



Seabees clear rubble and grade a street in a town in Somalia, where they served during Operation Restore Hope.

Out of Africa: *NMCB 1 main body leaves Somalia, returns to projects in Rota, Spain*

By JO2 Ron Schafer

ROTA, Spain—After ten weeks of supporting U.N. forces in Somalia, the Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 1 main body has returned to Camp Mitchell here.

Over 340 men left Mogadishu, Somalia the morning of March 8 and arrived in Rota that evening. About 170 battalion members stayed in Somalia to help return equipment to Rota and to Gulfport, Miss.

Battalion equipment will be cleaned and prepared for Department of Agriculture inspection,

according to Lt. Cmdr. F.F. Aucremanne, NMCB 1's operations officer. It will then be loaded and transported.

A BRIEF CEREMONY was held March 11. Lt. Phillip L. Nelson, officer in charge of an NMCB 4 detachment that maintained Camp Mitchell in NMCB 1's absence, turned the camp over to Cmdr. David D. Pruett, NMCB 1's commanding officer.

NMCB 1 was at Rota when called to Somalia for Operation Restore Hope. Arriving in Mogadishu Dec. 27, 1992, the battalion set up a main

body site at Baledogle and det sites in other areas. The battalion built camps for U.S. and coalition forces, repaired main supply routes and did rapid runway repairs on airfields throughout the region. NMCB 1 also gave construction aid to schools and orphanages in local villages.

THE BATTALION will resume its deployment in Rota and at det sites in Sicily, Scotland, Crete, and Maryland before returning to Gulfport in July.

Schafer is a public affairs representative for NMCB 1.

What's Buzzing?

By Rear Admiral Melvin H. Chlogioji, CEC, USNR

It is apparent that our military forces can expect further downsizing and streamlining. Obsolete units will be scrapped, and inefficiencies will be eliminated. Some units will resist these changes; some will helplessly watch; others—the Seabees included—will march ahead and make changes from within that will exceed anything imposed by external forces. The ongoing restructuring of the Seabees is a prime example.

LAST YEAR, active duty and reserve Seabees were integrated into two Naval Construction Brigades (NCBs): the 2nd NCB, under Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, and the 3rd NCB, assigned to the Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet. Brigade staffs have active duty and reserve personnel working side-by-side to lead and direct the new organization. Regiments, battalions, and other units, whether active duty or reserve, now report to the two brigades in carrying out their mission of construction support.

SOME UNITS HAVE been phased out to make way for new units and missions, such as the two new Construction Battalion Maintenance Units. Personnel from decommissioned units have been transferred. The Seabees have undergone no reduction in force, and we do not anticipate personnel reductions as we provide increasing amounts of contributory support to the fleet.

GET USED TO that phrase: "contributory support." Our focus for the foreseeable future will be to provide value-added construction at U.S. installations around the world. Commanders appreciate the money-saving work of the Seabees.

In one year, we have dramatically increased the reserves' direct construction support to the fleet, and we expect further increases. We can get work done for the fleets that they themselves could not afford. At the same time, the Seabees train for quick response, as we showed again most recently with Hurricane Andrew and Somalia operations.

WE ARE SEEKING innovative ways to respond to our changing Navy. We are experimenting with a concept whereby some units would be fully prepared for mobilization to a combat zone while others would be ready to provide construction in a non-hostile environment. We are at the forefront of a "flexible drill" test for reserve Seabees, allowing them to go to a project site for three or four weeks at a time, breaking out of the less productive cycle of drill weekends at a reserve center.

Rather than running from the changes facing our Navy, we are running ahead of them. While others may balk at efforts to trim the fat from military budgets, the Seabees lend pure construction muscle to U.S. and allied commanders.

Rear Admiral Chlogioji is the commander of the 2nd Naval Construction Brigade.



Interior View

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DOD approves 15-year retirement for personnel in some skills, grades

By Master Sgt. Linda Lee

WASHINGTON—The Department of Defense (DOD) will offer some military members retirement with as few as 15 years of service.

The option will be available based on grade and skill, said DOD officials. Each service is creating its own program to meet its own needs. About 225,000 people have 15 to 20 years of active duty.

EARLY RETIREES will be paid based on 2.5 percent times years of service times basic pay minus 1 percent for each year of service under 20. For example, an E-6 retiring after 20 years receives \$922 a month. The same E-6 retiring after 18 would get \$813.40. With 15, it's \$627.

Those who retire early must en-

roll in a public service registry. Early retirees in certain jobs will earn military retirement credit. Those who get credit this way will boost their retired pay to a maximum of the 20-year level at age 62. Until reaching 62, they will be paid at the rate they retired at.

DOD AND FEDERAL agencies are deciding what jobs qualify and how the registry will work. Eligible fields may include education, law enforcement, public health and others. Registration is required, but accepting a public service job is not.

Service members who retire early are eligible for all retirement benefits, including commissary and exchange, medical care and the use of morale, welfare and recreation services. Retirees will be subject to recall to

active duty, the same as those who retire with 20 years' service. A tool to reduce manpower voluntarily, the program ends Oct. 1, 1995.

THE SPECIAL Separation Benefit and Voluntary Separation Incentive offer people a chance to leave the military early with pay. These programs are popular with those who have six to 15 years of service, but not with people who have served longer. DOD still has more people with 15 to 20 years of service than it needs, especially in certain grades and skills. The early retirement program will help reduce this number.

Lee is an Army writer for the American Forces Information Service.

NMCB 1 replaces Rota water system

By EO3 Clifton Whyte

ROTA, Spain—Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 1 is renewing Camp Mitchell's water supply system to improve living and working conditions here.

Seabees are replacing 2,500 feet of two-inch water pipe and insulation; replacing or repairing worn radiators and their water lines; and shoveling more than a ton of debris from the site.

The men first had to get to the water pipe. Digging their way through four feet of earth and cement provided the crew a good workout. "I won't even have to go to the gym tonight," said UTCA Joe Wolf.

Whyte is a public affairs representative for NMCB 1.



DIG THIS—Seabees from NMCB 1 dig to reach water pipe they will replace at Camp Mitchell. (Photo by PH2 Ron Heppner)



Seabees begin construction of Southeast Asia huts that will serve as a school in the village of Gazirah, Somalia.

Hope at the end of the road

Like other people in Somalia, the villagers in Gazirah just wanted to return to a normal life. Thanks to the Seabees, they are now a step closer to that goal.

By JO1 Rebecca Fox Newsom

MOGADISHU, Somalia—The road running south from here ends at the top of a hill in the village of Gazirah. There is no trail of the dead and dying in Gazirah. No odor of rotting flesh; no sense of futility. The villagers have suffered their share of loss, but they push on.



A Somali boy "directs" construction of the new school in Gazirah.

IN SOMALIA with Operation Restore Hope, Seabees from the 30th Naval Construction Regiment (NCR) went to Gazirah for a civic action project. "We built seven SEA [Southeast Asia] huts for a school," said Lt. Cmdr. Joseph H. Westerhorstmann, operations officer for Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 40, the unit that did the construction. The huts, elevated about two feet off the ground to guard against weather and wildlife, are built of lumber. Each measures 16-by-32 feet and has screened windows and a tin roof.

