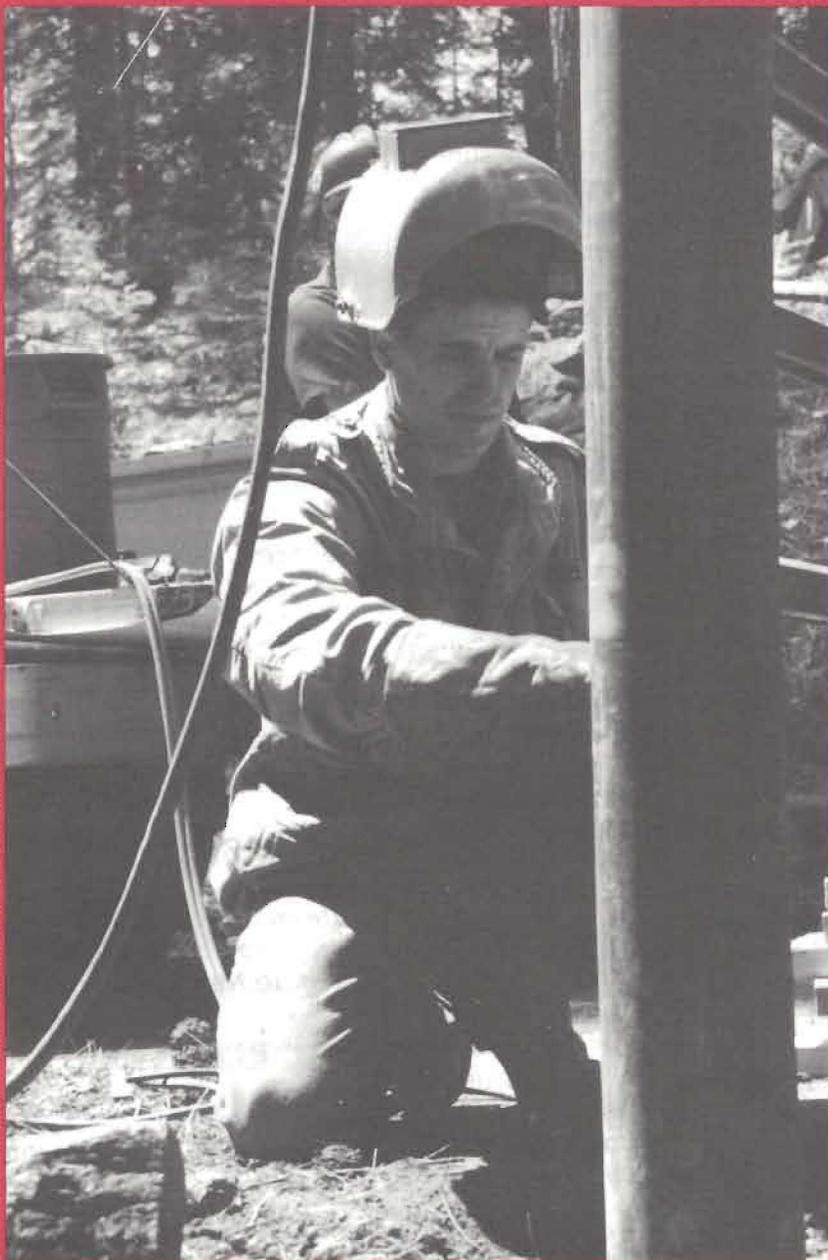


Beeline



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July-August 1993



SW3 Todd Phillips of Construction Battalion Unit 416 fabricates a gate post at Camp Cedarbrook, Calif. The Alameda, Calif., Seabees performed maintenance and repairs in April to prepare the Boy Scout Camp, located in the foothills of the Sierras, for the summer camping season. Story on page 12.

Fighting Forty leaves Somalia, returns to Guam

By JO1 Mark Wallace

PORT HUENEME, Calif.—In August 1990, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 40 prepared for a normal deployment to Guam. Before the entire battalion reached the island, they got orders to redeploy to Saudi Arabia after Iraq invaded Kuwait.

In December 1992, NMCB 40 again prepared to deploy to Guam. Before its advance party got off the ground, the battalion received a warning order to stand by to redeploy to Somalia to support coalition forces in Operation Restore Hope.

In Somalia, "Fighting Forty" cleared vegetation from airfields at eight relief sites. Seabees installed runway lights, repaired a 100-by-900-foot taxiway, and repaired and maintained five miles of road around the Mogadishu Airport.

They laid more than 306,000 square feet of AM-2 matting, setting up a parking apron for the Royal New Zealand Air Force; runway turn-arounds; and helicopter landing pads for the American Embassy, the Army medical evacuation hospital, district communications office, and ammunition supply points.

To prepare the port at Mogadishu for supplies and equipment, the Seabees initiated the "Clean Port Operation." This included moving junk vehicles, broken equipment, garbage and old shipping containers,

(Continued on page 5)

What's Buzzing?

[Editor's Note: This column provides a forum for leaders of all ranks to address Seabees everywhere. Send input to Editor, The Beeline, 5000 Marvin Shields Blvd., CBC Gulfport, MS 39501-5016.]

By CUCM(SW) Jack Lancour

The Seabees of today continue to build on the proud heritage of our predecessors.

Through the years, the Seabees, whether on the Pacific Islands or the coasts of Europe and Korea, in the jungles of Vietnam, in remote villages of Thailand, Chile, and the Central African Republic, or at disaster areas worldwide, have always demonstrated the finest of American traits, serving the nation and helping our fellow man.

As Marine Gen. A.A. Vandergriff said during World War II, "I don't know how we could have gotten along without the Seabees."

Active/reserve integration is alive and well throughout the Naval Construction Force (NCF). It's been a little over a year since the 2nd and 3rd Naval Construction Brigades evolved, and all indications are that the merger is going well. The Seabees are showing everyone that the "One Navy" concept is more than just a slogan. The integration process has caused many people on both sides to work extremely hard to make it a success. I think this is a great opportunity for all of us to learn more

about each other and to make the Seabees a much better organization. I urge you all to give the integration a chance, and promise that if you do, your knowledge and career will be enhanced by it.

TQL—is this just a new abbreviation for all of us to store in our subconscious with all of the thousands of others that the Navy uses, or is this new style of management here to stay?

Total Quality Leadership (TQL) appears to be the real thing. It's the leadership/management tool that will lead the Navy into the 21st century. I urge all of you to study it, learn what it can do for you and your organization, become part of the decision-making process. The NCF is using TQL daily to make changes that will help us forge the future for the next generation of Seabees.

Drawdown is the buzz word for the military these days. However, it looks like the Seabees are in pretty good shape. As the Chief of Naval Civil Engineers has said, "Everywhere I go, I'm asked for more Seabees." The word is out: Seabees get the job done, on time, in a professional manner. We can go anywhere, any time, and do any job. So be proud of who you are and what you've done, and help carry the "Can Do" spirit well into the 21st century.

Lancour is the command master chief for the 20th Naval Construction Regiment.



Interior View

DRUG FIGHTERS

NMCB 4 builds base for Colombian counternarcotics forces. Page 3.

MEATY PROJECT

Seabees turn a meat locker into a post office. Page 4.

SLEEPLESS

Seabees help provide set for new movie. Page 12.

COBRA GOLD

NMCB 74 air detachment builds school facilities in Thailand. Page 13.

RUSSIAN ESCORT

Reserve Seabee helps with media liaison during Russian visit to New York. Page 15.

BLACK BELT

UCT 1 Seabee keeps fit by swimming, biking—and throwing people around. Page 16.

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Colombian Marines patrol the Guaviare River near a newly constructed riverine operations camp at San Jose del Guaviare, Colombia. (Photo by Lt. j.g. Laura C. Moore)

'Bees build antidrug base in Colombia

By Daryl C. Smith

NORFOLK, Va.—A ribbon-cutting ceremony June 10 at San Jose del Guaviare, Colombia, marked the completion of a riverine counternarcotics base camp built there by Seabees. The nine-month construction project was requested by the Colombian government.

From this remote facility southeast of Bogota, Colombian Marines patrol jungle rivers to find and stop illegal drug traffic.

The Seabees began working on the base Sept. 28, 1992, when 45 men from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 4 arrived. "The site was nothing but jungle," said Lt. Eduard Gonzalez, the 2nd Naval Con-

struction Brigade's special operations officer for Latin America. "This was a tough environment to work in, and these Seabees did it for nine months while living in tents. They did an incredible amount of work."

The new base provides modern maintenance and repair facilities for the Colombian forces. Seabees built a concrete boat ramp; 13 barracks; three shower and toilet facilities; a galley; a dispensary; and two large maintenance and storage buildings. They also drilled a water well, erected four water tanks and installed the base electrical system. With the help of two U.S. Marines, the Seabees built the perimeter security system.

