Beeline

Volume 1, Number 5 *September-October 1993*

Joint force members walk on causeway pier built by Amphibious Construction Battalion 2 during Joint Logistics Over the Shore exercise at Camp Lejeune, N.C. Story on page 3. (Photo by 2nd Lt. Beau Lawrence)

What's Buzzing?

By CUCM(SCW) Patrick L. Race

As a way to cut spending and be more efficient, I have discontinued the quarterly *Seabee Update* that has historically been published by the Naval Construction Force (NCF) Master Chief's office. Instead, I'll use *The Beeline* as the preferred forum to pass on items of interest and keep you informed of what's "buzzing" at headquarters.

All Seabees, Civil Engineer Corps officers and other interested parties, full time or part time, active and retired, are asked to take note of this change.

The staff that publishes *The Beeline* is continually updating and expanding the distribution, so if you are not on their list don't hesitate to contact JOCS Tim Padgett or JO3 Gary Boucher at the address shown on the back page, or at 1-800-782-3510.

I would like to congratulate all the new chief petty officers who were selected this year. Competition was extremely keen so you can be extra proud of your accomplishment.

By the time you read this article, the NCF should be well into the transition to wearing the battle dress utility (BDU) camouflage uniform. Standards for wearing BDUs can be found in Naval Facilities Engineering Command Instruction (NAVFACINST) 1020.2, signed in August. The section addressing BDUs in Chapter 11 of the Navy Uniform Regulations as well as Chief of Naval Operations Instruction 1020.4 are being rewritten and will eventually read exactly like the NAVFACINST. Questions or comments regarding cammies or the instruction for wearing them can be directed to me or EOCS Gerry Napert at (703) 325-8557.

The NCF now has an Executive Steering Group (ESG) that will address a variety of issues and decide policy questions. The ESG appointed various Quality Management Boards (QMBs) to deal with specific areas. I have been appointed as the sponsor for the QMB for people issues in the NCF. If you have or know of any problems or issues that are affecting our most valuable resource, please submit them in the form of a point paper to my office. The QMB for people meets quarterly and reports back to the ESG, which also meets quarterly.

The last item I would like to address for now is the Seabee Memorial Scholarship Association (SMSA). Although I'm still on the Board of Directors, I'm no longer the one to write to regarding applications for scholarships. Requests and inquiries should be sent to SMSA, Inc., P.O. Box 6574, Silver Spring, MD 20916. Please help me get the word out.

I also request that you talk up *The Beeline* as being the Seabee newspaper for the entire NCF.

Race is the Force Master Chief of the Naval Construction Force.

Interior View

OVER THE SHORE

Amphibious 'Bees help deliver support from the sea. **Page 3.**

'BEES TO GET CAMMIES

Seabees will soon exchange their green uniforms for battle dress utilities. **Page 5.**