NEAR A RUINED building that was once the village clinic and school, the Seabees leveled ground for the new school. Work halted, however, when the builders dug up several unmarked graves. The crew returned to their base camp and left the villagers to relocate the remains in private.

The next morning, Seabees used heavy equipment to push and pull and dig and pile until the sloping, choppy field was a blanket of evenly layered dirt and uprooted scrub.

Seabees were posted around the site to keep curious children out of harm's way.

TO THE SMALL children around him, Dane J. Anderson was a giant. Tall and broad-shouldered, he could have scared the kids away, but they flocked to his gentle manner. "It feels like we're in the Peace Corps," the builder said. "This is the best thing we've done since we've been here."

One boy tried to inch closer to the heavy equipment. "Come here, little man," Anderson called. The boy stopped and looked up. Anderson smiled, and the violator shyly recoiled. Toeing the dirt, the boy looked up again and found his towering overseer still smiling. The boy smiled back.

STEELWORKER Chris B. Cook was encouraged by what he saw in Gazirah. "The kids here are so eager to learn," he said. "I must have written the alphabet 30 times for them. They never get tired of it."

(Continued on page 5)

Hope at the end of the road

(Continued from page 4)

Another morning the children ran behind trucks as the Seabees reported to work. "I still can't figure out how they run in flip-flops," said a young builder. Turning, the Seabee met a grinning boy about eight years old.

"Looters came and took everything. We had no way to stop them."

"How are you?" asked the boy.

"I am fine," said the Seabee, now grinning, too. "How are you?"

"I am fine," mimicked the boy. "How are you?" It would have gone on endlessly if the Seabees permitted it. And sometimes they did.

The school began to take form. Walls sprouted from the flooring. Seabees dangled from rafters. What was once an open field was corralled with plywood, nails and two-by-fours.

BUT ONLY YARDS AWAY lingered the remnants of the not-so-distant past. Before those traces disappeared, Mahubo Mohammed Ali wanted a chronicle of what had been.

A relief worker for the Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS), Ali recorded the rebirth of the village. She turned to the Seabees for help. Two members of the 30th NCR photographed the existing school, little more than a stick hut with a tin roof. Along one corner was a makeshift flagpole flying an American flag.

Children crowded the floor, looking at the single black slate at the front of the room. Ali asked the teacher to gather the children outside for a picture. What started as 20 or so students inside the hut, developed

into 40 or more outside. But none was turned away, for they were all equally a part of Gazirah.

ALI THEN LED the way to the old school near the Seabees' building site. She wanted people to remember what had happened there. Even during the height of the civil war, Ali said, there was no gunfire in Gazirah. But what happened to the school? "Looters came and took everything," she explained—the block walls, the roof, the win-

dows and doors. "There was nothing we could do. We had no way to stop them."

IT TOOK ONLY TWO WEEKS to build the new school. Village elders came to accept the complex on behalf of their people. The seven huts

made an impressive boarding school.

Three huts were jammed with bunks and one was set up as a dining hall. The Seabees built two large grills for a new kitchen. They also built two toilets and a double shower.

ALI PRESENTED the Seabees several colorful straw baskets and a throw rug woven by the young girls of the village. She also presented a small book. In it was the story of Gazirah, illustrated with Polaroid photos of its recent past.

As the Seabees left Gazirah, children followed trucks and humvees down the hill, laughing and calling to their new friends. The Seabees tossed them candy, pens, books—anything they could find in their pockets. The trucks stopped and the Seabees reached down to the tiny hands reaching up, grabbed hold, lifted the children from the ground and gently put them back.

Newsom served with the 30th NCR in Somalia.



Somali children greet Capt. John R. Faunce, commander of the 30th NCR, before dedication of the new school in Gazirah.



Naval Reserve Seabees from NMCB 22 install plumbing for a building in Vietnam. NMCB 22 was one of two reserve Seabee battalions recalled for the war.

Anniversary: *Reserve 'Bees note recall for Vietnam*

By JOC Don Ray

DALLAS—Twenty-five years ago, they fought side-by-side, one of two reserve Naval Mobile Construction Battalions (NMCBs) in Vietnam. After 11 months in the jungle, they came home in July 1969. A few were wounded, but none was killed by enemy action.

They are the Seabee veterans of (NMCB) 22, headquartered at Naval Air Station (NAS) Dallas. Three hundred of them met at NAS Dallas in March for the 25th anniversary of their Vietnam tour and the 51st anniversary of the Seabees. They came from Oklahoma, Arizona, Arkansas, New Mexico, Louisiana, Tennessee, Mississippi and Texas.

Members of the 9th Naval Con-

struction Regiment (NCR) and NMCB 22 updated the veterans on changes in the Seabees. Rear Adm. Roy Dunlap, who commanded the battalion in Vietnam, greeted his fellow vets.

Battalion 22 had just finished annual training in Gulfport, Miss., when recalled and sent to Vietnam. Despite constant enemy action, they built roads, helicopter pads, runways, bridges, housing, and a base camp. The battalion earned the Navy Unit Commendation, Vietnam Service Medal and other honors.

THREE FORMER commanders of the Reserve Naval Construction Force—retired Rear Admirals Dunlap, Jim Mantel, and Bob Esterbrook—spoke. Rear Adm. Melvin H. Chiogioji, commander of the 2nd

Naval Construction Brigade, talked about recent changes and the future of the Seabees. He stressed active and reserve Seabee cooperation.

THE OLDEST battalion veteran was recognized. Chief Ray Hall of Oklahoma City, Okla., turned 80 last August. Mrs. Vickie Merriweather, NMCB 22's Ombudsman, was lauded for her aid to the battalion.

Tara Tagorda, 17, a senior at Nolan High School, Fort Worth, Texas, was the Seabee Ball Queen. She is the daughter of CE3 Jose Tagorda, Jr., a 9th NCR reservist.

NMCB 22 has some 760 men in New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas.

Ray is the public affairs officer at NAS Dallas.

CUCM Patrick L. Race:

New Force Master Chief

By JO2 Rob Purkerson

GULFPORT, Miss.--Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 7's command master chief, CUCM(SCW) Patrick L. Race, has been selected as the next force master chief for the Naval Construction Force.

In 1969, at age 24, Race enlisted in the Navy "to get a new start on life." He had over seven years of construction experience, so he became a builder and went to his first battalion, NMCB 7, then homeported in Davis-

ville, R.I. Race went with his unit to Chu Lai, Vietnam.

"It would get up to 130 degrees there, but the job had to be done," said Race. "The Marines were living worse than animals. We couldn't wait for cool weather to build them camps."

After Vietnam, NMCB 7 was decommissioned and Race went with NMCB 1's Civic Action Team (CAT) to the South Pacific island of Palau.

HIS NEXT ASSIGNMENT was Public Works Center Rota, Spain, and then Naval Support Unit, State Department. He worked as a member of the security maintenance and construction surveillance teams during the historic Strategic Arms Limitation Talks in Geneva in 1974.