The Colombian Marines con-

verted their old barracks into a primary school. Colombian military volunteers act as teachers.

After working on the project for six months, NMCB 4 returned to its homeport at Port Hueneme, Calif. It was replaced March 14 by 38 Seabees from NMCB 5.

"The Seabees are becoming the unit of choice in this area because nobody can do the work as well as we do," said Gonzalez. "We're a small force, and we support ourselves. What these guys did in Colombia was quite an achievement."

Smith is the deputy public affairs officer for the 2nd Naval Construction Brigade.

Reserve Seabees train with undersea warfare unit

By Lt. Thomas Bauhan

AUSTIN, Texas—Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 22 took part in a field training exercise March 27-28, supporting Mobile Inshore Undersea Warfare Unit (MIUWU) 108. The exercise was conducted near Port Aransas, Texas.

MIUWU 108 asked the Seabees to help with security training, reinforcing security forces, and camp setup. First order of business was a security sweep of the beach area and establishment of perimeter defenses. Seabees led

the setup of five tents, including a 20-by-40-foot mess tent, and helped move equipment into place.

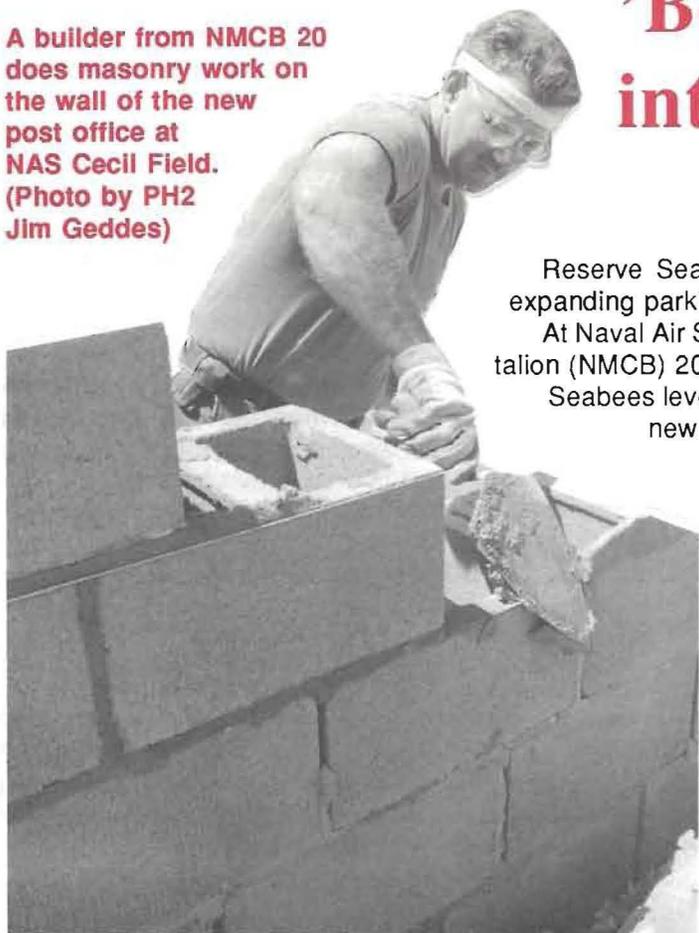
The Seabees kept watch all evening and defended the bivouac from opposing forces—and a few wayward Spring Break revelers. The next day, the Seabees conducted equipment training with MIUWU 108's rolling stock and helped with camp breakdown, cleaning and stowing gear and supplies for the 78-man joint contingent.

Bauhan is officer in charge of NMCB 22 Detachment 0722.



NMCB 20 Seabee prepares foundation for new post office at NAS Cecil Field, Fla. (Photo by PH2 Jim Geddes)

A builder from NMCB 20 does masonry work on the wall of the new post office at NAS Cecil Field. (Photo by PH2 Jim Geddes)



'Bees turn meat locker into new post office

By JO2 Steve Engelhorn

Reserve Seabees are erecting a new building, beefing up security and expanding parking for two active duty Navy bases.

At Naval Air Station (NAS) Cecil Field, Fla., Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 20 is converting an old meat locker into a new post office. The Seabees leveled the ground around the meat locker, graded the area, built new foundations, and reinforced the old foundation. The 'Bees will do the entire building conversion, including plumbing, electrical wiring and finish work.

At Kings Bay Submarine Base in Kingsland, Ga., Seabees are digging underneath 20,000 feet of fencing and pouring concrete below it. This will help keep intruders from digging under the fence to gain access to the base.

The battalion is building a new parking lot for dry dock workers at Kings Bay. The Seabees are also installing over 1,000 feet of sidewalk, and they strung 10,000 feet of wiring for light fixtures. Other projects at Kings Bay include building equipment storage shelters, bus stops, concrete hurricane tie-downs, and a storage area.

Engelhorn is a public affairs representative for NMCB 20.

NMCB 40 returns to Guam from Somalia

(Continued from Page 1)

as well as closing holes in the wall around the port and repairing the front gate.

Equipment operators cleared, repaired and maintained 200 miles of road. NMCB 40 completed repairs on a 130-mile stretch of road from Mogadishu to Buulo Barde.

"Their effort paid off, as the trip to Gialossi, which used to take seven hours, now takes about four," said NMCB 40 commanding officer, Cmdr. W.L. Rudich. "This helped the coalition forces providing security and the relief convoys bringing food to the distribution centers." NMCB 40 also cleaned up the streets of Mogadishu.

The Camp Stalder prefabrication yard supported all of the coalition forces. Seabees there built more than 300 toilets, 400 tent decks, 20 strongback tents, 10 shower facilities, 200 dining tables, eight observation towers, and 100 shaving stands.

The battalion also built ammunition storage cells, drilled wells, and built the embassy galley including the furniture.

The Seabees used 25,000 square feet of K-Span materials to repair roofs, erected a tension fabric structure for the Canadian forces, and moved several cubic tons of sand to form berms for the water and fuel farm at the Mogadishu Airport.

"Fighting Forty" Seabees worked on more than a dozen different civic action sites. "Our most ambitious project was the construction of seven huts that will be used for dormitories and classrooms for a school of 250 orphans in the village of Gazirah," said Rudich. The project also included work on a kitchen, showers,

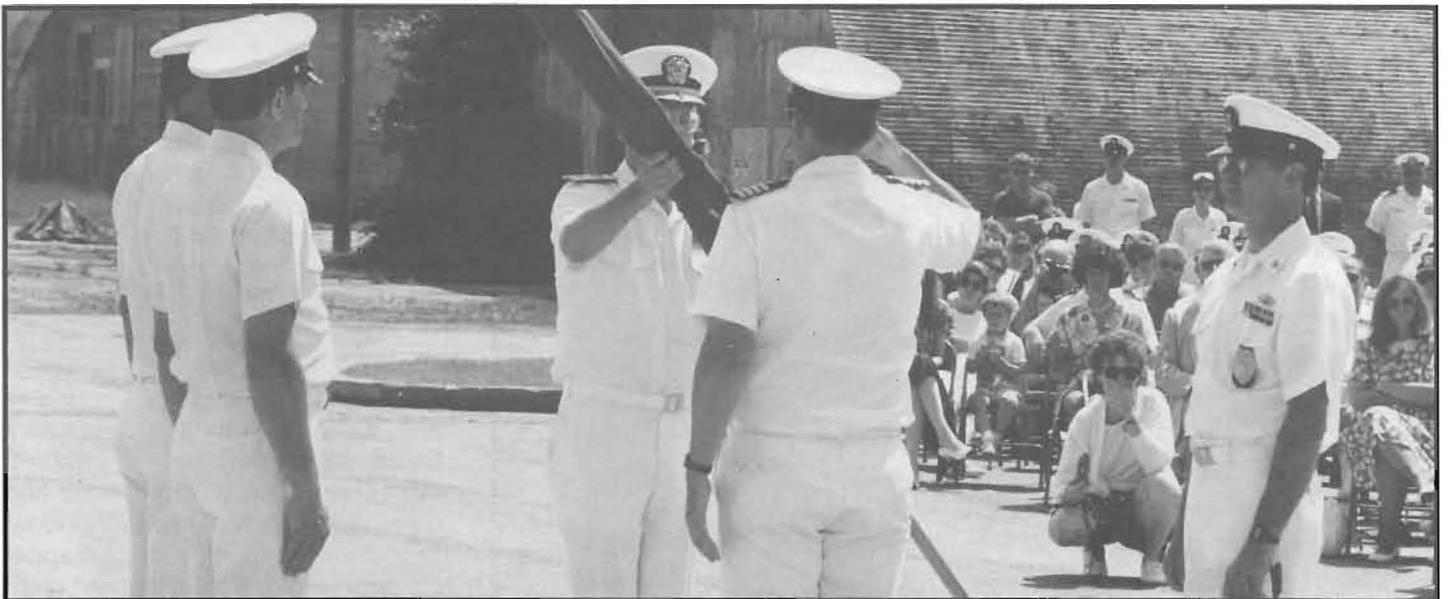
toilets, desks, bunk beds, and playground equipment.