SEABEE ROAD

A new road in Norfolk bears the name of the people who built it. **Page 6.**

STRAIGHT SHOOTER

Reserve dental officer is crack rifle shot. **Page 13.**

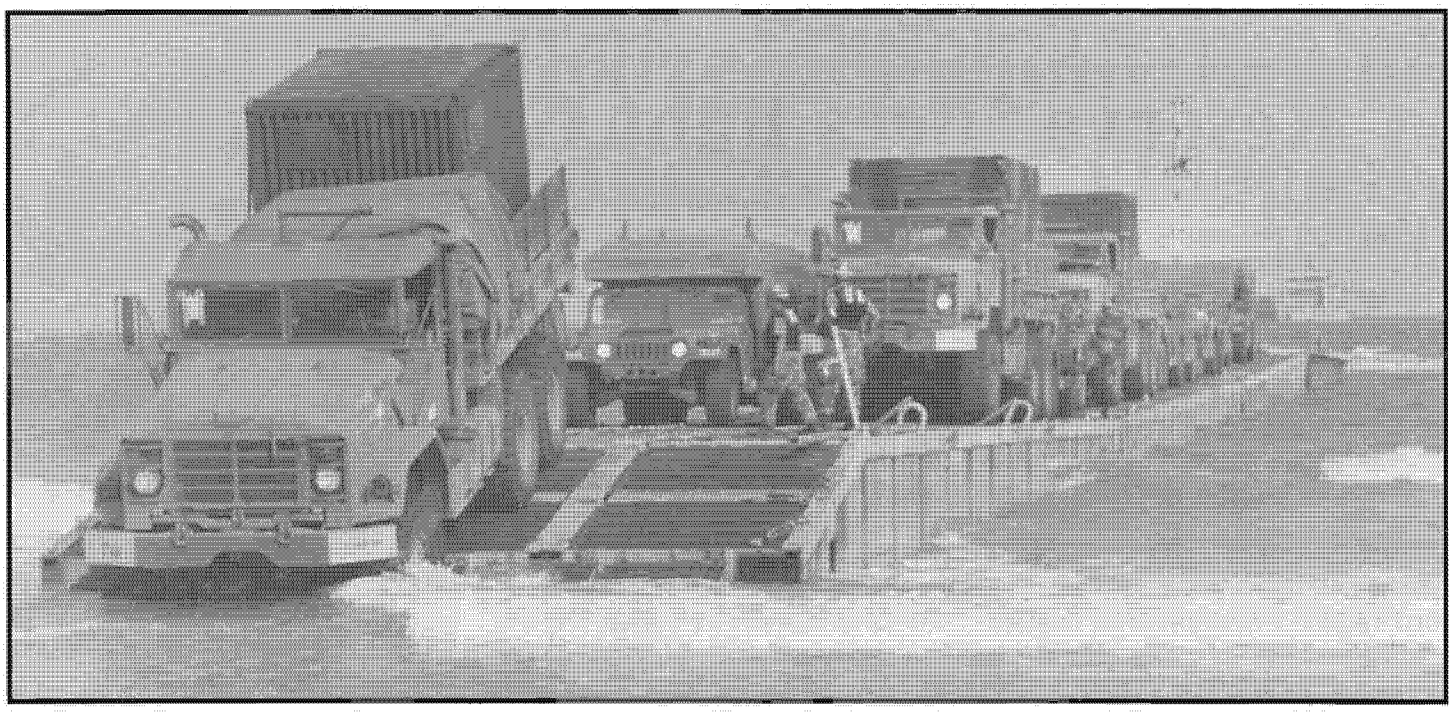
NEVER ON SUNDAY

NMCB 74 Seabees work hard on Tonga—but not on Sundays. **Page 15.**

BUSTED? NOT QUITE

How one officer went from O-4 to O-1 overnight—without a court-martial. **Page 16.**

The Beeline is published in accordance with Department of the Navy Publications and Printing Regulations, NAVSO P-35 (Rev. May 1979). Opinions expressed in *The Beeline* are not necessarily those of the Department of the Navy. Articles about Seabees and Naval Construction Force units or personnel may be submitted to: Editor, *Beeline*, RNCF Support Command, 5000 Marvin Shields Blvd., CBC Gulfport, MS 39501-5016. Telephone 800-782-3510, (601) 871-2979, or AUTOVON 868-2979. Fax 601-871-2990. Rear Adm. W. A. Heine III, Commander, RNCFSC. Cmdr. R.L. Thompson, Public Affairs Officer. JOCS T.S. Padgett, Editor. JO3 G.L. Boucher, Assistant Editor.



Army trucks, carrying Marine supply containers, roll ashore during Joint Logistics Over the Shore exercise. JLOTS tested systems for transferring cargo from ships to shore facilities. (Photo by PH3 Gregory Smith)

SW2 James Tinker of Amphibious Construction Battalion 2 prepares to weld on the elevated causeway system built during Joint Logistics Over the Shore exercise at Camp Lejeune, N.C. (Photo by PH3 Gregory Smith)

Seabees help joint forces in major logistics exercise

By Pat Antenucci

NEW ORLEANS, La.—Seabees were among 3,500 Navy, Marine, Army and Coast Guard personnel taking part in the Joint Logistics Over the Shore (JLOTS) exercise this summer at Camp Lejeune, N.C. Joint forces transferred 1,370 vehicles and 950 pieces of container cargo from ships to smaller vessels that moved the cargo to port facilities built by Navy and Army units at Lejeune.

The Department of Defense tested container and roll-on/roll-off ship discharge; beach transfer and clearance; cargo control and documentation; supply maintenance and base support; ship-to-shore craft; control and communication; and joint doctrine and procedures.

Amphibious Construction Battalion (PHIBCB) 2 built an 800-foot elevated causeway pier with a revolving turntable that permitted empty tractor trailers to be rotated 180 degrees. The battalion]built three piers, set up a support camp for 600 personnel, and unloaded two Maritime Prepositioned Ships. Seabees also assembled barge ferries from metal causeway sections.