Race later spent three and a half years behind the Iron Curtain at the United States Embassy in Warsaw, Poland. He made several trips to

make repairs and renovations at the American Embassy in Moscow. "When the [Moscow] embassy's roof burned, I was part of the 20-man crew sent to repair it," he said.

RACE BECAME an advanced technical training, or "C" school, instructor at Naval Construction Training Center Port Hueneme, Calif. He remained in Port Hueneme as a member of NMCB 3 and returned to CAT duty in Palau as a chief petty officer. He made senior chief during this tour, and then became a member of Construction Battalions Atlantic Detachment Gulfport. After his first Gulfport tour, he went to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii as the assistant officer in charge of Construction Battalion Unit 413. Race returned to Gulfport as command master chief for NMCB 7.

Purkerson is a public affairs representative for NMCB 7.

Kudos

Navy Commendation Medal

CE1 Keith Frederick, Construction Battalion Unit 414

Navy Achievement Medal

BU2 Robert Clements, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 22
SK2 Franklin Hayes, NMCB 22
YN1 Dexter Jackson, NMCB 22
EO1 Milton Miller, NMCB 22
EQCM Douglas Pippen, NMCB 22
BUC Randy Rose, NMCB 22
BU2 Patrick Sanchez-Conroy, NMCB 22
Lt. Alan Watt, NMCB 22

Other Honors

EO1 Richard Baptista, NMCB 4
Sailor of the Year (SOY)
BU1(SCW) Christopher J. Catherman, Naval Reserve Readiness Command 22 Staff SOY
EO1(SCW) Scott F. Hillanbrand, Naval Station Norfolk SOY
BU1 Michael P. Kelly, Pacific Fleet
Seabee of the Year
Ens. Charles A. Lickteig, NMCB 28, direct commission from EA1



SET TO SERVE--CUCM Patrick L. Race, newly selected Naval Construction Force Master Chief, sets a table for Thanksgiving dinner at Camp Shields, Okinawa. (Photo by PH2 Steve Manuel)

Reside with Pride:

Seabees volunteer to help needy Virginia Beach area neighbors

By Lt. Cmdr. Roberta McCorkle

NORFOLK, Va.—Over 50 Seabees helped repair the homes of five Virginia Beach families during the second annual "Reside with Pride" week April 19-23.

Reside with Pride is an effort by Virginia Beach volun-

teers to help needy people keep up their homes and improve the appearance of neighborhoods.

"Because of poor health, disability or financial hardship, the residents have found it nearly impossible to maintain their homes," said BUC Gilbert Digby of the 2nd Naval Construction Brigade (NCB). "We want to do the repairs before there is permanent damage." Digby is a Reside with Pride board member and committee cochairman.

HOMEOWNERS APPLY for aid, and program representatives visit homes to assess work needed. Businesses donate materials, and people from military units, police departments and community groups do the

"Because of poor health, disability or financial hardship, the residents have found it nearly impossible to maintain their homes. We want to do the repairs before there is permanent damage."

repairs. This year, Virginia Beach Reside with Pride improved 10 homes in neighborhoods from the Norfolk city line to the beach front.

Seabees scraped paint and applied fresh coats, shingled roofs, rebuilt porches, poured sidewalks and cut overgrown bushes and trees. They also directed volunteers who raked leaves, removed debris and mowed grass.

"IT'S NICE TO HELP people in our own community," said BU2(DV) William Hargaray, leader of a group from Underwater Construction Team (UCT) 1.

"Doing this kind of thing for the Navy is work," said BU1 Jeffrey Mathews of Construction Battalion Unit (CBU) 411. "But when you can put your heart into it, it's fun." Mathews' crew worked on a home where a grandmother and four children, one severely disabled, live. Part of their work was enlarging an entrance and rebuilding a handicap-access ramp.

Participating Seabee units were Amphibious Construction Battalion 2, Training Services, and UCT 1 from Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek; CBU 411, Naval Air Station (NAS) Norfolk; and CBU 415, NAS Oceana.

McCorkle is a public affairs representative for the 2nd NCB.



EA3 John Kolczynski and EA3 Erik Skodt-Nielsen of CBU 411 start work on a handicap access ramp. (Photo by PH2 John Rucker)



NMCB 7 Seabees work on C-141 aircraft parking apron at Kadena Air Force Base, Okinawa. (Photo by PH2 Steve Manuel)

NMCB 7 ends Pacific tour

By JO2 Rob Purkerson

GULFPORT, Miss.—Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 7 turned over Camp Shields, Okinawa, to NMCB 74, and Camp Covington, Guam, to NMCB 40 on March 15.

On Okinawa, NMCB 7 finished renovating a chapel. Other jobs included the Camp Hansen Tire House; a skateboard ramp at the Camp Foster Youth Center; a C-141 aircraft parking apron at Kadena Air Force Base; and removing the White Beach Naval Facility antenna tower.

On Guam, NMCB 7 worked on 29 K-Span buildings, completing six. They also completed a pre-engineered building and fire-fighting school on Naval Station Guam.

DET ADAK, Alaska, completed a fitness center for Naval Air Station (NAS) Adak and continued road work at the station. Det Yokosuka, Japan, completed a tension membrane structure (TMS) and part of a seawall for Naval Supply Depot Yokosuka.

Det Iwakuni, Japan, built a kennel and an outdoor sports complex at

Marine Corps Air Station, Iwakuni. The sports complex has two lighted softball fields with dugouts, scoreboard, concession stand and parking lot. The job was done 18 months ahead of schedule.

NMCB 7 HAD THREE other dets on mainland Japan: Dets Fuji, Sasebo, and Atsugi. In Sasebo, the battalion renovated the Far East Network (FEN) station, completed a water line and installed lightning rods. Det Atsugi worked on patio canopies for family housing at NAS Atsugi, and built a TMS at the air station. Det Fuji worked on a vehicle washrack before going to Diego Garcia in December. On Diego they began work on a fuel farm and other camp projects.

Det Chinhae, Korea, worked on a construction mechanic shop, barracks, and base laundry. Det Pohang, Korea, built a 750-man galley for the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force. The galley was ready when thousands of Marines went to Korea for Exercise Team Spirit in February and March.

In July, Civic Action Team 0703 joined USS Racine (LST 1191) for a South Pacific cruise and worked on projects in Australia, New Guinea, Tonga, and Guadalcanal. The team's last stop was Fiji.

The battalion added picnic pavilions and the Seabee Coffee House to Camp Shields and cleaned up Camp Covington. Details also spruced up and improved other camps.

NMCB 7's air det was in Guam from August to October helping repair damage from Typhoon Omar.

THE BATTALION WORKED on 117 different projects and completed 80, serving customers throughout the Pacific. "The ability to stretch out and cover so many detail sites was exceptional," said Cmdr. Gary L. Chetlat, battalion commanding officer. "The only way we could do that was by allowing the junior personnel to take charge and perform the job normally accomplished by much more senior people."

Purkerson is a public affairs representative for NMCB 7.