The Seabees installed a roof at a school; repaired the generator and did electrical work at Radio Somalia; and built tables and benches for Mogadishu police stations. They

"Their effort paid off, as the trip to Gialossi, which used to take seven hours, now takes about four."

repaired the roof at one orphanage and completed the roof, floor and a water well at another.

Wallace is a public affairs representative for NMCB 40.



HISTORIC DECOMMISSIONING—Capt. Richard H. Miller (foreground), Commander, 21st Reserve Naval Construction Regiment (RNCR), relinquishes his command's flag to Rear Adm. William A. Heine III, Commander, Reserve Naval Construction Force Support Command. With the decommissioning of the 21st RNCR, there are now no more Seabee units at Construction Battalion Center Davisville, R.I.—"Original Home of the Seabees." The center itself will soon close. (Photo by PH1 Alan Bielmeier)

CBC Gulfport: *Reservists help renovate Seabee Museum/Library*

By JO1 John D. Hines

MT. CLEMENS, Mich.—UTC James M. Sowders, USNR, was working as a general contractor in Louisville, Ky., when he volunteered for a project at Construction Battalion Center (CBC) Gulfport, Miss. He stayed on as project manager and, 18 months and 19 sets of orders later, Sowders reflected on an innovative approach to military construction.

"The Seabee Museum and Library project is using active and reserve Seabees to do a very ambitious job on schedule and under budget," said Sowders. "The museum is being almost entirely done

by Seabees. The only civilian contractors used installed the sprinkler system, and that was required by the state for certification."

The 20th Naval Construction Regiment's planning and estimating department did material planning. Five active duty people supervised 494 reservists working on the museum in two-week annual training increments. All four of the active duty Naval Mobile Construction Battalions (NMCBs) at

CBC Gulfport supplied crews, as did reserve NMCBs 13, 17, 21, 22, 26 and 28.

Seabees are renovating a World War II-vintage building for the new

museum and library. To support a library on the second deck, structural steel had to be built

"The only civilian contractors used installed the sprinkler system, and that was required by the state for certification."

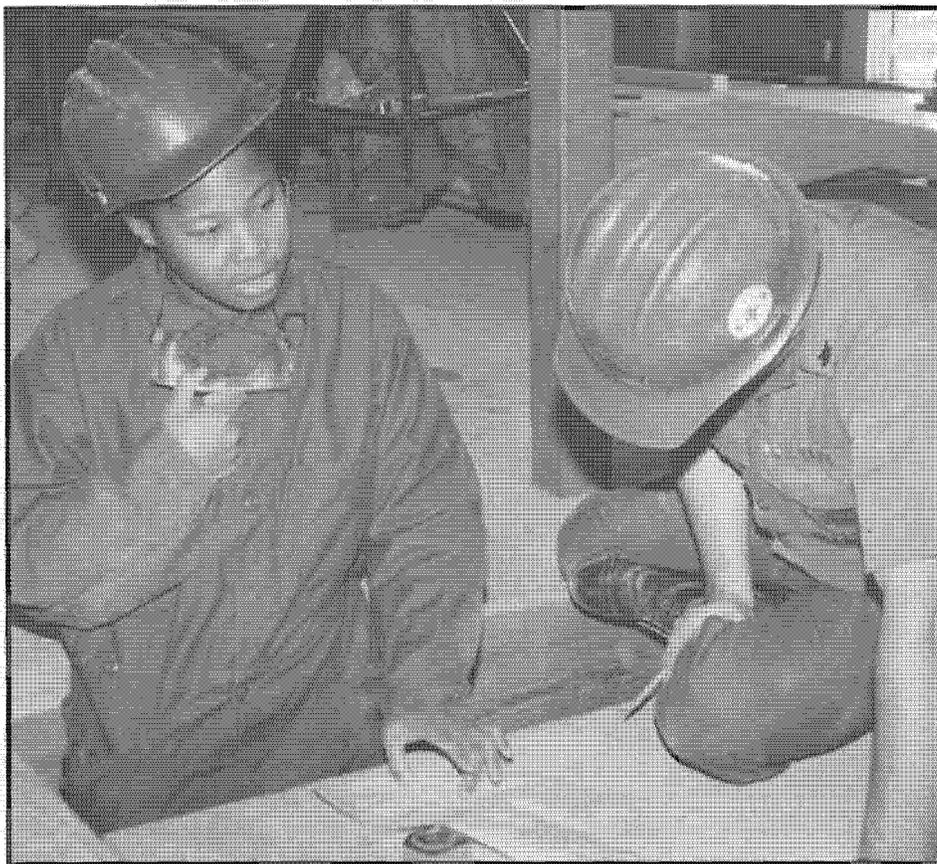
into the wooden building—1,100 feet of girders and 900 feet of columns, to be exact. One steelworker assembled the 40-foot steel lengths.

Concrete piers had to be jack-hammered out and replaced by new piers and footers. The building was in the way, so Seabees had to work beneath the existing floors. For three months, reserve 'Bees passed five-gallon buckets of concrete through the building's crawl spaces.

The crews saved \$200,000 of the \$650,000 materials budget. For example, \$40,000 was saved by leaving the roof intact and building new trusses beneath it, rather than removing the roof and installing factory-built trusses. Another \$4,000 was saved by reusing plywood pier forms rather than buying new plywood.

With some of the savings, it was possible to upgrade the heating and air conditioning, provide skylights, build porches of concrete rather than lumber, buy bronze-anodized rather than aluminum windows and doors, install a handicapped elevator, provide "outsulation" (exterior insulation), and build boxed-in overhangs covered in aluminum rather than have exposed rafters.

Hines is a public affairs representative for NMCB 26.



CE3 Greta Aaron, a reserve Seabee from Montgomery, Ala., examines an electrical wiring plan with an active duty supervisor at CBC Gulfport, Miss. Aaron and other reservists helped construct the Seabee Museum and Library at Gulfport. (Photo by JO1 John D. Hines)

Engineering aid is battalion's own mobile Michelangelo

Story and photos
by JO1 Mark Everts

PORT HUENEME, Calif.—When he was six, he discovered his favorite pastime: drawing. Today, EA3 Arthur Abdon, assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 4's engineering department, is still drawing—and getting paid for it. He assists line companies in building layouts, construction and shop drawings, design changes, drafting, surveying and material testing.

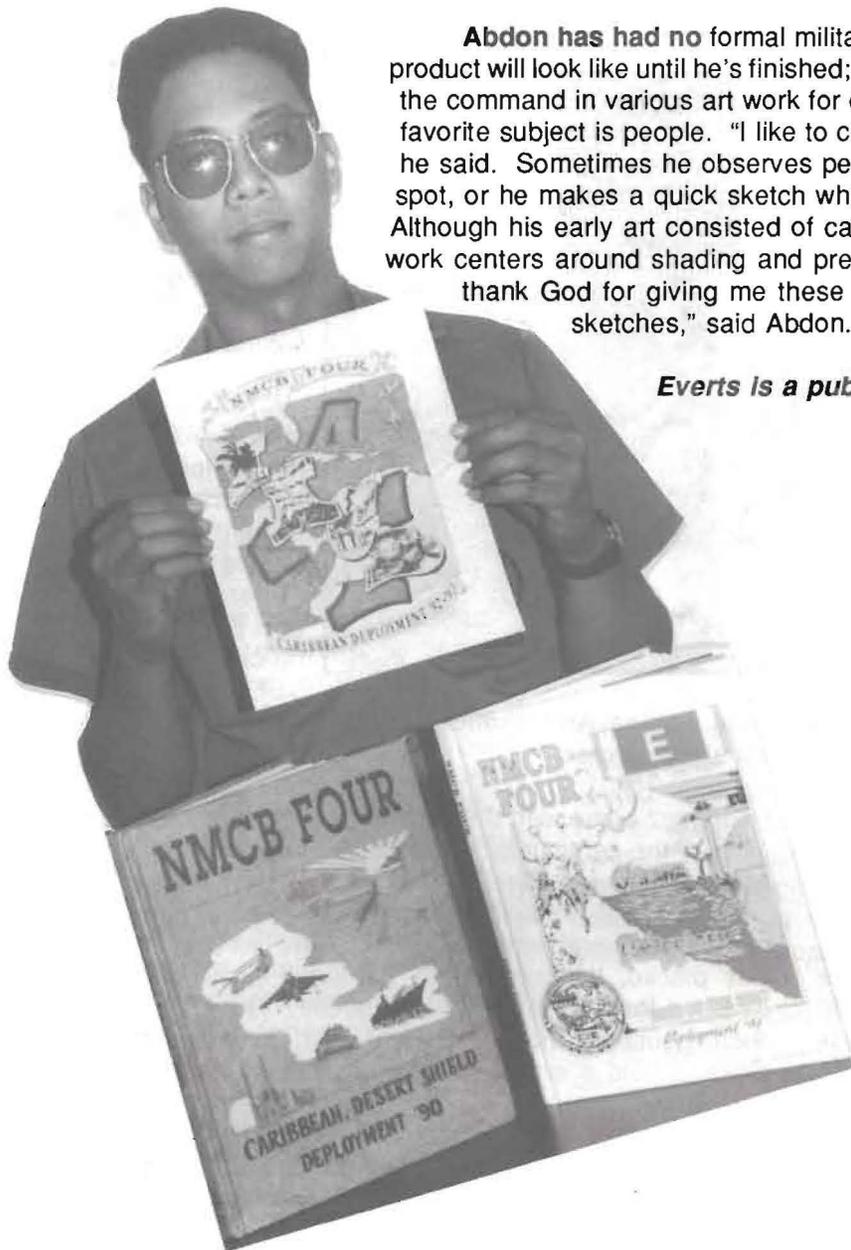
Abdon loves his work so much that he often works during off-duty hours. He volunteered to design and draft the last three cruisebook covers for the battalion. This year he designed a cruisebook cover that took him 10 days to complete, highlighting in a single drawing all areas of the battalion's last deployment.



