2,600 citizens.

- We are back in Somalia. In 1991, naval forces flew in Marines and SEALs to defend and evacuate our embassy. Now we are providing protection and humanitarian relief to the Somali people.

There are increasing pressures from overpopulation, economic turmoil, and refugee crises. Conflicts are intensifying among ethnic, religious and political groups. Third World countries are quickly arming themselves with weapons never before available to them. Drug trafficking is rampant along our coasts.

**ARMED CONFLICTS** are taking place in some two dozen areas. We must be able to shape events before unrest becomes a crisis, so the Navy maintains forward presence in the Mediterranean, Western Pacific and

*(Continued on next page)*

Marines give Seabees live-fire training with M-60 machine guns. Joint-service training and operations are here to stay. (Photo by PH2 N. John Oubre)



# FOR OUR NAVY

*(Continued from page 10)*

Persian Gulf. The centerpiece of our deployed forces is an expeditionary amphibious force accompanying a carrier battle group—the most potent, flexible combination in our arsenal.

Naval forces have a full range of options from humanitarian assistance to police actions or, if necessary, they can strike ashore, either alone or with other services.

**WE ARE FORGING** a more versatile force to meet new challenges while still satisfying enduring security needs. This means a shift away from open-ocean warfare toward joint-service operations conducted from the sea to influence events ashore.

We now focus on coastal areas of regions critical to American interests. From there we can apply economic and trade sanctions and control coastal and port facilities. When stronger action is required, the Navy and Marine Corps gain the foothold for heavier ground and air forces.

**TODAY 99 PERCENT** of our import-export tonnage is carried by sea. All of our trading partners except Canada and Mexico are principally linked with us by the sea.

Raw materials for American industries come from all over the world. Over half of our petroleum is imported. The Middle East claims two thirds of the world's oil, and provides 25 percent of the oil we use. There is real potential for a crisis that could affect our access to that supply.

Each year nearly a billion tons of cargo passes to and from our sea-ports via choke points that could easily be closed by a Third World power. The typical U.S. automobile is made of 73 percent imported materials.

Americans are increasingly engaged abroad. Some 2.5 million live

overseas, and over 19 million travel abroad each year. They expect us to protect them in time of crisis.

**THE NEED TO MAINTAIN** a presence overseas is clear. Yet we are closing many overseas bases. Mobile, self-sustaining naval forces are ideally suited to fill this void. Our ships represent America wherever they appear, and can respond rapidly and operate indefinitely without land bases.

**NAVAL FORCES** are forward-deployed to be ready whenever called. It would take ships three weeks to get to the Eastern Mediterranean, four weeks to Southern Africa, and five weeks to reach the Persian Gulf from U.S. ports. Forward-deployed naval forces have been able to respond anywhere in two days or less.

**SINCE 1977**, presidents have ordered naval forces to respond to international crises 75 times. Shots were rarely fired, because the mere presence of naval forces led to peaceful resolution. Naval forces are usually the first in action, quick to respond on-scene, and the last to leave.

We must downsize with careful consideration of both the emerging and the enduring roles of our naval

forces. We are preparing our Navy and Marine Corps by tailoring them for evolving national needs, and shaping them to operate jointly with our sister services in coastal areas. That combination minimizes costs



**A Naval Reservist receives shots before deploying to Bahrain during Operation Desert Shield. Reservists play an ever-expanding role in our national defense strategy.**

and risks, and will best safeguard America's worldwide interests.

*(Provided by the U.S. Navy Presentation Office. For information on having a presentation given to your local group, contact the Presentation Office at 703-695-0126.)*

# NMCB 22 provides disaster relief

By Lt. D.A. Jarrell

When Hurricane Iniki hit the Island of Kauai, Hawaii, seven reserve Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 22 helped in the recovery efforts at the Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF) Hawaiian Area, Barking Sands.

The Seabees' efforts allowed PMRF Barking Sands and the west side of Kauai to recover from the devastating hurricane much more rapidly than would have otherwise been possible. Upon reporting for temporary active duty three days after the hurricane, the Seabees established themselves as key players in the recovery effort.