Seabees get training, Army gets fire tower

By Spec. Norinda Rodney

FORT LEE, Va.—Seabees of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 23 are busy training here. When their training is done, Fort Lee will have a new fire training tower.

Fort Lee bought the tower five years ago. Part of it was up, but the unfinished tower was exposed to the weather. The Seabees threw away rusty and rotten parts, ordered new parts, and inspected the already-completed construction.

THE FINISHED TOWER will be three stories high with an office and exterior stairs. Made of metal, it will be used as a "smoke" house. Fire fighters training at the site will practice evacuation by rappelling, as well as search and rescue operations.

"The tower will be used for hot, smokey operations, high-rise situations and sprinkler operations," said Bruce Baker, Fort Lee's fire chief. "This project saves money and manpower for the post and for area fire fighters."

"THE PROJECT enhances the Seabees training and benefits our community. We would not be able to have this otherwise."

At Fort Lee, Seabees have renovated World War II buildings, built access ramps for handicapped people, and erected fire breaks at the noncommissioned officers club.

(Rodney is features editor for The Traveller, weekly newspaper of the Army Combined Arms Support Command.)



BUCN Jonathan Allen checks stress wire for damage. (Photo by Spec. Norinda Rodney)



'Major Dad' visits Seabees

Gerald McRaney, star of the TV series "Major Dad," visited Seabees during a USO tour in Somalia. McRaney had lunch with Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 40 and posed for pictures. McRaney toured the Seabee camp and paused to work out at the camp's homemade gym. "I've been around Seabees all my life," said McRaney, who grew up in Gulfport, Miss., where Atlantic Fleet Seabees are homeported. *(Submitted by JO1 Mark Wallace, NMCB 40.)*

NMCB 133 gets military training

By JO1 Tom Logan

GULFPORT, Miss.—YNSN Mark VanWeelden had a blast during Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133's fire team training—at least until the ammo ran out. To many, fire team training was the most enjoyable part of block training at Camp Shelby, Miss.

Land navigation training was the highlight for EO3 Manny Calderon, YNSN Shawn Collier and YN3 Phillip Actkins. "We had great weather for tromping around in the woods," Calderon said. "We learned the proper use of field patrols, camouflage, foxhole digging, first aid procedures and convoy escorting."

Actkins' and Collier's land navigation team ranked first out of eight teams. "This meant a lot to me because we're yeomen and not Seabees," Actkins said. "No one expected 'office types' to excel in the field."

MS1 Dennis Grillot thought the land navigation course was interesting but unrelated to his role in the battalion. "Reading a compass and plotting grid squares on a map are good skills to have, but our mission is perimeter defense and Marines do the land navigation," he said.

BU1 "Bear" Blaylock, a seven-time block training veteran, reacquainted himself with the MK-19 rapid fire grenade launcher which fires 300 40mm grenades per minute.

Logan is a public affairs representative for NMCB 133.



Seabees of NMCB 133 finish a concrete slab for a dog kennel to be used by the Harrison County, Miss., Humane Society.

Going to the dogs

An animal shelter must destroy 125 animals a day for lack of space and money. Seabees couldn't give the money, but they did increase the space.

By JO1 Tom Logan

GULFPORT, Miss.—Seabees recently helped relieve crowding at a Humane Society animal shelter here.

Members of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133 poured a 16-by-60-foot concrete slab for a dog kennel and built a dog bath for the Harrison County Humane Society. The slab is used as cage flooring for dogs held for rabies observation or pending court cases.

"When the city or county prosecutes a pet owner for mistreatment, we keep the animals until the court case is resolved," said Society executive director Aileene Maldonado.

"IT'S ALSO STANDARD to deflea and detick incoming animals with a bath. Before the Seabees built the concrete-encased bathtub, we used loose tubs on a dirt foundation."

"We took in 9,905 animals last year and only about 3,000 were adopted," Maldonado said. "The other 6,905 were put to death. We took in 1,084 animals in January, and by June we expect this number to increase to 1,600 per month."

MALDONADO MUST decide which animals will live and die at the shelter. "We have to destroy about 125 dogs and cats every day. We don't have the room or the money to keep them more than five days, but once in awhile, I'll extend the life of an exceptionally healthy or beautiful animal a few days in hopes that the owner will call us," she said.

"I CAN'T DO the injections anymore," Maldonado said. "I leave that completely to the euthanasia technician now. Imagine a happy, playful dog sitting on a table, wagging its tail in excitement as it tries to lick your face and hands."

"Instead of playing, though, you inject the dog with a lethal drug, and within a few moments, it's dead. How does that mental image make you feel? That's why I don't give injections anymore."

Maldonado said, "The Seabees did an excellent job for us. If it hadn't been for them, I don't know what we would have done."

(Logan is a public affairs representative for NMCB 133.)

OCEAN VENTURE '93

In Puerto Rico, Seabees helped pave the way for an exercise involving armed forces from three nations.

By JO1 Paul Russo

CAMP MOSCRIP, Puerto Rico—Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 5 supported Ocean Venture '93 at Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico and on the nearby island of Vieques in May.

Conducted by the U.S. Atlantic Fleet, Ocean Venture was a joint exercise involving more than 20,500 U.S. troops and forces from the United Kingdom and the Netherlands. Most of the exercise took place at Roosevelt Roads, Vieques, and other sites around Puerto Rico.

SIXTY-FIVE SEABEES on Vieques provided most of the battalion's support to the exercise. The Seabees lived at Camp Garcia in the northern part of the island and at the Naval Support Detachment in the southern area.

A detachment cleared a zone for

an Army and Marine Corps air drop. Working six days a week for three weeks, Seabees used dozers, scrapers and other earth-moving equipment to prepare the area in time for the exercise.

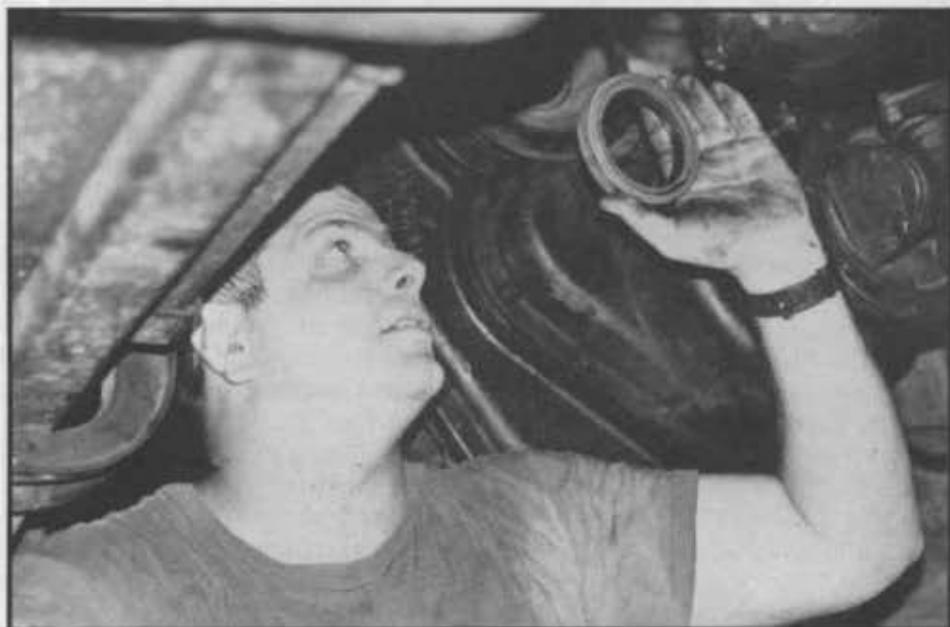
'BEES BUILT a washrack for exercise participants' vehicles and Seabee construction equipment. Seabees also repaired dirt roads used during the exercise. At Camp Moscrip, NMCB 5's galley crew cooked hot meals for 500 Marines. Visiting troops used laundry and shower facilities in the camp.