"In a crisis," said Lt. Cmdr. Tom Wertenberger, reserve coordinator for PHIBCB 2, "we could unload enough equipment and supplies from a Maritime Prepositioning Squadron to sustain a 17,000-man Marine Air-Ground Task Force for 30 days."

Environmental protection was part of operational planning. A tank convoy carefully avoided red-cockaded woodpecker habitats, and operations were halted to protect a sea turtle that climbed onto the beach.

***Antenucci is the assistant editor of* Naval Reservist News.**

Field exercise in Connecticut

Reserve 'Bees light Green Lantern

Story and photos by JO3 Thomas S. Cregan

NEW HAVEN, Conn.—The CH-47D helicopter descends swiftly, creating a sandstorm. As the aircraft touches down, troops file out and secure the landing zone (LZ). This is not an action movie; it's a training exercise by Naval Reserve Seabees in Connecticut.

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 27 Detachments 13 and 14 held a field exercise, dubbed "Green Lantern," July 17-18 at Cockaponsett State Forest. The Seabees practiced operations such as camp setup and security, patrol and communication procedures.

The detachments mustered on a Saturday morning at their reserve centers, received field gear, and applied facial camouflage. Then Det. 13 went to Robertson Airport in Plainville and Det. 14 marched to Tweed-New Haven Airport.

Two Connecticut National Guard helicopters took the Seabees to the LZ. The helicopters rendezvoused over Cockaponsett State Forest. The helicopter transportation was not only good training for the Seabees, but also for the aircrew.

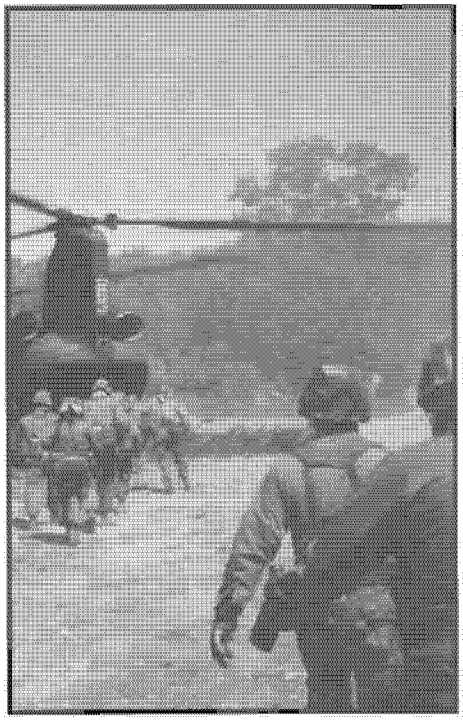
On the ground, the detachments combined as Echo Company. After the base camp was set up and the perimeter was secured, training continued, including field sanitation, vehicle hardening, and prisoner-of-war drills.

Squads patrolled day and night. Some became aggressors and ambushed other squads and challenged camp security. "The patrols provided realistic training, which we take very seriously," said SK2 David Simon of Det. 14. "We may be doing this for real some day."

Sunday morning, EO1 Timothy Reinhard of Det. 13 showed Echo Company the proper use of compasses and maps. After compass training the men moved to the LZ to await departure. A park ranger provided a water truck, and Seabees with firefighting experience manned hoses to wet down the sandy LZ so the helicopter crew could see better.

The aircraft took the company to Winding Trails, a privately-owned wooded area with an established compass course near Farmington, Conn. After a day of hands-on compass training, the company divided back into detachments and returned to the airports.

Cregan is a public affairs representative for NMCB 27.



MS2 Arthur Davis (right) adjusts EOCN Edmund Eckart's radio set during "Green Lantern."

Seabees of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 27 board a helicopter during "Green Lantern" exercise.

SW1 James Butler of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 5 puts up poles at the Crique Jute schoolhouse project.

Belize detachment aids impoverished villages

ROOSEVELT ROADS, Puerto Rico—Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 5's 30-man deployment for training (DFT) to Belize has finished its work and returned to Puerto Rico. The DFT was part of Task Force Jaguar, which operated in Belize on several community projects.

The mission of the task force was to drill 11 water wells in various villages and to build schools in the villages of Crique Jute, San Jose, and Laguna. The Seabees worked long hours in this hot, tropical country to meet the goals of Task Force Jaguar.