The reservists quickly repaired

PMRF's eight beach cottages, which provided housing to families who lost their homes. The Seabees were instrumental in providing generator power to PMRF's family housing area, Navy Exchange, gas station, and radio station. During the weeks following the hurricane, PMRF was responsible for approximately 40 generators providing essential power throughout the west side of Kauai.

**THE MEN WERE** always available to service inoperable generators, regardless of the time. They performed emergency repair on critical facilities, including the personnel support detachment building, admin building, and Navy Exchange. They set up a laundromat at the chiefs'

club for those without electrical power or water. They spent numerous hours delivering emergency supplies to local communities.

**WHEN PMRF RECEIVED** two 750-kilowatt generators to allow the resumption of range operations, the Seabees performed all required modifications to the base's electrical distribution system. After the generators were operational, the men volunteered to stand eight-hour generator watches every other day. The Seabees' hard work, long hours and selfless devotion to duty during this period were truly remarkable.

*Jarrell is the public works officer at PMRF Barking Sands.*

## Army gives military training to Oklahoma detachment

By UT2 Crowell E. Croizer

A Seabee without a project is just a grunt, and a grunt without good infantry skills is a corpse.

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 22's Detachment 1322 learned that the Army Reserve could give military training. The Seabees provided construction in exchange for training by the 2-377th Battalion, 95th Division, U.S. Army Reserve.

A nine-month schedule provided almost 60 hours of training for 30 members of Det. 1322 at the McAlester Army Ammunition Plant (MCAAP) in McAlester, Okla, where Det. 1322 drills.

**MCAAP PROVIDED** a perfect setting for training in land navigation, patrolling and other skills. To ensure training was consistent with Navy policy, the Army used the Seabee

Combat Handbook to develop classroom and practical exercises.

The training ended with a two-day field exercise (FEX). Seabees endured rain and mud as they set up a defensive perimeter and fended off several waves of enemy aggression. The next class of 30 Seabees is now undergoing the training.

*Croizer is a member of NMCB 22 Det. 1322.*

## Reserve battalion builds equipment room for Army

By BU2 Patrick Phillippe

HERLONG, Calif.—Reno, Nevada's Seabees are at it again. This time it's an aviation life support equipment room for Sierra Army Depot here.

The Department of Defense conducted an inspection and found that the depot lacked this room, which is required by Army regulations. This seemed like an excellent training project for the Army Reserve and the Seabees of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 17.

Detailed plans were supplied, along with the re-

quired materials, and the Seabees started right to work. The room was built as an addition inside the existing hangar. It consisted of layout, wood framing with ceiling structure, electrical, plumbing, dry-wall and finishes.

Estimated cost for this project exceeded \$35,000. By having the reserve Seabees work this project on their drill weekends, estimated savings will be around \$25,000.

*Phillippe is a public affairs representative for NMCB 17.*



**HIGH FIVE**--PC3 Francis Cline of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 4 is congratulated by teammates after an inning of charity softball. The team competed in a four-day tournament at Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico, to raise college money for a dependent whose father recently died. (Photo by YNSN Reuben Ryan)

## Two Seabees are rescued . . .

**ADAK, Alaska**—The Naval Air Station (NAS) Adak ground search and rescue (SAR) team found two Seabees, missing for 21 hours in the frigid Alaska terrain, in good condition near the Mt. Moffett power plant Jan. 22.

UT2 Troy Bauman and UT3 William Barnes left the power plant, two miles from the base, Jan. 21, driving snowmobiles on the side of the mountain. They abandoned the snowmobiles after getting stuck in the snow and began making their way off the mountain on foot.

As nightfall approached, the Seabees found shelter under a rock. Temperatures hovered near freezing while snow and rain fell and wind speed reached 22 knots.