The exercise included airborne, amphibious, and helicopter assaults and follow-on operations ashore.

NMCB 5 is deployed to Puerto Rico, with detachments throughout the Caribbean.

Russo is a public affairs representative for NMCB 5

Photos by PH2 Larry L. Ciullo



A construction mechanic from NMCB 5 replaces a transmission seal on a dump truck at Camp Moscrip, Puerto Rico.



As part of Ocean Venture '93, Seabees built a washrack. The annual exercise tests the ability of



Seabees set reinforcement for boathouse at Station Roosevelt Roads. The boathouse



...t to Pineros Island for training with a SEAL team.
S. forces in a joint/combined operation.



Steelworker welds grating for a street drain for wash rack being
constructed on Vieques, Puerto Rico.



...walls at Naval many projects Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 5
was one of the worked on during Ocean Venture '93.



An equipment operator grades a
new enlisted volleyball court.

NMCB 4 ends Caribbean tour

By JO1 Mark Everts

PORT HUENEME, Calif.—After seven months in the Caribbean, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 4 has returned to Construction Battalion Center Port Hueneme, Calif.

While deployed, the battalion sent a 160-man air detachment to repair South Florida schools hit by Hurricane Andrew.

THE SEABEES worked on five major projects at Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico. They added 1,000 square feet to the post office, completed a 40-by-100-foot warehouse, and built a concrete building for a generator. The 'Bees also worked on a building project at the SEAL (Sea-Air-Land) camp.

The largest project was a concrete boathouse taken over from NMCB 74 at the halfway mark and given to NMCB 5 at 70 percent done.

Detail Bermuda worked on four projects. Gym repairs were completed. Fences were repaired. Fuel laboratory additions and alterations to the personnel support building were started and nearly completed.

THE GUANTANAMO Bay, Cuba, detail completed paint booth, SEA (Southeast Asia) hut and tank crossing construction. Detail Antigua re-conditioned a building.

The Andros detail worked on two projects, a concrete block house and a torpedo post run. Both projects were turned over to NMCB 2 until NMCB 5 can take over.

Seabees drilled water wells in Honduras and then went to Colombia where they worked with Colombian Marines building a base for local counternarcotics forces.

Everts is a public affairs representative for NMCB 4.



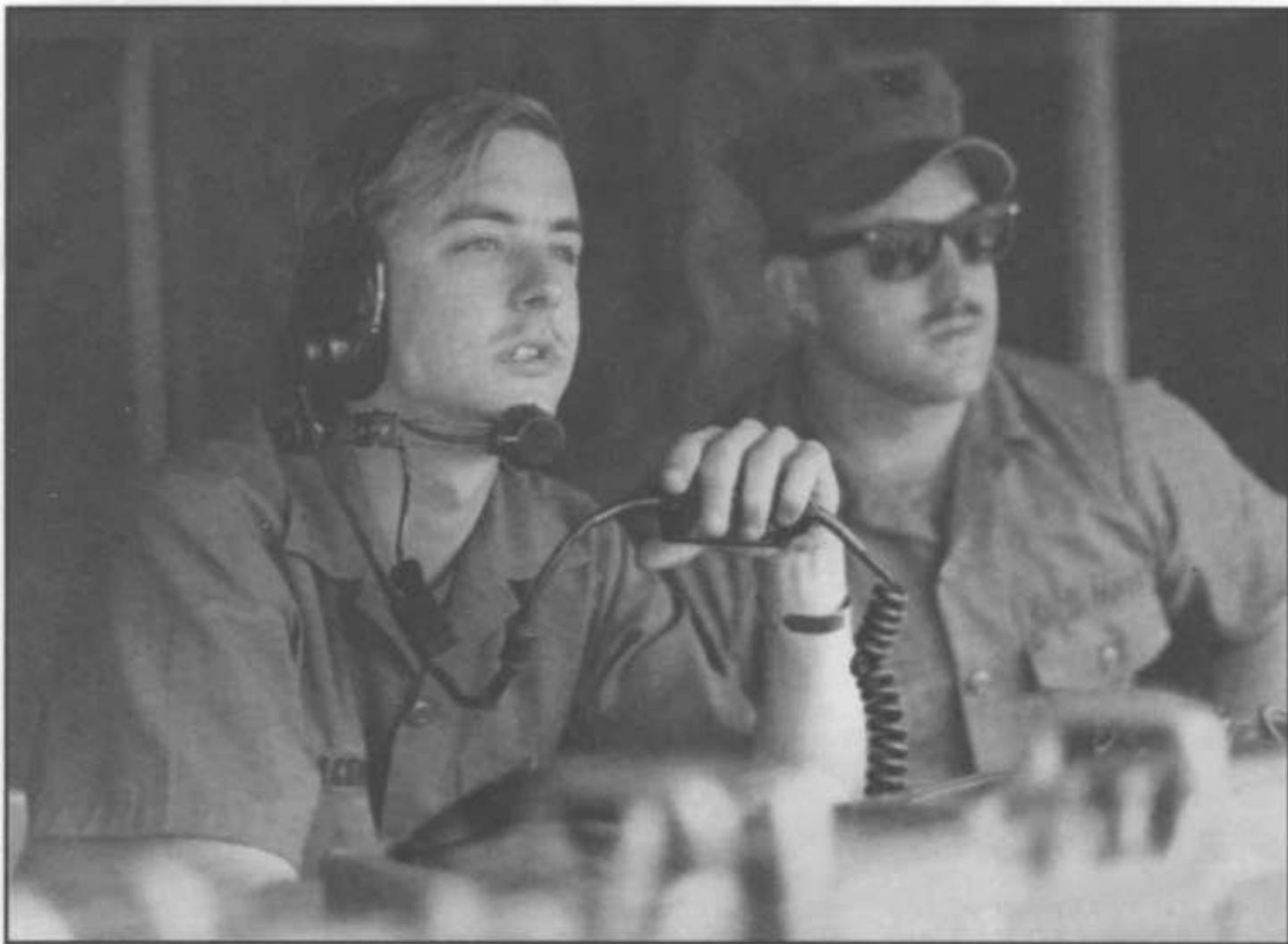
Career Day

CAMP MOSCRIP, Puerto Rico—The Class of 1997 got a look at Seabee job possibilities during a recent field trip to Camp Moscrip.