Due to the remoteness of the job sites, some crews lived in a small tent camp at the British camp at Salamanca, while the other crews stayed in an Army camp at Rice Station.

At Crique Jute, a small village about 25 miles from the base camp, the Seabees built two two-room schools, teachers' quarters, and a water well. At San Jose, the task force built a five-room school and teachers' quarters, plus a water well for the site. Both school sites include ventilated improved pit (VIP) latrines.

"The most interesting thing about our experience at the sites has been the children," said DFT leader Lt. Dean Tufts. "These children were awed of us in our uniforms and the work we did. The new schools were built adjacent to the existing ones, and at recess all the children watched us work. It's a great feeling to know that we are doing something for people who really need it."

Story submitted by NMCB 5 public affairs staff.

Seabees to say goodbye to utility green uniform

By JO1 Rebecca Fox Newsom

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii—A Seabee tradition is ending due to budget cuts and changing military roles. Over the next year, the utility green uniform, a Seabee standard since World War II, will be phased out and replaced by camouflage uniforms like those now worn by U.S. soldiers, airmen and Marines.

UCCM Thomas A. Dawkins, 30th Naval Construction Regiment (NCR) command master chief, said that the rising cost of having greens made just for the Seabees and lack of extra uniforms when the 'Bees gear up for an operation are two of the main reasons for the change.

The Marine Corps issues uniforms to Seabees supporting Marine operations. "They just can't provide us with utility greens," said Dawkins.

In October, the 3rd Naval Construction Brigade (NCB) and Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 4 will be the first Pacific units to officially make the transition. As the woodland green cammies become available, other units will receive them.

"It's probably going to take a year or more to get new uniforms issued to everyone," said EQCM Donald M. Turner, command master chief for the 3rd NCB. "There's always going to be some odd size that is difficult to find."

The Seabees' new uniformity with the other services may save lives in combat. According to BUCS Gary E. Klemetson of NMCB 74, Iraqi forces in the Gulf War wore uniforms very similar to Seabee greens.

"There were several times when someone had a gun stuck in their face [because of the uniform they were wearing] in Kuwait," Dawkins said.

Before deploying to Somalia this year, nearly 1,100 members of the 30th NCR had to be issued desert camouflage. Even with such a small unit, all personnel were not wearing the same pattern. Some were issued "chocolate chip" camouflage, a brown pattern with black accents; others wore a pattern with muted brown and pale green markings. The difference hinged solely on stock availability.

Newsom is a public affairs representative for the 3rd NCB.

Adm. Henry H. Mauz takes the first ride down Seabee Road. (Photo by Daryl Smith)

Seabee Road:

'Bees build Norfolk street

By Lt. Cmdr. Roberta McCorkle

NORFOLK, Va.—Seabee Road, Naval Base Norfolk's newest street, opened Aug. 6, providing a shortcut from Gate 5 to the Navy Exchange here.

The street replaces a narrow, twisting road that was the site of many accidents. Seabee Road will ease traffic tie-ups and provide a safe route for pedestrians. Reserve Seabees put in 2,400 man-days building the half-mile road at a total cost of $360,000, saving the base an estimated $1.2 million.

Seabee Road is a joint effort of the base civil engineer's office, Public Works Center Norfolk and the 2nd Naval Construction Brigade (NCB). Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 21 was the lead NMCB on the project, assisted by NMCBs 13 and 27.

Adm. Henry H. Mauz, Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, took a ceremonial first ride down Seabee Road. "You are a symbol of American ingenuity," Mauz told Seabees assembled for a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

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

NMCB 4 man pulls driver from burning car

By PH2 Colin Bremner

PORT HUENEME, Calif.—On his way from Port Hueneme to Point Mugu, Calif., SN Reuben Ryan of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 4 saw a vehicle crashed into a telephone pole.

The driver was still inside the wrecked vehicle, so Ryan stopped to help. Farm workers from surrounding fields were running to the aid of the driver while other vehicles stopped. Ryan arrived first, pried the door open, and removed the driver from the danger of an electrical fire.

The driver, AE2 Robert Abellon of Patrol Squadron 65, was shaken up and complained of pain in his knees and chest.

> ***"I'm glad I had the opportunity to use my skills to help a shipmate."***

Ryan took charge of the bystanders and directed one to use a fire extinguisher on the engine compartment and sent another to dial 911. Meanwhile, Ryan kept Abellon engaged in conversation to keep him from going into shock, and to find out more about his injuries. Once police and emergency crews arrived, Ryan gave them the driver's vital information.