**AN EIGHT-MAN SAR TEAM** was dispatched to search the Mt. Moffett area Jan. 21. The team expanded to 35 people and kept searching until the morning of Jan. 22, when weather forced a temporary halt. Efforts resumed when the wind, snow and rain began to subside.

Lt. Ken Sener from the Anti-Submarine Warfare Operations Center and seven volunteers found Bauman and Barnes shortly after noon on Jan. 22. "We were driving up to search on the Shagak Bay trail when we spotted them," Sener said. Both Seabees were immediately taken to the hospital.

Barnes was treated and released and Bauman was

kept overnight for observation. "I want to thank the SAR team for all the effort they made to find us," Bauman said. "All the volunteers did a great job."

*Story by NAS Adak public affairs office.*

## . . . and one's a rescuer

**WASHINGTON**—EA1 James J. Warden of Naval Support Facility (NAVSUPFAC) Thurmont, Md., received the Navy and Marine Corps Medal for heroism Jan. 22 for saving the life of a motorist trapped in a burning vehicle.

On Oct. 19, 1992, a tanker hit a concrete barrier and exploded near Washington. After passing through the flames, Warden heard another motorist calling for help within the blaze. The Seabee put his own life in danger by reentering the fire to assist the trapped motorist. Warden suffered severe burns on 60 percent of his body.

The highest Navy non-combat award was presented by the director of the White House Military Office.

*By NAVSUPFAC Thurmont public affairs office.*

# Roosevelt Roads:

## Reserve Seabees leave their mark in Puerto Rico

By PH1 Alan Bielmeler

**ROOSEVELT ROADS, Puerto Rico**—At the start of this fiscal year, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 13 heard of opportunities for reserve Seabees to go on active duty for up to 100 days. Combining annual training (AT) with additional duty for training (ADT) and regular drills, the idea was to augment active duty Seabees in completing projects.

CMC John Cubit and CM2 Christopher Bier of NMCB 13 arrived at Roosevelt Roads for 15 days AT in January. Both were assigned to NMCB 4's Alpha Company.

**CUBIT PROVIDED** administrative and technical help, while gaining needed computer experience. As he said, "This is knowledge I can take back to my unit and train others." Cubit works for Eastman Kodak Co.

as an equipment maintenance supervisor. His son is an SK3 in NMCB 13.

Bier, now a CM1, helped train younger Seabees and inspected vehicles. Bier has 10 years in the Navy, five active, five reserve. He is a shift supervisor for Decarolis Truck Rental in Rochester, N.Y.

**AUGUST 1992** brought NMCB 4 from Port Hueneme, Calif., to Roosevelt Roads for a seven-month assignment. NMCB 4's BU1 David Midgorden is supervisor for the post office enlargement project here. Some of his crew were reserve 'Bees. "Their help was really needed," said Midgorden. "We can always use reserve Seabees."

Midgorden said that the materials cost was about \$75,000, and the approximate manhours were 700. The savings in dollars for manhours alone was around \$24,500.

Seabee reservists who helped with the post office project were UT1 Kevin Hart and BU3 R. Keith Torrens. Hart served 15 days AT and Torrens did 45 days ADT. Hart is a consumer representative for Niagara Mohawk, scheduling construction jobs. Torrens owns and operates Torrens Construction in Swan Lake, N.Y.

**THE SEABEES ENLARGED** the post office's shipping and storage area by some 67 percent. "The addition of 1,700 square feet is a welcome relief, especially with the change in status from a military post office to a Fleet Mail Center," said PC1 Ronald Stevens. Stevens, a reservist on two weeks AT, is a mail carrier with the U.S. Postal Service in Lancaster, N.Y.

*Bielmeler is a public affairs representative for NMCB 13.*



Inspections are a necessary part of a mechanic's job. CM2 Christopher Bier checks an engine at Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico. (Photo by PH1 Alan Bielmeler)



BU3 Keith Torrens cuts roofing braces for post office expansion. (Photo by PH1 Alan Bielmeler)

# NMCB 1 ops boss wins Moreell Medal

By Rear Adm. Jack E. Buffington

**ALEXANDRIA, Va.**—Lt. Cmdr. Frank Aucremanne of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 1 has been picked to receive the 1992 Moreell Medal. The award is given annually by the Society of American Military Engineers to a Civil Engineer Corps officer or civilian employee of the Naval Facilities Engineering Command for the most outstanding contribution to military engineering.