Abdon has had no formal military training in art. He often doesn't know what the final product will look like until he's finished; he just does what comes naturally. Abdon has assisted the command in various art work for command briefs, signs, posters and even T-shirts. His favorite subject is people. "I like to catch people in different settings without their knowing," he said. Sometimes he observes people for a long time and then draws the picture on the spot, or he makes a quick sketch which he later turns into a detailed portrait.

Although his early art consisted of cartoon characters such as the Lone Ranger, his recent work centers around shading and precision drawings, more like modern comic-book art. "I thank God for giving me these hands, with the ability to create quality drawings and sketches," said Abdon.

Everts is a public affairs representative for NMCB 4.



NMCB 74 helps Fiji

FIJI—Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 74's Civic Action Team 7418 arrived at this island nation March 13 to repair a school hit by a cyclone last January.

The Seabees ferried to the island of Ovalay March 22. They set up tents, and construction began on the school the next day. The project consisted of repairing three buildings and constructing two new teachers' quarters.

The team's hospital corpsman treated patients at the local hospital and in camp. The Seabees conducted training on water sanitation because of an outbreak of gastritis.

The CAT Team worked with local nuns and the Ovalay Police to establish a Rape/Battered Women's Shelter for counseling and care.

The team attended fund raisers every week and became closely involved with the community.

Field exercise, rock crushing job, and volunteer work keep Three-Bees busy

PORT HUENEME, Calif.—Members of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 3 took part in a field exercise, crushed rocks on a Pacific atoll, and participated in a neighborhood cleanup this spring.

At Fort Hunter-Liggett, Calif., the base camp of NMCB 3 and Construction Battalion Unit (CBU) 406 looked like the familiar tents of the 4077th MASH. For 10 days, this was the site of the field exercise (FEX) "Bearing Duel '93." Camp improvements included berthing and shower tents, a galley tent, and wood-frame tents for the command operations center and medical/dental departments.

Much of NMCB 3 took part in a mass casualty exercise. Although few knew a real helicopter was coming, a "Huey" flown by an Army medical evacuation (medevac) crew also participated.

Construction projects done for Fort Hunter-Liggett included a concrete river crossing for tanks and tracked vehicles, and 3,000 meters of road improvement. The Seabees also built a vehicle washrack and replaced a broken sidewalk.

During the exercise, repeated attacks were endured and overcome. After the tactical phase, Three-Bee squad leaders received Claymore mine training. Others focused on camp consolidation and equipment retrograde.

While most members of the battalion were on the FEX, five "Three-Bees" were performing a real-world mission for the Defense Nuclear Agency on Johnston Atoll in the Pacific.

The atoll, about 800 miles southwest of Hawaii, is used by the Army to dispose of old chemical and toxic weapons. The Three-Bees prepared for their task with intense training in chemical, biological and radiological

defensive measures, respirators, and a comprehensive medical exam.

The Seabees' job was to set up a rock-crushing plant—a complex, dangerous machine capable of crushing up to 75 tons of boulders and rocks per hour. Both a Pioneer Cone Crusher and an Eagle Jaw Crusher were made fully operational.

Arriving on the island April 19, they started work immediately, and soon discovered that the rock crushers required major modifications to suit the needs of the customer. The detachment of Seabees returned to Port Hueneme May 9.



NMCB 3 Seabees rush a "casualty" to a waiting Army helicopter for medical evacuation during a mass casualty exercise.

The day before the men came back from the atoll, their shipmates from NMCB 3 took part in the Neighborhood Uplift program sponsored by the Oxnard, Calif., Police Department.

Volunteers began with a 7:30 a.m. muster followed by a short drive to Oxnard's Haydock Middle School for general cleanup and painting graffiti-covered walls. Volunteers were treated to a pancake breakfast, and Detective Gino

Rodriguez addressed the 670 volunteers who came from all over the community. Four teams were formed, each assigned a five-square-mile sector.

The Three-Bees applied over 40 gallons of paint and picked up several bags of litter. After the last coat of paint was placed, the participants gathered at the Haydock cafeteria for a Mexican-style barbecue. The project was such a success that the Oxnard Police Department decided to hold a similar cleanup the second Saturday of each month.

Compiled from reports by NMCB 3 public affairs representatives.



Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 23 receive radio training at Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Seabee reservists make improvements at Camp Lejeune

By Lt. K.V. Nguyen

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C.—Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 23 left Fort Belvoir, Va., April 25 for two weeks of annual training (AT) here. A total of 193 Seabees took part in the AT. Eighty-one pieces of construction equipment were provided at the camp.

NMCB 23 renovated barracks M-622, upgrading the heating system and installing piping, insulation, dry wall and electrical wiring. At the weapons range, a working party laid steel matting, poured concrete pads and prefabricated forms of 29-inch-high walls for each moving target pit.

Another working party placed and graded 465 tons of crusher run aggregate to complete a 600-foot road, stockpiled 75 cubic yards of fill at bunker sites, and installed two gates with 950 feet of barbed wire. Seabees also poured concrete to form two 120-square-foot instructor pads, and completed other projects at the Marine Corps installation.

Training included subjects such as booby traps and mines, communications, computer software, and a war game.

Nguyen is the public affairs officer for NMCB 23.

New PRD window

Detailers can now issue enlisted orders up to three months before or four months after projected rotation date (PRD). The old PRD window was one month before and three months after PRD for E-1 through E-7 and two months before and four months after PRD for E-8 and E-9.

The expanded PRD window gives detailers more flexibility to meet class convening dates, fill gapped billets, and correct sea/shore duty imbalances. For more info, see NAVADMIN message 104/93. (Navy News Service)

NMCB 74 Seabees mix 3,000 bags of concrete by hand to build fire pit

The fire pit is a circular concrete slab, sloped inward, with simulated aircraft in it. The pit is filled with fuel, ignited, and extinguished by crash crews. Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 74 are building the pit for the crash fire rescue division at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan.

'Bees replaced the outer 20 feet of the 100-foot-diameter slab. Because the slab is exposed to extreme heat, the project specifies a heat-resistant concrete not available from local batch plants. Members of the 31-man detail had to mix all 3,000

bags by hand with portable mixers.

The heat-resistant concrete has the consistency of mortar, said project supervisor BU1 James Cummings. "Once water is added, it begins to set up almost immediately."

The work was divided into 32 sections. Each section required about 100 bags of the concrete mix. Because the concrete was workable only for a short time, three mixers had to be used simultaneously.

Other projects tasked to NMCB 74's Det Iwakuni include a three-story concrete tower, a 16-by-32-foot battery shop, and three picnic pavilions.

Central America:

'Bees bring aid to Mayan Indians

Story and photos
by JO1 John D. Hines

MOUNT CLEMENS, Mich.—Surrounded by snakes, insects, tarantulas and rats, impoverished Mayan Indians in the Central American country of Belize tend small farms. Polluted streams used for drinking water pose a major health threat.

Soldiers and airmen joined active and reserve Seabees in March to construct water wells and schoolhouses in the jungles of Belize. Reserve Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 26, active duty 'Bees from NMCB 5, and

Army and Air Force personnel constructed a school building and three water wells. Enduring high humidity and temperatures topping 130 degrees, the crews also started work on a fourth well during the reserve Seabees' two-week annual training.