Ryan's helpful efforts did not stop there. He continued to help direct traffic around the accident scene for 40 minutes.

Ryan is trained in basic rescue, damage assessment, search and rescue and cardiopulmonary resuscitation—all of which he learned while assigned to NMCB 4. "I'm glad I had the opportunity to use my skills to help a shipmate," said Ryan. Abellon is recovering at St. Johns Hospital in Oxnard, Calif.

Bremner is a public affairs representative for NMCB 4.

NMCB 4 gears up for deployment

Field exercises and weapons training prepare Seabees for next overseas assignment

By JO1 Mark Everts and Lt. Greg McClellan

PORT HUENEME, Calif.—Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 4 is gearing up for its next deployment.

In July, the battalion prepared for a field exercise (FEX) to be held at Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif. Mobile Inshore Undersea Warfare Units will join hundreds of Seabees from NMCB 4, NMCB 16, and Naval Construction Force Support Unit 2 in "Super-FEX 93." The exercise will combine contingency construction projects, weapons qualifications and combat training. Crews will rotate between projects and training courses.

The Seabees must be prepared for enemy invasion or infiltration. In exchange for use of the training area, the Seabees will complete several construction projects for the fort during the 14-day exercise.

The officers and chiefs of NMCB 4 have already held a mini-FEX at Fort Hunter Liggett. They went through four days of training ranging from command post (CP) operations to night patrols.

The patrols used a compass and map to maneuver over a course; repelled ambushes; set up an ambush; and called in mortar fire on an enemy's position. The patrols were ambushed at different points by hard-charging aggressors and the squad leader had to decide whether to attack or call in mortar fire. This also gave the CP practice in directing mortar fire.

Much like the patrols, a convoy had to navigate over a specified course and repel enemy activity. The convoy covered a nine-mile course through winding, mountainous terrain that gave the enemy plenty of places to hide. The convoy Seabees were able to repel all attacks and complete the course.

Rifle qualifications at Construction Battalion Center Port Hueneme were also part of the battalion's preparation for the Super-FEX and future deployment to Okinawa.

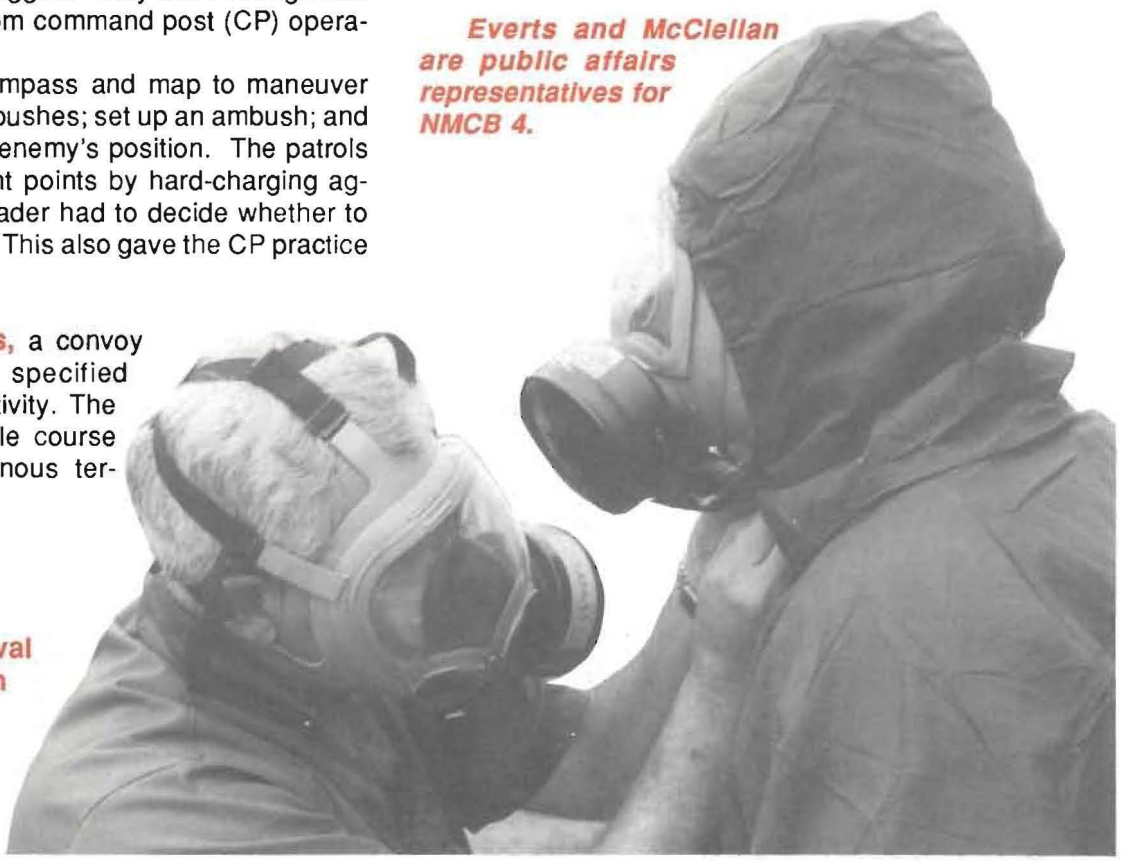
Many are old hands at rifle quals and have ribbons to prove it. Others, like CUCN Rico Linatoc, had never fired an M-16 rifle before.