Aucremanne was the NMCB 1 Subic Bay detail officer in charge (OIC) during Mount Pinatubo; OIC of NMCB 1's support of Hurricane Andrew relief; and operations officer during Operation Restore Hope in Somalia.

**DURING NMCB 1'S DEPLOYMENT** to the Pacific, Mount Pinatubo erupted in the Philippines. As the Subic Bay detail OIC, Aucremanne directed 6,000 man-days of recovery work with no lost-time accidents. Meanwhile, his detail completed the retrograde of NMCB 74's table of allowance, diverted to the Philippines to help with Mount Pinatubo recovery operations. Aucremanne then executed a three-phase plan which flawlessly brought the detail's 125 men and 1.2 million pounds of equipment back to the main body in Guam.

Back in homeport, between exercises, NMCB 1 was tasked to send 188 men to Homestead, Fla. to conduct

disaster recovery operations after Hurricane Andrew. Aucremanne was OIC of the detail to provide relief to Dade County School District, including 72,000 square feet of roof repairs on six different schools, removing 10,000 cubic yards of debris and replacing 5,000 linear feet of fencing at 23 school locations. The detail also assisted in cleanup efforts in the cities of Homestead and Florida City, removing over 30,000 cubic yards of debris.

**SHORTLY AFTER THE START** of the European deployment in November 1992, NMCB 1 was placed on alert for Operation Restore Hope. Aucremanne quickly reorganized the battalion, consolidating three of the four details and integrating them back into the main body. He developed and implemented a brilliant strategy to redeploy to Somalia. Each evolution was completed safely, on time and with full accountability to meet the time-phased deployment schedule. In theater in late December, Aucremanne quickly organized the battalion to begin construction operations in support of the Marines. At the same time, he effectively implemented defensive operations to protect the battalion and safeguard project sites.

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

## Chief petty officers celebrate centennial

By PHC(SW) Jeffrey A. Elliott

A full century of leadership was noted April 1 as more than 59,000 Navy chief, senior chief and master chief petty officers celebrated the CPO centennial.

**CPO HISTORY BEGAN** with U.S. Navy Regulations Circular No. 1 of March 13, 1893. The circular authorized certain first class petty officers to be advanced to the rate of chief petty officer on or after April 1, 1893.

Interestingly, "the Chief" was around long before officially being recognized by the Navy. Although not paid more than other petty officers, boatswains' mates and gunners' mates who were senior to their shipmates were called "chief." This started in 1864 and continued until

1893, when chiefs were officially recognized by the Navy. On that day, almost all first class petty officers were promoted to CPO and given a subsequent pay raise.