It takes seven days to go from bare ground to pumping water. The wells were 160 to 180 feet deep and spaced a mile or two apart so that ten families could use each well. The drillers used a machine designed to drill up to 1,500 feet deep. Two NMCB 26 Seabees with NECs (Navy Enlisted Classification Codes) for water well drilling finished a five-day refresher course at Construction Battalion Center Gulfport, Miss., before the deployment.

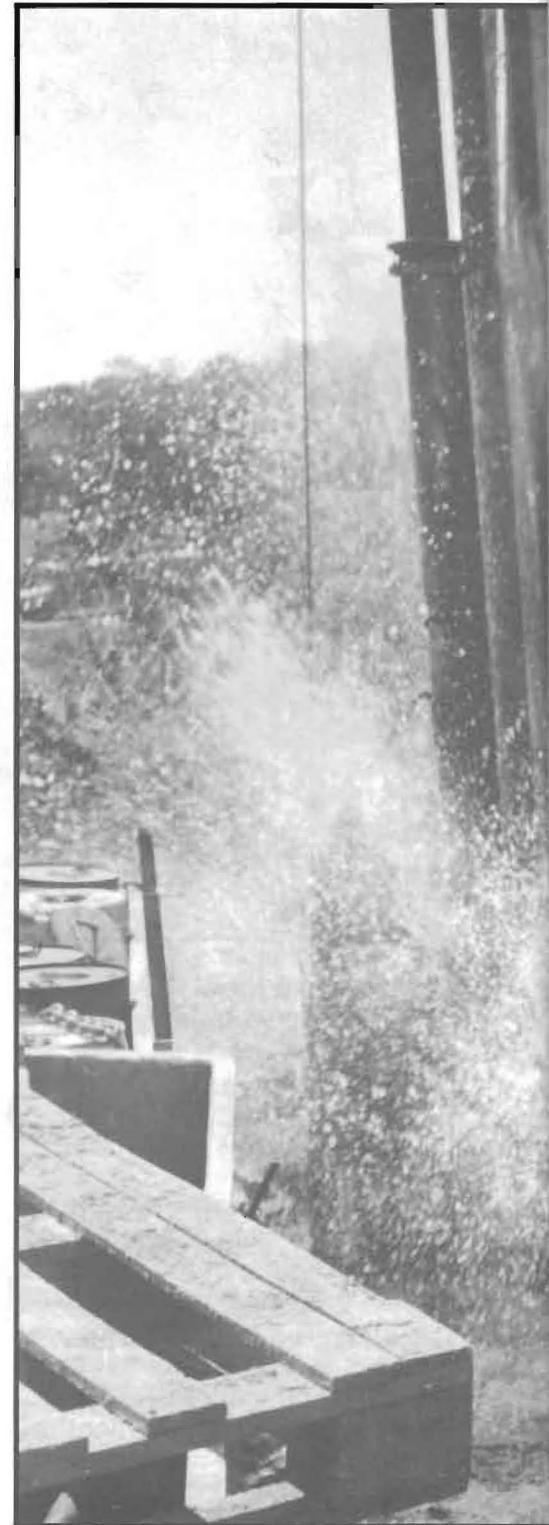
The Seabees took a 220-mile, eight-hour bus ride from Belize City to their base camp. Each day they endured a rugged one-hour ride, in the back of a 2.5-ton truck, to and from drilling sites. There was some danger, as the work sites were not far from drug trafficking trails in the area.

In their leisure time, the men shared candy and MREs (meals, ready-to-eat) with the native children and played soccer games with them. The U.S. Assistant Ambassador to Belize personally thanked the service members for their work.

Hines is a public affairs representative for NMCB 26.



During recent annual training, NMCB 26 Seabees prepare to drill one of three water wells for Indian families in Belize.



NMCB 26 Seabees operate an Ingersoll-Rand water wells were constructed for Indian families during training in Belize.



and water well drilling machine. Three wells by the Seabees during recent annual



Mayan Indian girl pumps water from one of three wells drilled by Seabees for Indian families in Belize.

Turning a mountain into a molehill

While their counterparts were drilling for water near the equator, these 'Bees were blasting their way through tons of rock in Alaska.

By EOC Dave Therrien

ADAK, Alaska—The Seabees of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 74 will soon close the book here on the largest quarry, blasting and crushing operation in recent Naval Construction Force (NCF) history.

Tacan Hill, next to Naval Air Station Adak's runway, was once a major obstacle for landing aircraft as it created a "wind shear" phenomenon. As aircraft passed Tacan Hill, winds hitting the hill created low pressure, requiring pilots to compensate, making it extremely dangerous to land.

For the safety of aircraft and crews it was necessary to take Tacan Hill down. In 1982, NMCB 1 was asked to look at the feasibility of the NCF taking on this job. Tacan Hill offered the NCF a great opportunity for controlled blasting and crusher training.

In wind, rain and snow, the Seabees blasted, quarried and crushed over 455,000 cubic yards of rock, using more than 225 tons of explosives. NMCBs 1, 4, 5, 7, 40, 62, 74 and 133 can take credit for safer landings at Adak.

Now the equipment operators of NMCB 74 will finish the job. In the process, the land and surrounding streams will be left environmentally safe and the landscape will reclaim its natural beauty.

Therrien is a public affairs representative for NMCB 74.



BU1 Godofredo Magno of Construction Battalion Unit 416 prepares a wall for wiring at Boy Scout Camp Cedarbrook in California.

CBU 416 at Camp Cedarbrook:

Seabee unit gets training while helping Boy Scouts

ALAMEDA, Calif.—Construction Battalion Unit (CBU) 416 left here at dawn on April 19 for the foothills of the Sierras. Destination: Camp Cedarbrook, near Sonora, Calif., used by the Alameda Boy Scouts. The mission was to prepare the camp for summer use.

CBU 416 traditionally sets aside a week to perform the camp's annual maintenance. However, last year a high-priority project kept the unit from making the trip. That, coupled with an unusually severe winter, left an abundance of jobs to be completed at the camp.

One project was the expansion of the kitchen in the mess hall. The old kitchen had barely enough room for a group of cooks to work in, a serious problem during the hot summer months. The kitchen's size was nearly doubled. Another addition was the expansion of the walkway that serves the mess hall's entry.

Plumbing and electrical systems throughout the camp needed maintenance and repair. Aside from the plumbing work in the mess hall, most of the plumbing jobs consisted of opening waterlines that had been closed for the winter and making sure the distribution system was operating smoothly. Electrical work included rewiring the mess hall as well as a few other buildings, and placing the necessary panels to accommodate the new wiring systems.

Other work included placing a door on one of the cabins, cleaning and opening the swimming pool, building gates along the access road, putting up awnings, and the construction and placement of a septic tank cover.

By treating this annual operation as a mobilization training exercise, the unit can seek out potential problems and correct them before a real mobilization occurs.

Movie scenes are filmed at battalion HQ

By JO2 Maurice N. Regnier

SEATTLE—Silence is golden and time is money. These truisms brought movie stars Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan to Hangar 27 at Seattle's Naval Station Puget Sound, home of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 18.

The Big Onion production company filmed part of *Sleepless in Seattle* in the NMCB 18 hangar. A replica of the top of the Empire State Building and the New York City skyline was erected in the hangar. This sound stage was used to film the movie's closing scenes.

According to Big Onion's public relations director, Betsy Sokolon, the producer and director scoured the Seattle area for an appropriate site. "Because of the movie's title, we wanted to shoot the film on location in Seattle," Sokolon said.

"We decided to build the major sound sets in Seattle. Being able to control sound while having a large building with a high roof are basic requirements for the sound stage. The hangar met our needs for controlling sound and access."

Seabees moved the battalion's heavy construction equipment from the hangar into the yard. A construction company from Ocala, Fla., contracted to build the \$300,000 mockup of the Empire State Building's observation platform.

In order to build the massive set in time for the shooting schedule, the contractor had to hire available non-union labor, including several off-duty members of NMCB 18.

Regnier is a public affairs representative for NMCB 18.

'Does More' battalion does more in Thailand

By Lt. Rodney Worden

Fifty men from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 74 built facilities in May for two elementary schools in Thailand. NMCB 74's "Does More" Seabees worked with Thai Marines as part of joint exercise "Cobra Gold 93."

At the Ban Chanta Khlem school, work included placing a 3,250-square-foot concrete slab, constructing a utility room and painting structures. Off-duty Seabees bought paint at their own expense and painted playground equipment.

At the Ban Ta Lieu school, a 3,000-square-foot building, which the Thai Marines said would take 45 days to construct, was built in 19 days, despite the absence of power equipment. The Seabees dug the footers by hand. Concrete was mixed in a portable mixer and placed with wheelbarrows and buckets.