"I have never even seen an M-16 before, except in a Navy manual," said Linatoc. "My first day, I shot all over the target. I was told by one of the range coaches my breathing was throwing off my shots. I learned to relax and concentrated more on my breathing. It made me feel more confident with my weapon and guided me to a better score."

Instructors from the 31st Naval Construction Regiment provided the weapons training.

To qualify as a marksman with the rifle, a Seabee must shoot from the prone, sitting and standing positions. Shooting a score of 140-159 qualifies one as a marksman; 160 to 169 as a sharpshooter; and 170 or better as an expert. At least 95 percent of the battalion must qualify on the rifle by the end of home port training.

Everts and McClellan are public affairs representatives for NMCB 4.



Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 4 work as a team during chemical-biological-radiological warfare training.

Active and reserve CEC officers train in a single school

By Lt. Cmdr. Margaret Ronzio

ST. LOUIS—Since integrating active duty and reserve courses, the Civil Engineer Corps Officers School (CECOS) has trained over 300 reservists alongside their active duty counterparts. CECOS used to train active duty personnel, and the Reserve Civil Engineer Corps Officers School, directed by Reserve Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command (RDNAVFAC), trained reservists.

"Integrating the schools mirrors the integration of active and reserve components of the Naval Construction Force in fiscal year 1993," said Capt. Noah Long, RDNAVFAC deputy commander.

Now reserve and active duty CEC officers attend the same classes. This gives both groups a better understanding of their combined mission.

FY93 combined courses were officer qualification, acquisition fundamentals, contingency acquisition, environmental protection, public works management, resident officer in charge of construction office management, battalion operations and chief petty officer management.

Plans are to integrate the naval facilities systems management, advanced CEC, prospective battalion commanding/executive officer and Seabee senior and master chief management courses in FY94.

Ronzio is a public affairs representative for RDNAVFAC.

Deep South Seabees build at Pacific bases

By JO1 Bill Sellers

OAHU, Hawaii—Reserve Seabees from Louisiana, Arkansas, Texas and Mississippi have been building at military bases here for the past nine months.

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 28 completed an 8,400-square-foot skating rink for a new teen center here. Active duty Seabees at the Naval Air Station (NAS) Barbers Point self-help center assisted with materials and labor. The teen center will provide pool tables, darts, skating, and other activities.