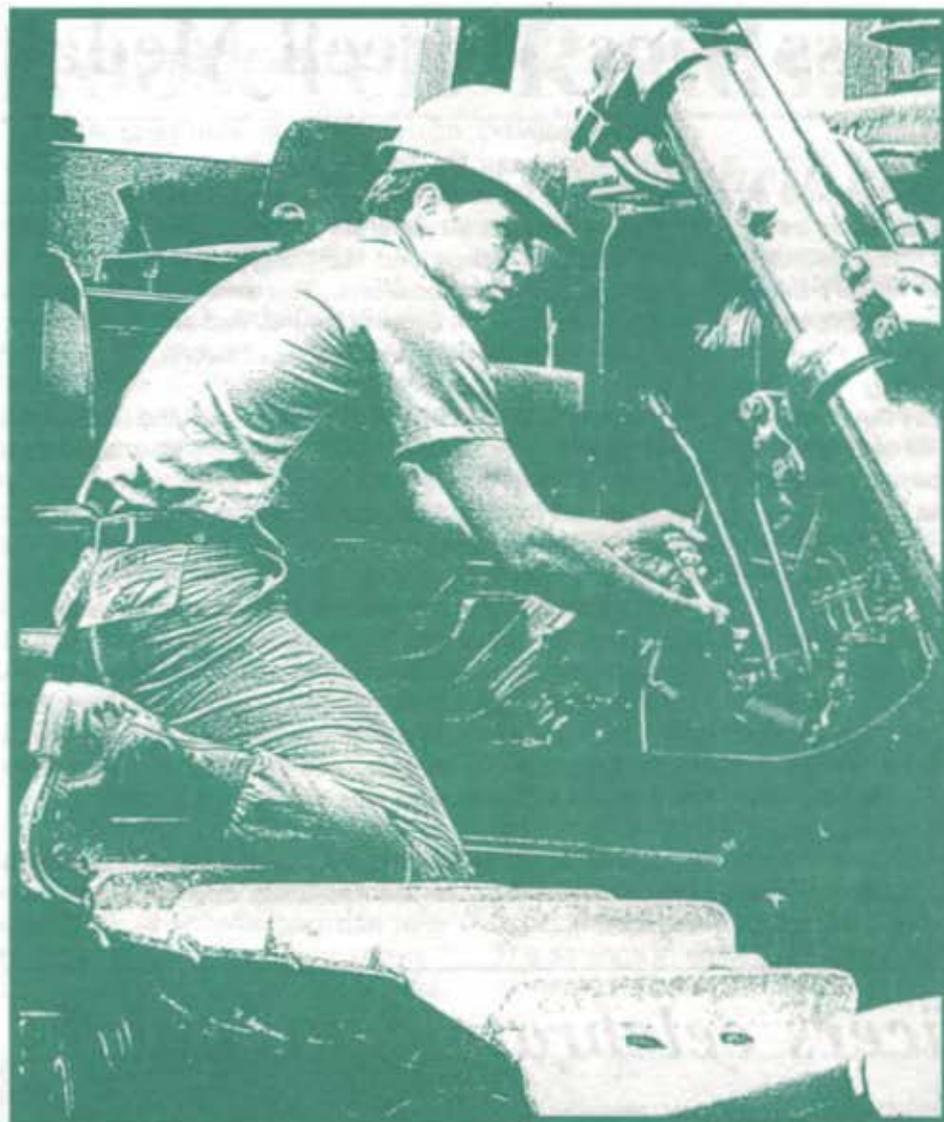
As America entered the war against Germany in 1917, Navy Secretary Josephus Daniels authorized enlisting women. These were called Yeomanettes, and more than 11,000 served as chief yeomen. It was not until World War II that women were to become a permanent part of the U.S. Navy.

**SENIOR CHIEFS** and master chiefs came into being with the 1959 amendment to the Career Compensation Act of 1949. The amendment established E-8 and E-9 paygrades to provide additional recognition to those with outstanding technical, supervisory and leadership qualities.

These qualities have been immortalized in a line from the coveted Chief Petty Officers' Creed: "It is now required that you be the fountain of wisdom, the ambassador of good will, the authority in personal relations as well as in technical applications. 'Ask the Chief!' are household words in and out of the Navy. You are now the Chief."

*Elliott works for the command master chief in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations.*





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### U.S. NAVAL RESERVE

## NMCB 3 wins Golden Anchor for retention

**PORT HUENEME, Calif.**—Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 3 was picked to receive the Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet Golden Anchor Award for fiscal year 1992.

The Golden Anchor recognizes excellence in personnel retention. NMCB 3 achieved an overall retention rate of 68 percent, exceeding the battalion's 50 percent goal.

**SIXTY-TWO PERCENT** of Three-Bees in their initial term reenlisted, well over the 3rd Naval Construction Brigade's goal of 35 percent. Career personnel with less than 20 years service also exceeded retention goals, producing the overall 68 percent retention rate.

Retention in the Naval Construction Force is higher, on average, than in the rest of the Navy, so this achievement is particularly noteworthy.