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 4 had a "Career Day" for students of Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico, Middle School. "The purpose of Career Day was to give students a broader look at what people do for a living," said science teacher Nancy Lee.

NMCB 4 skipper Cmdr. John Dunbar explained the construction and defense missions of the Seabees. The students then toured the boathouse being built by the battalion at Naval Station Roosevelt Roads.

Several of the young women who signed on for the tour were surprised about job opportunities for women in the Navy and especially in the Seabees. (Submitted by JO1 Mark Everts)



CMCA Tom Blackburn checks field phone connections from a switchboard during communications training.

While in homeport, NMCB 133 learns the ropes--or is it the wires?

Story and photos by
JO1 Tom Logan

GULFPORT, Miss.—The "Kangroos" of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133 recently finished the Field Radio Operator Course (FROC) and Field Wireman Course (WIRE) here.

FROC shows Seabees how to set up antennas and test and operate field radios. WIRE teaches installation and maintenance of wire-based communication systems in semi-permanent command posts.

BU3 SHANNON Seaton ran the wire-based telephone switchboard in the command communications tent. "The biggest challenge is getting all the phones wired and then testing the connections," he said.

BU2 Edgar Walker, a three-year battalion veteran, was a first-timer at FROC and WIRE. "The training itself is a little long, but communications during a crisis is definitely one of those need-to-know skills."

Logan is a public affairs representative for NMCB 133.



UTCN David Guirey wires connection panel for field phones.

News to Use

VA HANDBOOK—The 1993 edition of "Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents" is now available.

The 105-page Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) handbook describes federal benefits such as medical care, education, disability compensation, pension, life insurance, home loans, vocational rehabilitation and burial assistance. It also explains eligibility and claims procedures.

The addresses and phone numbers of all VA offices, medical centers, national cemeteries, Vietnam veterans counseling centers and other VA facilities are listed by state. The handbook also includes sections on veterans benefits administered by other federal agencies.

To order the handbook, request GPO Stock Number 051-000-00-200-8 from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402, and enclose a check or money order for \$3.25 per copy. To order with Visa or MasterCard, phone (202) 783-3238. *(Story by VA)*

LODGE DIRECTORY—The new Navy Lodge Directory includes information on 40 Navy Lodges worldwide and gives detailed directions from major cities and highways. Maps furnish on-base directions, and a pullout map shows the location of Navy Lodges around the world.

Reservations may be made by calling 1-800-NAVY-INN. The new directory can be ordered from this number as well. *(Story by Navy Exchange Service Command)*

CIVVIES AUTHORIZED—Navy personnel on Air Mobility Command (AMC) flights may now wear civilian clothing. The change does not apply to flights originated by the Navy or Marine Corps, where uniform regulations are still in effect.

Tank tops, T-shirts as outer garments, shorts, sandals, or revealing, soiled or torn clothes are unauthorized. An upcoming change to Navy Uniform Regulations will reflect this change in policy. *(Story by Bureau of Naval Personnel public affairs office)*

GEOGRAPHIC BACHELORS—The Bureau of Naval Personnel (BUPERS) estimates that more than 35,000 Navy people are in permanent assignments with their immediate families living elsewhere. In the past, bachelor quarters (BQs) kept geographic bachelors on a space-available basis. Geo bachelors could be moved if space were needed for personnel of higher priority.

Under new policy, geographic bachelors with a true hardship that prevents them from living with their families will be berthed on a space-required basis, protected from displacement for their whole tour.

Other geographic bachelors may also benefit from the new policy. Geographic bachelor policy review boards will be set up in "critical housing areas" to review berthing applications.

Other elements of the new policy:

- Geographic bachelors approved by a review board will be berthed on a space-required basis for 180 days to give them time to find permanent housing with the help of the local housing referral office. They can request reevaluation at the end of the 180 days if berthing is still needed.

- Geographic bachelors not in critical housing areas, without proven hardship, or not approved by a review board for space-required berthing will still be eligible for space-available berthing, but they must vacate for higher-priority personnel.

- All geographic bachelors may be berthed at less than the minimum "adequacy" standards for their pay-grade.

- Geographic bachelors may be charged only for optional services such as housekeeping, linen and laundry. Rent cannot be charged. *(Story by BUPERS public affairs)*

Rebuilt auto may 'total' your budget

Cars rebuilt after being "totaled" in a crash are being sold as undamaged on the used car market, according to a National Highway Traffic Safety Administration advisory. Some dealers are also selling cars built from salvaged parts of crashed cars as undamaged.

In either case, these rebuilt cars may not be safe to operate. Used car buyers should seek an independent inspection from a reliable mechanic. Good mechanics can easily spot cars that have been in a severe crash or rebuilt from parts of other cars.

All but seven states require the word "salvaged" on the titles of severely damaged vehicles. Some dealers retittle damaged cars in states that don't require the "salvaged" designation.

The National Motor Vehicle Title Information System will provide an instant check on whether a car has been rebuilt. The system should be in place by 1996. *(American Forces Information Service)*



Would you vote for this man? Reserve Seabee Donnie Cusick prepares for a gig as a Ross Perot lookalike.

Ross Perot lookalike

Reserve Seabee Donnie Cusick has fun and makes a few bucks imitating the well-known presidential candidate.

IN A NEW ORLEANS piano bar, a woman grabbed Donnie Cusick and promised to vote for him for president. "Everyone in the place was clapping and hollering," Cusick said. "I was embarrassed."

It wasn't the first time someone mistook Cusick, an equipment operator in the Naval Reserve, for presidential candidate Ross Perot. As the 1992 presidential campaign wore on, Cusick got a lot of attention from strangers who thought he was running for president. So Cusick decided to cash in on his looks, and now does ads and other gigs as a Ross Perot lookalike.

Recalled to active duty with the 1st Naval Construction Brigade during Operation Desert Storm, EO1 Cusick is now assigned to the 1st Naval Construction Regiment. Although he picks up a few bucks as a Perot lookalike, he said there is one big difference between him and the real Perot: "He is a millionaire from Texas, and I'm a \$14-an-hour truck driver from South Dakota."



A reserve equipment operator, Cusick was recalled to active duty during Operation Desert Storm. He is a truck driver in civilian life.

From the ArchIve

Seabee recalls first Operation Deep Freeze

By JO3 Gary L. Boucher

IN 1954, scientists were planning an International Geophysical Year to conduct research all over the world. No research was being done on Antarctica, so the United States volunteered to build research facilities there. Seabees were to head the expedition.

In December 1955, 91 Seabees and two civilians began the first "Operation Deep Freeze." Among them was a young chief builder, Charles "CB" Bevilacqua. "At first, we had nothing but tents," he said. "They gave us little protection." The wooden pegs used to secure the

tents could not be easily driven into the hard ice and snow. The men ate nothing but stew and beans and worked until exhausted each day.