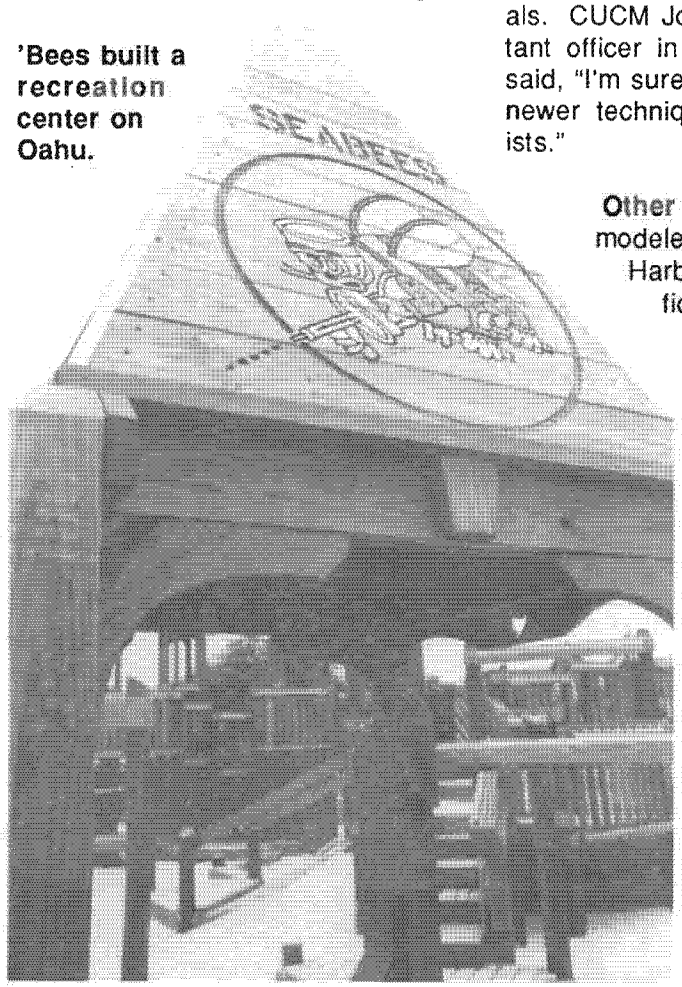
Earlier in the year, another detachment from NMCB 28 built a golf cart shelter for the station's golf course, finishing the job ahead of schedule. "It was phenomenal how quick they got the building up," said Lt. Cmdr. Dan King, staff civil engineer at the air station.

But the Seabees were hungry for more work, so King decided to put them on the teen center project.

"The nice thing the reserve Seabees bring with them is their dedication and high skill level," King said. "Most of them are in the construction business on the outside."

Meanwhile, other NMCB 28 detachments working at Construction Battalion Unit (CBU) 413 built steel shelving for equipment and materials. CUCM John Henderson, assistant officer in charge of CBU 413, said, "I'm sure my people picked up newer techniques from the reservists."

'Bees built a recreation center on Oahu.



Other NMCB 28 'Bees remodeled restrooms at Pearl Harbor's family services office and enlisted club.

A total of 565 Seabees from NMCB 28 were deployed to Pacific Fleet commands during the fiscal year. They did more than 5,000 mandays of construction on 20 projects in Hawaii and Japan—all on or ahead of schedule—and saved the Navy an estimated $1 million.

Sellers is a public affairs representative for NMCB 28.

'Bees work, celebrate on Guam

By JO2 Dan Tillman

AGANA, Guam—Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 3 helped relieve water shortages here in July and celebrated Guam's World War II liberation from Japan.

A prolonged dry spell depleted the Navy's main water source on Guam, Fena Reservoir, to the lowest level since the reservoir was built in the 1950s. On July 23, a water rationing program began after water conservation efforts by Navy users failed to slow the decline.

Water services to military and civilian consumers are cut off on certain days from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. To provide drinking water during these outages, NMCB 3 distributed 400-gallon mobile tanks, called water buffaloes, and water tankers holding 2,000 or 6,000 gallons to Navy locations around the island.

"We're providing water 24 hours a day," said Lt. Cmdr. Chuck Cassidy, NMCB 3's operations officer. The battalion has also been conducting its own water conservation program. "The goal is to reduce our water usage by 50 percent, and that's what we've done," said Cassidy.

Despite water shortages, throngs of people jammed the streets July 21 for the Guam Liberation Day Parade, celebrating 49 years of freedom from Japanese occupation during World War II. Charlie Company's steelworkers and builders marched in the parade with personnel from the island's other military units.

Tillman is a public affairs representative for NMCB 3.

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 3's Charlie Company marches in Guam Liberation Day parade. (Photo by JO2 Dan Tillman)

Speedy Seabees save food from spoiling

By JO2 Dan Tillman

AGANA, Guam—An earthquake that recently shook Guam almost cost the Navy millions of dollars worth of food. Almost.