**WHILE RETENTION** of active duty members is the primary focus of the Golden Anchor Award, evaluation of personal development through education, awards and advancements in rate is significant.

A battalion-wide emphasis on safety produced not only impressive safety statistics but, more importantly, a productive and safe homeport period and European deployment. Some 76 percent of Three-Bees scored excellent or outstanding on Physical Readiness Tests.

*(Story courtesy of Construction Battalion Center Port Hueneme public affairs office.)*

# Short Bursts

**REQUESTS REQUESTED**—You are a first class petty officer with 20 years of service. You'd like to stay in for 30, but the Navy says you've gotta retire, whether you like it or not. But before you transfer to the Fleet Reserve, there's one little item of business you have to take care of.

You have to put in a request to retire.

In April 1992, the Chief of Naval Operations released a message revising high year tenure (HYT) limits for E-6 through E-8 personnel. Individuals who do not submit a request to transfer to the Fleet Reserve before their HYT limits will be separated from the Navy and may lose retainer or retired benefits.

Once you are separated, pay and benefits may be recouped only through the Board for Correction of Naval Records, a process which may take six to eight months. If you are coming up on HYT and can't afford to go for several months without retired pay or benefits, get your Fleet Reserve request in right away.

**FREE TRAVEL**—In the midst of budget and personnel cuts throughout the military, service members' benefits took a different twist: space-available flights are now free.

According to Air Force Lt. Col. Randy Morger, public affairs officer for Air Mobility Command, the fee of \$10 was lifted for the benefit of travelers. "The old fee was levied to help offset the cost of processing," Morger explained. "It was decided that the military should bear the cost instead of the members."

The change in policy was proposed to help make up for the erosion of military benefits.

Free space-available travel begins immediately. *(Story by Air Mobility Command)*

**NMCB 5 DEPLOYS**—Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 5 has completed its homeport training and deployed to the Caribbean region. An advance party of 300 Seabees left Point Mugu, Calif. on March 4. On March 13, the battalion's delayed party left Port Hueneme, Calif. for the Caribbean.

The battalion will spend the next seven months on construction projects at various sites.

While NMCB 5's main body is at Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico, more than half the battalion was sent to different locations throughout the Caribbean and Central and South America.

Other detachments deployed to Cecil Field, Fla., and Little Creek, Va., to coordinate construction projects with reserve Seabee units. *(Story by JO1 Paul Russo, NMCB 5.)*

**DOUBLE DEVICES**—While other Seabees are clamoring to earn the new Seabee warfare badge, SW1 Leonard J. Weddel, assigned to the public works department at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, has earned the enlisted aviation warfare insignia.

To earn his wings, Weddel attended classes for eight months, passed a written exam and oral review board and demonstrated practical skills associated with operating aircraft. The classes covered all aspects of air operations both ashore and aboard aircraft carriers.

"At the time, I didn't think I would be able to earn the Seabee qualification because I wasn't in a qualifying unit," Weddel said. "I opted for aviation warfare so I could still be competitive for promotion." As it turned out, he qualified for the Seabee warfare device about the same time he completed the aviation warfare quals.

**DENTAL PLAN EXPANDED**—The Active Duty Dependents Dental Plan (DDP) now offers much more complete coverage.

DDP covers most diagnostic and preventive services, such as check-ups and cleanings, at 100 percent. Restorative service, such as fillings, will be covered at 80 percent. The plan covers many new services, such as braces, at 50 to 60 percent.

DDP has no deductibles, but includes a yearly maximum on all services except orthodontics. The sponsor's monthly payroll deduction is \$9.65 for one dependent or \$19.30 for two or more dependents.

All eligible service members were enrolled in the expanded DDP in March, with four months to disenroll and be refunded all premiums as long as dependents have not used the plan during this period.

Delta dentists have agreed to fee limits and will submit claim forms for you. They accept payment directly from DDP.