Finishing their original tasking seven days ahead of schedule, the air detachment volunteered for new work at the Pattaya Orphanage in the city of Pattaya Beach. They excavated for and placed the concrete slab and side walls for a 60,000-gallon water cistern and painted interior offices.

Worden is a public affairs representative for NMCB 74.

Note from the Master Chief

By CUCM P.L. "Rick" Race

WASHINGTON—Greetings from the "new guy" inside the Beltway. Wow! What a change from Gulfport! If I don't get run over in the first six months, I'll be thankful.

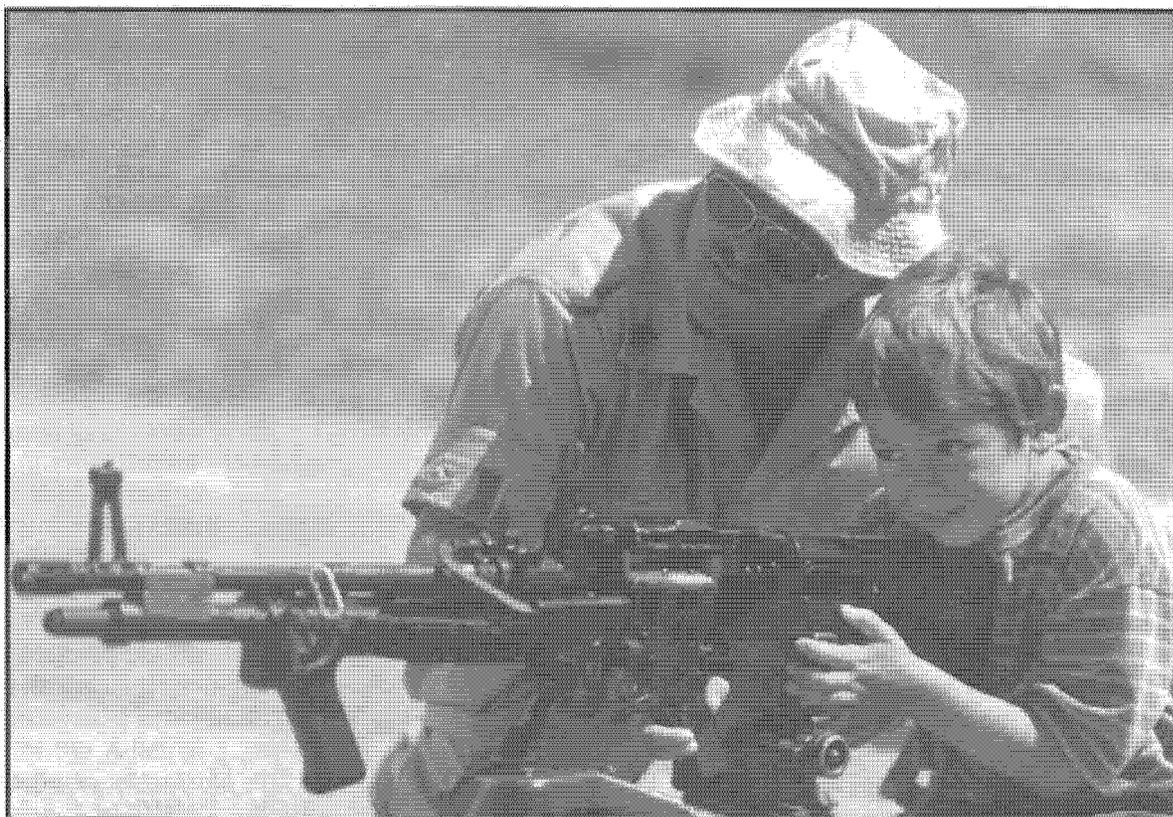
Seriously, I am happy to be here. I am extremely honored to represent the Seabees as Force Master Chief. Josefine and I sincerely appreciate our many friends who helped us make the transition as smooth as possible. Special thanks to Master Chief Herman Hart for a thorough and professional turnover. Good luck, Herman, with your new career.

With all the changes on the horizon, I realize we're in for some challenging times. I accept that challenge, and will do my best to make your jobs easier and will work to enhance the legendary reputation of the Naval Construction Force. My door is always open and I look forward to hearing what's on your minds.

More later. Till then, take care of each other.

Race is Master Chief Petty Officer of the Seabees.

HOLD THAT TIGER—CE1 Thomas Miller of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 1 helps a future Seabee direct imaginary fire during "Tiger Day" open house at Naval Station Rota, Spain. The purpose of Tiger Day was to help the children at the station better understand the role of the military. (Photo by PH2 Ron Heppner)





Seabees fire machine gun during the 7th Naval Construction Regiment's NCO leadership/instructors course.

7th Regiment offers leadership school

Story and photos by PH1 D. John McCarthy

PEEKSKILL, N.Y.—Thirty Seabees from the Northeast spent three weeks in May at the 7th Naval Construction Regiment's NCO (non-commissioned officer) leadership/instructors course at Camp Smith here. The Seabees studied subjects including escape and evasion, land navigation, leadership, reconnaissance, etc.

The escape and evasion course was held the second weekend. Each night half the students would try to make their way back to the base camp while the other half looked for them.

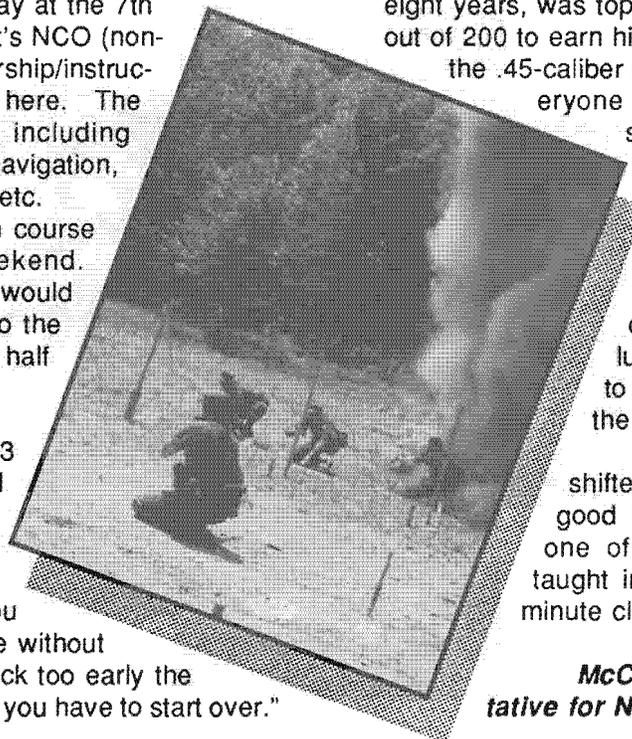
Student leader BU3 George Hazelton of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 21 said, "The instructors bring you up to the top of a mountain and you have to get back to the base without getting caught. If you get back too early the instructors take you back and you have to start over."

In weapons training, CM2 Ronald Beaudin of NMCB 27 shot 37 consecutive bull's-eyes before shooting one on the wrong target. Beaudin, who said he hadn't shot for eight years, was top shooter for the course, scoring 188 out of 200 to earn his expert shooting badge. Scores on the .45-caliber pistol course were excellent, and everyone qualified. The students also fired shotguns and other weapons.

A founder of the school and a military historian, Marine Col. Stuart Glaser gave a lecture on the how the Hudson Valley was defended during the American Revolution. After the lecture the class went to the visitors center and museum at the U.S. Military Academy.

During the third week, emphasis shifted to teaching the students how to be good instructors. Each student selected one of 11 categories of military training taught in the school and prepared a 30-40 minute class presentation.

McCarthy is a public affairs representative for NMCB 27.





CM1(SCW) Kenneth G. McNutt of CBU 404 examines a string of dummy rounds for a 40mm machine gun.



BUCN Michael C. Blom shows how effective camouflage can really be.

CBU 404 convoys to Gulfport for training

By EA1(SCW) J. M. Newhouse

MEMPHIS, Tenn.—Construction Battalion Unit (CBU) 404 convoyed in May from Naval Air Station (NAS) Memphis, Tenn., to Construction Battalion Center (CBC) Gulfport, Miss., for military training.

While military training has always been important for CBUs, new emphasis arises from their designation as qualifying units for the Seabee Combat Warfare Specialist (SCWS) program. Construction training

comes easily for CBU 404 at NAS Memphis, but combat training is not as readily available. Proper facilities and qualified instructors made Gulfport an attractive option.

The 20th Naval Construction Regiment's military training department (R-50) put CBU 404 through a week of small unit infantry training. A three-day field exercise (FEX) at the Construction Contingency Crew Training area near Gulfport compared well with a construction battalion FEX.