In time, the Seabees moved into a Quonset hut with a canvas roof. "I remember sleeping on that hard, cold floor, and thinking that it felt like I was in the best hotel in the world," Bevilacqua recalls.

THE WORKERS entertained themselves with movies and stage acts. "Many of the movies had sound problems, so we improvised by filling in dialogues of our own," Bevilacqua said.

After building a base at McMurdo Sound, the Seabees moved inland to what was to become South Pole Station. They flew in a small prop plane with skis in place of wheels. The aircraft could not land at the site. "We had to jump out of the plane as it slid along the ice at about 40 miles per hour," Bevilacqua said. "As we were jumping out, the plane was bouncing off the uneven snow."

The team had many problems setting up the second base. Before the deployment, supplies going to Davisville, R.I., were damaged in a train accident. "When we set up the first base, we used everything that wasn't damaged and set aside the bad equipment and supplies," Bevilacqua said. "When we set up the camp at South Pole Station, we had nothing left to use except damaged stuff." They were able to adapt the equipment to fit their needs. "We spent many nights working on the equipment. For every part we couldn't fix or replace, we made a new one out of something else."

AMONG THE HARDSHIPS Bevilacqua suffered, perhaps the most tragic was the death of his friend, Petty Officer Richard T. Williams. "We were crossing the ice at McMurdo Sound. I was walking beside a tractor and giving it guidance when suddenly the ice broke and the tractor plunged through, taking me with it. I swam through the icy water and somehow found my way to the surface and started calling for 'Willy.' I remember pushing chunks of ice out of my way and searching for him among the debris floating up. He never surfaced." Williams was one of two Seabees lost during Operation Deep Freeze.

Despite hardships and tragedies, the Seabees completed the mission and set sail for home in March 1957.

Boucher is assistant editor of The Beeline.



COOL DUDES--Seabees survey icy Antarctica during Operation Deep Freeze in 1955. The original Deep Freeze crew built the facilities used by later Deep Freeze deployments.

Fitness fun for Four

Story and photos by
JO1 Mark Everts

CAMP MOSCRIP, Puerto Rico—Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 4 kept fit here and had fun doing it.

Over the years, the battalion endured grueling rounds of push-ups, sit-ups, calisthenics and running, doing the same routine three times a week. It was hard to keep the men enthusiastic. NMCB 4's commanding officer, Cmdr. John Dunbar, felt the battalion needed a change, so he started a program to let each platoon do other types of exercises once a week.

"I USED TO DREAD coming to PT [physical training] knowing about the battalion's routine schedule," said SW2 Fernando Banda. "Now, I look forward to the day my platoon can do other forms of exercise, with my fa-

vorites being aerobics and weight lifting."

Seabees now play softball, basketball, volleyball, lift weights, do aerobics, modifying the normal PT routine. The new fitness program has been credited with a decrease in "the afternoon slump" and an increase in stamina.

"THE AEROBIC class seems to be the most popular activity among many of the Seabees," said Lt. Greg McClellan. "It provides a person a change, as well as a chance for an overall body conditioning program that helps with flexibility, strength, and endurance."

Teaching aerobics is Lt. j.g. Karla Meyers from Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico. According to Meyers, the 45-minute class provides

an intense, thorough workout.

The disbursing officer at the base personnel support detachment, Meyers volunteers her time to instruct the Seabees. "I feel that people who do aerobics or other types of exercise

"I used to dread coming to PT. Now, I look forward to the day my platoon can do other forms of exercise, with my favorites being aerobics and weight lifting."

usually feel better about themselves and it builds up their self-confidence," she said. "Daily exercise and eating right are steps in building a healthier body."

Everts is a public affairs representative for NMCB 4.



Lt. j.g. Karla Meyers leads the Seabees of NMCB 4 through a strenuous aerobic workout.



Pumping iron in the weight room are SW2 Fernando Banda (center) and UTCS Charles Evans (left) as part of their physical training. Weight lifting was one of several fitness options used by NMCB 4 in Puerto Rico.

Forced retirements slated

The budget ax may soon fall for many chief, senior chief and master chief petty officers with 19 or more years of service. The number of CPOs to be forced out will depend on voluntary retirements.

WASHINGTON—The Navy is planning selective early retirement (SER) boards to consider E-7s, E-8s and E-9s who will have 19 or more years of active service by July 31, 1993. SERs are needed for the Navy to stay within limits of E-8s and E-9s allowed in the service.

The master chief petty officer board will convene at the Bureau of Naval Personnel (BUPERS) Sept. 7, 1993. A separate board will convene

Nov. 3 for chiefs and senior chiefs.

SER boards in 1992 picked 700 E-7 through E-9 personnel for retirement or transfer to the Fleet Reserve. SER boards have also met for the past three years to select officers for early retirement.

Several changes have been made in this year's enlisted boards:

•**THE NUMBER** of people considered will be larger, so selection

percentages will be lower. This year's boards will consider almost all USN and USNR E-7, E-8 and E-9 personnel with one year in rate and 19 or more years of service.

•**THE TIMING IS** different from last year to permit the E-7 and E-8 board to consider the latest evaluations. E-7 and E-8 evals are due Sept. 30; the board convenes Nov. 3.

•**Change of station (PCS)** moves for board-eligible personnel will be restricted. For example, master chiefs will have a temporary hold on moves starting Sept. 1.

•**FY-94 BOARDS** will compare records based on ratings and closed-loop NECs rather than comparing everyone in the same paygrade.

•**FY-94 selectees** will retire or transfer to the Fleet Reserve by July 31, 1994, a month later than in 1993.

The number picked for early retirement will depend on voluntary retirements approved.

EXEMPTED FROM SER boards are those who have requested transfer to the Fleet Reserve effective on or before Sept. 30, 1994; those who reach high year tenure during FY-94; Naval Reserve canvasser recruiters; TAR (Training and Administration of the Reserve) personnel; and selectees for advancement.

Those going before the boards should ensure their microfiche records and enlisted summary records are accurate and up-to-date.

Story by BUPERS public affairs.



"We did, and we do"

On most quarterdecks, the only vows heard are reenlistment oaths. But at Navy and Marine Corps Reserve Center Denver, Colo., EO2 George Frasier of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 17 and his wife, Mary, renewed wedding vows to celebrate their 25th anniversary. Capt. Robert Hubbard read the vows as Frazier's family looked on. (Submitted by Cmdr. Lori Jeffrey)

Short Bursts

LODGE LAUDED—The Navy Lodge at Construction Battalion Center Port Hueneme, Calif., has been selected as a winner of the Edward E. Carlson Award for Navy Lodge excellence.

The Port Hueneme lodge won in the small category for lodges with up to 26 units. Port Hueneme's lodge has 22 units and is managed by Altherah Sweeney, under the guidance of officer in charge Lt. Cmdr. Richard D. Campbell. This was the second year in a row that the Port Hueneme lodge received this honor.

The Carlson Award Program recognizes excellence in the Navy Lodge Program, which operates as part of the Navy Exchange System. Carlson served on the Secretary of the Navy's Exchange System Advisory Committee from 1965 to 1989. President of Westin Hotels for many years, Carlson provided guidance and leadership to the Navy Lodge Program.