The Health Benefits Advisor at your local military installation has more information and a list of Delta dentists. You can also call DDP at (916) 381-9368 or (313) 489-2240 to learn more about the expanded DDP. *(Courtesy of DDP Program Relations and Enrollment Services Office.)*

## Kudos

- BU1 Michael Kelly, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 3 1992 Seabee of the Year  
 BU2 Dwain A. Stahl, Naval Reserve Readiness Command Region 16 1992 Staff Sailor of the Year

# The Bee Tree

## Seabees mark first anniversary in 1943

*How many people can remember the first anniversary of the Seabees? Here is a glimpse of that special occasion, as printed in the January 1943 issue of Bee Lines:*

In one fast-moving year the Seabees have grown from idea to a reality of thousands of men, hundreds of machines, and scores of completed projects on Islands X the world over.

The Navy wanted some 3,000 men for assignment on foreign soil, but far more than 3,000 swarmed into Navy recruiting stations. An undreamed of fountain of skilled personnel was revealed. America's

builders wanted to serve with our "first line of attack" while applying their skills as construction men.

Within a week a part of the original contingent had been transferred to Navy training stations. By March 1, the rest departed for training as "boots." Construction recruits trained at Great Lakes, Newport, Norfolk. Headquarters companies trained at San Diego and the other regular boot camps the nation over.

**MEANTIME, CAMP ALLEN** was going up in Norfolk, Va. In the middle of March men began to converge on Allen from boot camps. Making the

best of facilities at hand they hastened their preparations for action on those spots where our fleets needed bases.

The press carried first a story that the Navy construction battalions were again seeking recruits, and then announcements that enlistments were being closed, due to the surging wave of manpower eager to enlist.

**CIVIL ENGINEER Corps (CEC)** officers were withdrawn from public works jobs at domestic naval installations to command this mushrooming organization. They established the facilities for housing and training using their experience as builders of regular Navy establishments. To augment them the CEC procured officers from among the most prominent of the nation's engineers and construction superintendents.

In Rhode Island the men of the 3rd Battalion sought a name for their organization, and taking the initials CB they happened upon the title "Seabees," giving full attention to the task of seagoing workers.

**IN THE ONE YEAR** past, praise from every quarter has come to the Seabees. Being older men they see the job to be done, and do it, despite handicaps imposed by nature or the enemy.

Determined to make 1943 the Victory Year, the Seabees are out to work and fight to do their part in bringing peace and better building to a world of decent men.

*Have an interesting story about Seabees of days gone by? Contact the editor of The Beeline at 1-800-782-3510 or 601-871-5010.*



Seabees build an advanced base in the Admiralty Islands during World War II. (Photo courtesy of public affairs office, Construction Battalion Center Gulfport, Miss. )

# Kickin' the Hive



## JOCS Padgett:

It is good to see some letters with opinions on awards in the last issue of *The Mobilizer* [a predecessor of *The Beeline*]. In an organization as big as a reserve Seabee battalion, well-deserving individuals are often overlooked. How do we fix it?

Clearly, handing out awards on a "quota" system is not appropriate. But it is just as incorrect to hold back awards in order "not to cheapen it."

**GIVING OUT 125** letters of appreciation a year in a reserve battalion might seem like a lot. But at that rate, the average Seabee would get just three or four letters in a 21-year career! I don't think that can be considered excessive.

Leaders need to write up the work done by their award candidate. Then get the write-up going up the chain or, as a last resort, to the unit's command master chief.

**AWARDS DO TEND** to go to the "office types." That's because they tend to be a little better at the write-ups and there are few other write-ups available to the awards board!

In general our lack of ability or initiative to write is the cause of our poor competition for awards (and for our low-quality enlisted evaluations as a related matter).

We must reward our good performers. Leaders, let's do it!

*Capt. Larry DeVries, CEC, USNR*

## Dear Senior Chief Padgett:

The letters to the editor concerning lack of recognition for enlisted personnel clearly struck a nerve. My own experience has been that most awards have been made to deserving enlisted personnel and not just to "office types" but also to personnel on the deckplates.