Instructors from Naval Construc-

tion Training Center Gulfport made sure CBU 404 was up-to-date on chemical, biological and radiological warfare and protective measures.

The following week was all weapons training. R-50 took the unit to qualify with the M-16A1 service rifle. Eighty-nine percent of the unit's personnel qualified, and 15 other unit members became certified in handling pyrotechnic devices.

Newhouse is the public affairs petty officer for CBU 404.

Reserve Seabee is media liaison for Russian ships' port call

CE1 Robert A. Germinsky helped provide public affairs coverage and media liaison in May for Russian naval vessels that made a port call in New York City during Fleet Week '93.

Germinsky is public affairs officer for Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 21. The Russian ships were commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Battle of the Atlantic. During World War II, convoys sailed from the United States and Great

Britain on the dangerous Murmansk run, supplying Russia with war materiel for its fight against Germany.

The visiting ships were guided missile destroyer Bezudherzhiny, and the Sheksna, an underway replenishment oiler. Embarked in the destroyer was Vice Adm. Vasily Poroshin, deputy commander in chief of the Russian Northern Fleet.

On temporary duty with the Navy

and Marine Corps World War II Commemorative Committee, Germinsky took photos, coordinated media requests for visits to the ships, and arranged interviews with the Russians.

Although very few of the sailors spoke English, Germinsky noted that communication was not a major problem. "Somehow, sailors speak a common language, and by pointing and hand gestures we got along fine," he said.



BU1(DV) Doug Thurlow (left) demonstrates a foot sweep with CMC(DV) Jeffrey Snyder. (Photo by PH2 John Ruckser)

Diver really gets a kick out of judo

By Lt. Cmdr. Roberta McCorkle

NORFOLK, Va.—For most high school athletes, competition ends at graduation. Trophies are shifted from shelf to basement to attic. This isn't the case, however, for BU1(DV) Doug Thurlow, preventative maintenance systems coordinator for Underwater Construction Team (UCT) 1. He's been collecting judo trophies for 15 years.

Thurlow recently won the U.S. Senior Judo Nationals championship in Indianapolis, competing in the 209-pound weight division. He also took second place in a Virginia state championship this spring.

A "nidan," or second-degree black belt, the Bremerton, Wash., native comes from a Navy family. He became interested in judo while attending high

school in Groton, Conn. "I tried it, I liked it and I was good at it. I've been competing in tournaments since then," he said.

"It takes about two months to reach my peak fitness for a tournament," said Thurlow. "I bike, swim and lift weights."

Thurlow has served the past six years with UCT 1. The team's Seabees deploy throughout the Atlantic Fleet to do underwater construction and repairs on structures, mooring systems and instrumentation. They also perform precision blasting and salvage diving.

Although his job requires a high level of physical fitness, Thurlow said, "I've always been physically fit, whether my job required it or not."

McCorkle is a public affairs representative for the 2nd Naval Construction Brigade.

Kudos

Construction Battalion Center
Gulfport, Miss., Meritorious Unit
Commendation

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion
4 (air detachment), Humanitarian
Service Medal

The purpose of this column is to publish a periodic listing of unit and personal awards earned by Seabees. Send input to: Editor, The Beeline, COMRNCFSC Code OOP1, 5000 Marvin Shields Blvd., CBC Gulfport, MS 39501-5016.

Naval Reserve joins war on drugs

WASHINGTON—The Naval Reserve is taking aim at America's Domestic Enemy Number One: illegal drugs.

"Campaign Drug Free" focuses on three groups: elementary, middle and high school students. Videotapes for each group make up the initial message, followed by a discussion. Presentations last 40 to 50 minutes. Presenters distribute brochures, book covers, and stickers.

Presenters work at no cost, and their volunteer time does not interfere with reserve training. More than 30,000 children have received CDF presentations. New videos are in the works and the current scripted presentation will be updated and improved.

To become a CDF presenter, contact the CDF coordinator at your local Naval Reserve facility, or call 1-800-554-4542. This number may also be used to schedule a presentation, at no cost, for your school, church or youth organization.

Story courtesy of Director of Naval Reserve.

Short Bursts

RAW CLAM—Directorate of Wartime Construction Management (DWCM) tested staff readiness recently during exercise "Raw Clam II." Fifty-three Navy, Army and Air Force personnel met in February for three days of training at Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek, Va.

Raw Clam II used Theater Contingency Engineering Management, Regional Contingency Engineering Management and Area Planning Teams in early planning phases of a crisis. The scenario involved deploying engineering teams to a foreign country and forming domestic backup within DWCM. These teams developed Civil Engineer Support Plans and individual project proposals with estimates.

DWCM is a reserve component of Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe, located in London. *(By Lt. Cmdr. T.W. Hamberg, DWCM Detachment C)*

BARRACKS RENOVATED—Barracks at Camp Pendleton, Calif., were not up to earthquake resistance standards and were scheduled to be replaced. Looking at a multi-million dollar investment, base commander Maj. Gen. Don Lynch turned to the Seabees for advice. The Seabees saw a golden opportunity for training.

A reserve unit, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 25 of Glenview, Ill., was assigned to the project. Marine Corps Reserve Maj. Craig Wallwork coordinated the effort and was on the job every day with an active duty Marine support team.

Wallwork stated that the renovation of the 72-room barracks was completed in just 94 days at a cost savings to the Marines of more than \$108,000. *(By Lt. Cmdr. Paul Taylor, 3rd Naval Construction Brigade)*

ON OKINAWA—Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 74 replaced NMCB 7 on the Japanese island of Okinawa in March.

NMCB 74 wasted no time in setting up shop on Okinawa. One project they are working on is a bike path outside Torii Station. The path will stretch for 1,800 meters.

More than 600 enlisted personnel and 21 officers make up NMCB 74. The battalion has details deployed to Adak, Alaska; Atsugi, Sasebo, Iwakuni, Fugi and Yokosuka, Japan; Fiji; and Pohang and Chinhae, Korea. *(By Cpl. T.A. Gollersrud, Marine Corps Consolidated Public Affairs Office Okinawa)*

FLAG PROMOTION—David J. Nash, commanding officer of Construction Battalion Center (CBC) Port Hueneme, Calif., was promoted to rear admiral May 24. Nash is also commander of the 31st Naval Construction Regiment at Port Hueneme.

Commissioned in 1966, Nash has served in assignments at Naval Facilities Engineering Command; Public Works Center Pearl Harbor, Hawaii; Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 1; resident officer in charge of construction at Point Mugu, Calif., and at naval installations in Spain and Newfoundland; and as operations officer for Commander, Construction Battalions, U.S. Atlantic Fleet. *(By Linda Wadley, CBC Port Hueneme public affairs office)*

SHIELDS AWARD—The Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) has picked EO1 Stephen A. Hayes to receive the 1992 Marvin Shields Award. The award is presented annually to a Seabee who has made an exceptional contribution to military construction, facilities maintenance, training, or readiness.

As transportation director at Naval Radio Receiving Facility, Kamiseya, Japan, Hayes boosted readiness of command construction gear and led fire fighting crews and hazardous waste disposal programs.

Off duty, Hayes trained his shipmates for watchstanding qualification boards. He was the first Seabee in his command to qualify for the Seabee Combat Warfare Specialist designation. Hayes served as a team captain in the Sagami-hara City Japanese Basketball Tournament.



News to Use

TOUGHER STANDARDS—The Navy is tightening body fat standards and increasing the penalties for failing to meet fitness standards.

The overfat category has been eliminated. Males must keep their body fat at or below 22 percent, and females 30 percent or lower. Inability to meet fat or fitness standards at the time of physical readiness testing constitutes a failure, and failures cost more under the revised policy:

❑ **Promotion**, redesignation, commissioning and frocking will be delayed for those who don't meet fat standards or who fail the test.

❑ **Those who fail** two consecutive cycles, and who remain out of standards on the normal due date of an evaluation or fitness report, may not be recommended for promotion.

❑ **Anyone with three** failures in four years will be processed for discharge from the Navy. Failures no longer have to be consecutive, and they may be in any combination of body fat or fitness test standards.

❑ **People who fail** to meet body fat standards may be transferred to a new station unless the billet is high visibility. However, those at risk of a third failure in four years will be denied certain moves.

Medical waivers will still be permitted for PRTs, but will not excuse individuals from body fat measurement except in cases of pregnancy.

Most people will start off under the new policy with a clean slate. Exceptions are those who have failed the last two consecutive PRTs or body fat measurements. They must pass the first test they take under the new policy to receive a clean slate. Otherwise they will be processed for administrative discharge. (*Navy News Service*)

RESERVE BENEFITS—Reserve Transition Benefits (RTB) for reservists range from early retirement to extended use of commissary and exchange facilities.