Other award winners were Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Fla., and Naval Submarine Base New London, Conn. *(Courtesy of Navy Exchange Service Command)*

SEABEE CADETS—Seabees are running the Sea Cadet program in Lehigh Valley, Penn. The 'Bees volunteer an average of 10 to 15 hours a week to support and run this program designed to teach youngsters ages 11 to 17 about the Navy.

The Seabees are UT2 Gerald Lebeduik of Construction Battalion Hospital Unit 20; BU2 James Mack and BU2 David Sharp of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 21; and retired SW1 Don Bachert. BUC Bernard Grabusky of the Lehigh Valley Naval Reserve Center has also given a large amount of personal time to the Sea Cadets.

SNOWED UNDER—Dignitaries braved one of the worst snowstorms in history to place a wreath during the annual Seabee Memorial Service.

Retired, reserve and active duty Civil Engineer Corps officers and Seabees held the service March 13 at the Seabee Memorial in Washington despite "the Blizzard of '93." Representatives of the Seabee Veterans of America joined current Seabees at the ceremony. *(Courtesy of public affairs office, Naval Facilities Engineering Command)*

HOT RUNNERS—Plans are afoot for the 18th annual Marine Corps Marathon in Washington.

To join the Seabee team at the October race, contact Lt. Cmdr. Barbara Sisson, 8521 Oak Chase Circle, Fairfax Station, VA, 22039. Phone numbers are (703) 690-2094 (home) and (202) 586-4547 (work).

HOME BODIES—Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 3 recently helped repair a home for disabled people.

Sandpiper Manor Guest Home, an Oxnard, Calif., resident care facility, was so run down it threatened the semi-independent lifestyle of its residents. Catrina Boldin, Sandpiper Manor social worker, called Construction Battalion Center Port Hueneme, Calif., for volunteers to help with repairs.

The guest home consists of 15 apartments, each with three bedrooms, a bathroom and central living room. Working on Saturdays, the NMCB 3 volunteers fixed wiring problems and repaired entries and closet doors. The Seabees also painted two apartments, removed trash, cut grass, edged sidewalks and trimmed hedges. *(By Lt. Michael Grode, NMCB 3)*





DKC Jesse Afable advances toward enemy position during Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 3 field exercise.



Lt. Marshall Sykes (left) and CEC Jamie Bush discuss convoy routes during the officers' and chief petty officers' minifield exercise.

NMCB 3 officers and chiefs undergo minifield exercise

By Lt. Michael Grode

PORT HUENEME, Calif.—Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 3 recently took part in a minifield exercise (mini-FEX) at Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif. NMCB 3 officers and chiefs joined counterparts from Construction Battalion Unit (CBU) 406 for the five-day exercise.

WOMEN PARTICIPATED in all phases of the mini-FEX. Lt. j.g. Kelly VanDyke, officer in charge of CBU 406, and two women from the 31st Naval Construction Regiment helped plan and execute the exercise.

The mini-FEX prepared attendees for upcoming field exercises. Officers and chiefs had two weeks of classroom military training before deploying for the mini-FEX.

NEXT CAME the chance to use the classroom knowledge in battlefield scenarios. A tactical vehicle convoy and day/night patrols were the highlights of the mini-FEX. The most difficult decision was who would carry and operate the "lightweight" PRC 77 radio.

Grode is the public affairs officer for NMCB 3.

Snow? No problem!

'Bees battle winter storm

By Lt. Connie W. Wells

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C.—When the worst snowstorm in recent history hit the Southeast in March, the Seabees of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 24 were reporting to Camp Lejeune for their annual training (AT). Downed trees blocked roads. Power was lost. The Seabees went to work.

CM2 David West was going to his barracks when a tree fell behind him. He got help and moved that tree and others to the side of the road. When the storm disrupted power throughout the area, Seabees worked through the night installing emergency generators.

DURING THEIR two-week AT, NMCB 24 rehabilitated a building, built weapons cleaning shelters, poured concrete pads and built roads. Seabees not on construction projects went to classes during the first week. Marines taught military skills such as patrolling and defensive fighting. The Seabees qualified on M-16 rifles and .45-caliber pistols and practiced firing other weapons.

A field exercise the second week included a march into an area where NMCB 24 set up camp and defensive positions. They stood watch through

cold, rainy nights, repelling Marine aggressors trying to break through the lines.

NMCB 24 WAS the first of four 3rd Naval Construction Regiment units to go to Camp Lejeune for military skills training and construction. Cmdr. R.K. Alexander, battalion

commanding officer, said, "Our companies only get together once or twice a year. Setting up that small unit leadership is probably the best thing we could do on this type AT."

Wells served as a public affairs representative for NMCB 24 during the battalion's AT.



A Seabee from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 24 sights an AT-4 anti-tank weapon during annual training at Camp Lejeune, N.C. NMCB 24 began its annual training the same day a winter storm hit the camp.

Beeline off to a good start; stories and photos still needed

By JOCS Tim Padgett

Thanks to all of you who made the first three issues of *The Beeline* such a success. It's great to know that so many people, from admiral to constructionman recruit, like the new magazine.

We couldn't publish *The Beeline* without the writers and photographers who send us material. Many thanks to these hard-working folks.

We have a continuing need for stories and photos by, for and about Seabees. Remember to send action photos, rather than posed shots. And be sure to put the photo caption on a label firmly affixed to the back of the photo. This keeps the captions from being lost in the large piles of material we receive.

(Padgett is editor of The Beeline.)

8th Regiment relocates

By EACN Gary Dunning

COLUMBUS, Ohio—The 8th Naval Construction Regiment (NCR) headquarters was recently moved from Philadelphia to the Defense Construction Supply Center (DCSC) here.

Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 20 turned a dark, dingy DCSC warehouse into office spaces and conference rooms for the regiment. Capt. John Stegmiller, a former executive officer of NMCB 20, designed the new headquarters.

The DCSC is a 570-acre site with 121 buildings and over 10 million square feet of storage area. As part of the Defense Logistics Agency, it procures, stores and ships material and equipment for the Department of Defense. The 8th NCR plans to lend construction support to the DCSC.

Dunning is a public affairs representative for NMCB 20.

Backblast



"They went that way--an' they're doin' the tango!"

Detailers say base closures won't affect current tours

Detailers at the Bureau of Naval Personnel (BUPERS) are assuring callers that proposals to close, realign or move commands are unlikely to affect sailors in their present assignments or those with orders in hand.

Final decisions on the closings are not expected until October or November. Closures or realignments

may take up to six years to complete.

BUPERS officials do not anticipate cancelling orders as a result of base closure and realignment proposals. If changes are necessary later, Russell said people will be informed well in advance.

"When a ship or squadron decommissions or changes homeport, emphasis is put on taking care of

affected personnel and their families," said Cmdr. Bob Hillery, head of the Sea Special Programs Branch. "Manning is reduced gradually as people depart at planned rotation date. Similar procedures will be followed when bases are closed."

Story by BUPERS public affairs.

The Beeline

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