**THE REAL ISSUE** isn't if one command is better at recognizing sailors than others or if one group is rewarded when more deserving sailors are not. The issue is leadership. Whether it starts in the wardroom or the CPO mess is irrelevant as long as someone steps forward and shoulders the responsibility.

**IF DESERVING PERSONNEL** in your command aren't being recognized then it is your responsibility to nominate them. Crack open the awards manual and put together a solid award package to send up the chain of command. If the chain has been negligent in this area, they will quickly get the message.

We belong to a great Navy, but it has some shortcomings. Don't just complain about them, correct them. To steal a phrase, "Just do it."

*Cmdr. R.H. Porter, USNR*

*[Letters to the editor should be addressed to Beeline Editor, COMRNCFSC Bldg. 121, 5000 Marvin Shields Blvd., CBC Gulfport, MS 39501-5016. Unsigned letters will not be considered for publication.]*

## What's Buzzing?

*(Continued from page 2)*

Seabees so every reserve Seabee can read a copy. Don't forget the VTU!

*Beeline:* When we built our database we tried to think of every unit that might have Seabees. Naturally, we overlooked a few, including the CEC VTUs, which are now on our list thanks to Capt. DeVries' letter. We will add any Seabee unit to our list, if they will send us their unit designation and address. Defense regs prohibit mailing to individual members of our audience.

*DeVries:* Cmdr. Ross Selvidge is doing an article on the Seabee Combat Warfare Specialist badge. He and I worked on the design for over two years, and the badges are now in production. It's a good story.

*Beeline:* Selvidge was a contributor to *The Mobilizer*. We look forward to hearing from him again.

## Seabees help Restore Hope:

# Prefab yard makes life easier in Somalia

By JO1 Mark Wallace

**MOGADISHU, Somalia**—Making life a little easier for the coalition forces living in the sand of Somalia is a task that has fallen on Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 40's prefabrication yard. Since their arrival at Camp Stalder, the 27-man operation has been turning out prefab mobile tent decks, toilets, tent strongbacks, guard towers, picnic tables, benches, and ramps.

"We can produce a tent deck every 10 minutes if the supply of wood can keep up with us," said BUC Daniel Jordan. "The supply of wood doesn't always meet the demand. Some days the prefab yard is quiet because we don't have the materials to work with. It's nobody's fault—the materials just don't come fast enough."

**TENT DECKS, BENCHES** and toilets are built in universal sizes, but the strongbacks change according to the nationality of the forces that need them. The French, Italian and Turkish tent dimensions are all different, so some modifications have to be made.

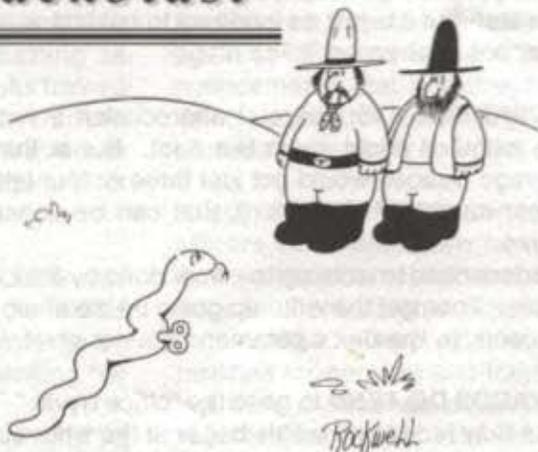
"We have to reset the guides on our work tables for each of the different size strongbacks," explained BUC Bob Moons. "It also has to be done every time we use the rough-cut wood from Mombasa, Kenya because they cut their two-by-fours a little larger than what we see in the U.S."

At the end of the day, the work crews can see there is some progress being made. The prefabricated decks, strongbacks and toilets are stacked on trucks to be

shipped to other camps in Somalia, but before the next work day begins it's all gone and the process starts all over again.

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

## Backblast



*"Watch out! It's a side-winder!"*

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