Benefits depend on the member's status upon leaving the reserves. Eligible are reservists at enlisted high year tenure and those transferred to non-pay status because of loss of billet, billet tenure, overgrade in billet, or promotion.

Those involuntarily separated from Oct. 23, 1992, through Sept. 30, 1995 may obtain the benefits.

Benefits include separation pay for members with 20 years of service who elect transfer to the retired list. Members with at least 15 but under 20 years of service may be eligible for early retirement with a reduced annuity. Members with at least six but under 15 years may qualify for separation pay. Waiver of the continued Selected Reserve service requirement for Montgomery GI Bill assistance is also available.

Not all personnel are eligible. Those separated at their own request or due to unsatisfactory performance are not eligible.

Also ineligible are those who refuse to accept another billet or change of rate; those disapproved for reenlistment; those not in pay billets; personnel who did not meet requirements for membership under rules in effect on Oct. 22, 1992; and those immediately eligible for retired pay.

For more information, see ALNAVRESFOR message 010/93. Reservists may contact their local Naval Reserve activity or work through their chain of command to Commander, Naval Reserve Force (CNRF) Code 222B at 1-800-437-0382. (*CNRF public affairs.*)

HOW'S YOUR CREDIT?—A bad credit report can prevent you from getting credit. National credit bureaus post more than a billion transactions a month. Some of these could end up in your file by mistake.

To protect your credit, get the reports and check them thoroughly. If you find inaccurate information, contact the bureau for details on fixing the report.

When you write, include your full name, Social Security number, current address, addresses for the previous five years, date of birth, telephone number and, if applicable, spouse's name. Addresses are:

❑ **Equifax**, P.O. Box 740241, Dept. P, Atlanta, GA 30374

❑ **TRW Credit Report**, P.O. Box 2350, Chatsworth, CA 91313

❑ **Trans Union Corp.**, Customer Relations Dept., Box 7000, North Olmstead, OH 44070 (*American Forces Information Service*)

FOR HISTORY BUFFS—A catalog of military history books published by the government is available from the Government Printing Office. Books cover everything from the Continental Army to the Gulf War.

There are books on the Air Force and Marine Corps in Vietnam, and the Navy in the War of 1812. General histories include the Women's Army Corps, pictorials of World War II and a poster of U.S./Allied deployment in Desert Storm. Foreign subjects include the 1967 Arab-Israeli War and the Soviet Union during World War II.

For a catalog, send a postcard with your name and address to Superintendent of Documents, Military History Catalog, Mail Stop SM, Washington, DC 20401. (*American Forces Information Service*)

From the ArchIve

Created in 1942, the Seabee seal has changed little

Early in January 1942, the Navy organized its first school to train construction battalion personnel at Naval Air Station Quonset Point, R.I. Lt. Herbert M. Shilstone, Jr., was director of training, assisted by Lt. j.g. Thomas J. Doyle.

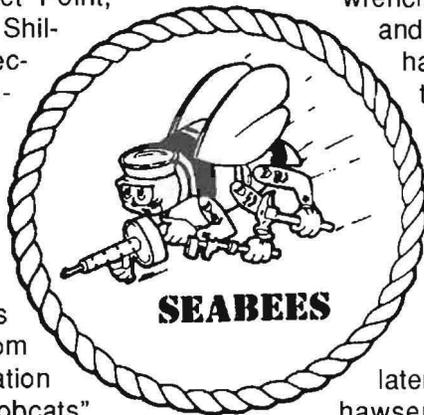
After 250 men destined for the "Bobcats" went through the school, some 300 recruits were sent over from Naval Training Station Newport, R.I. "Bobcats" was the nickname of the 1st Naval Construction Battalion, established in January 1942. This battalion received very little training because it was urgently needed in the Pacific.

Lt. Cmdr. W.B. Howard from the Bureau of Yards and Docks (or BuDocks—forerunner of the Naval Facilities Engineering Command) visited the school and remarked that the construction battalions needed a distinctive insignia and a name to enhance their esprit de corps.

Shilstone and Doyle sought help from Frank Iafate, a civilian worker at Quonset Point who had artistic talent. The lieutenants suggested that Iafate try to come up with an animal or insect in the Walt Disney style as the symbol for the construction battalions. Iafate thought of a beaver because beavers are hard-working, but research showed that they are not aggressive fighters.

Then someone thought of the bee, an industrious creature who is combative when disturbed. Iafate sketched the basic insignia that is

still in use. It portrayed a bee, fighting mad, with a sailor hat on his head, a tommy gun in his forehands, a wrench in his second hand, and a hammer in his rear hand. His sleeves bore the rating badges of a gunner's mate, a machinist's mate, and a carpenter's mate. The insignia was bordered by a "Q" for Quonset Point.



The border was later changed to a circular hawser, and Civil Engineer Corps insignia were put on the bee's sleeves.

But the bee needed a name. Ens. Robert D. Woodward, a young Supply Corps officer at Quonset

Point, came up with the perfect solution: the "Seabee."

On Feb. 10, 1942, Shilstone delivered the insignia to Cmdr. John R. Perry, director of administration and personnel at BuDocks. Perry got approval for the drawing and name from Rear Adm. Ben Moreell, chief of BuDocks. Moreell requested designation of the construction battalions as the Seabees and Iafate's design as their official insignia. Approval was granted by the Bureau of Navigation on March 5, 1942. The construction battalions acquired a striking emblem and a catchy nickname.

Written by NAVFAC Historian's Office and submitted to The Bee-line by Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 3.



Men of the newly formed Seabees receive military training at Camp Endicott, Davisville, R.I., during World War II.

Early retirement offered

WASHINGTON—The Temporary Early Retirement Authority (TERA) lets the Navy retire some personnel with 15 to 20 years of service. Early retirees get full retirement benefits, but retired pay depends on years of service.

Some personnel will be asked to retire under TERA. These include some Nurse Corps lieutenants, and personnel on permanent limited duty with less than 30 percent disability and between 15 and 20 years of service.

Eligible for voluntary early retirement are chief warrant officers with 17-20 years of service, three years commissioned, and two years in grade; limited duty officer lieutenants with 17-20 years, eight years commissioned, and two years in grade; passed-over lieutenant commanders, with some exceptions; commanders with two years in grade; and certain senior and master chiefs with 17 to 20 years. E-8s and E-9s in some ratings are eligible with 15 years of service if they are not under orders and are assigned to a unit that will decommission in FY94.

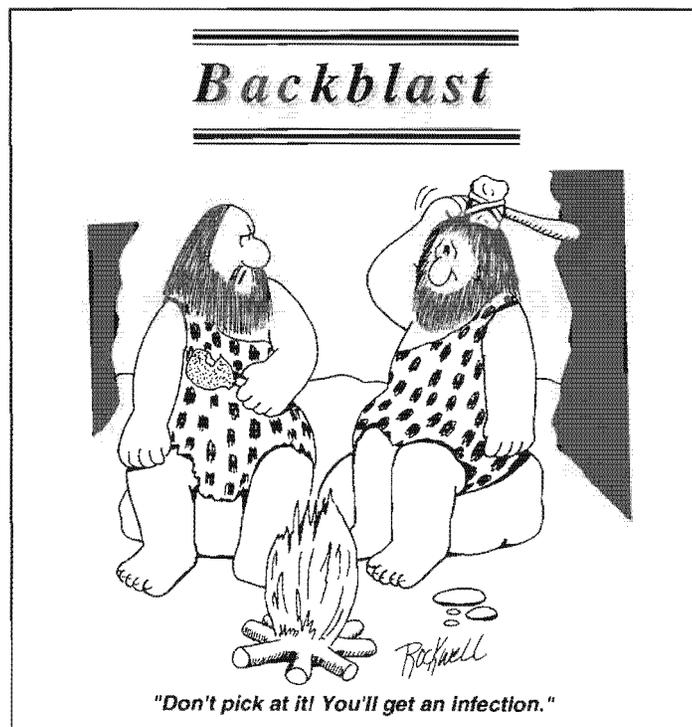
E-8s and E-9s who applied for the Voluntary Separation Incentive or Special Separation Benefit may cancel that request and apply for TERA instead.

TERA participants qualify for all transition assistance services at Navy Family Service Centers.

TERA eligibility for TAR (Training and Administration of the Reserve) personnel is under review.

Information on eligibility and application procedures is in NAVADMIN message 111/93. The message also explains how retired pay is calculated under TERA, including the reduction factor legislated by Congress.

Story by BUPERS public affairs.



CORRECTION

In our last issue, we made a grammatical error in editing the story "Hope at the End of the Road" by JO1 Rebecca Fox Newsom. "But none was turned away" should have read "But none were turned away," as originally written. Our apologies to the author.

Beeline

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