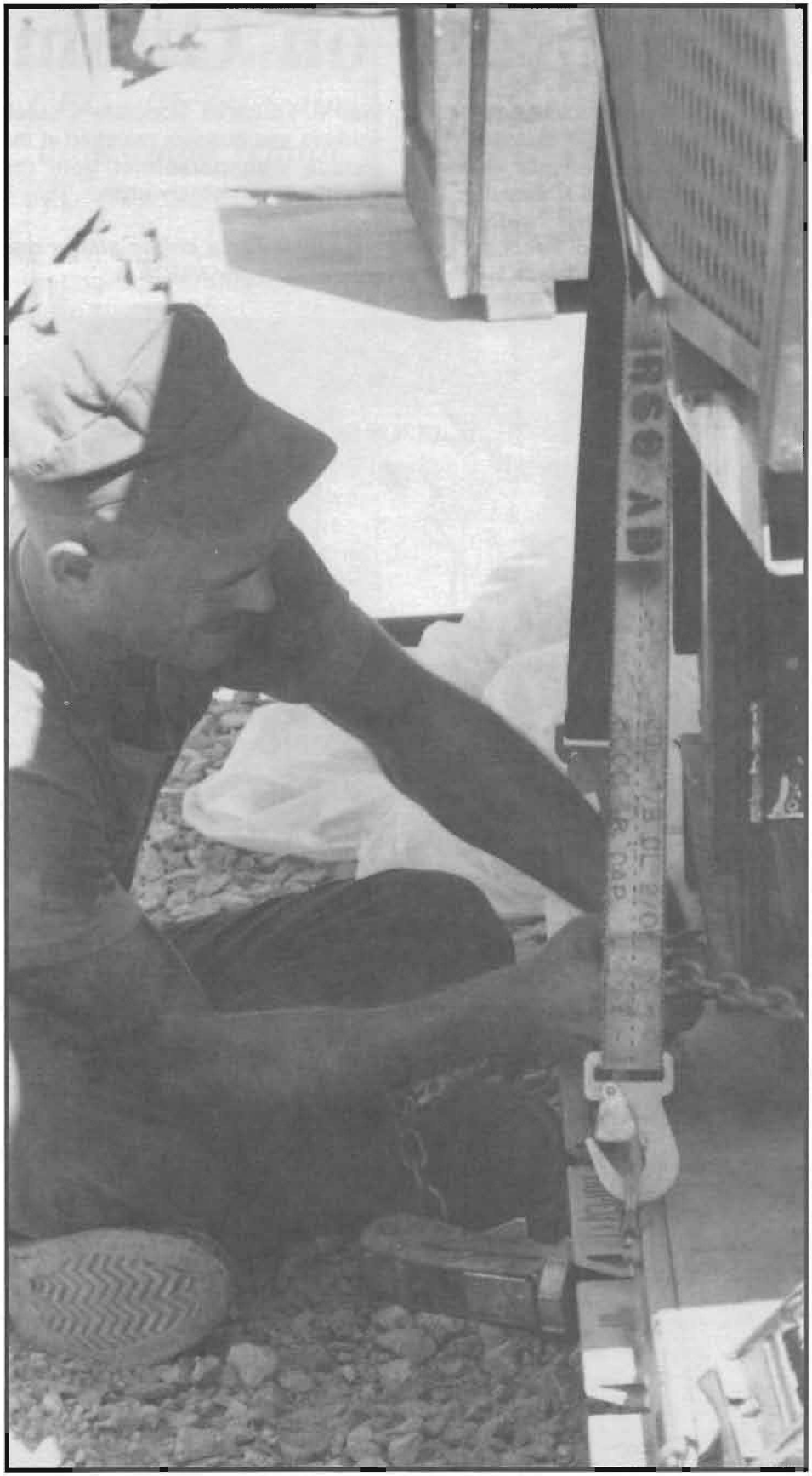
The Fleet and Industrial Supply Center keeps cold storage food in a large warehouse on Guam. The quake disrupted electrical and water supplies to two cooling towers used to keep the food cold.

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 3's Bravo Company made repairs that kept the food from being lost. The Seabees broke through asphalt and dug a trench, hammered through concrete surrounding a conduit, cut and replaced damaged parts and installed new cables from the towers to an electrical panel. That was the easy part.

The chiller cooling towers require a large volume of circulating water, which is held in an underground pit and an old tunnel. The earthquake cracked the tunnel, allowing the water to leak. The Seabees made repairs similar to damage control for a breached hull on a ship. A large steel plate was cut and used to barricade the tunnel. The patch was complete with a gasket and steel bracing welds to hold it in place.

Cold storage food lasts only 72 hours without refrigeration. Since 42 hours had already passed when the battalion was notified, NMCB 3 had only 30 hours to do the job, or the food would perish. Bravo Company assessed the work, fabricated many of the parts, and finished the job in about 19 hours.

Tillman is a public affairs representative for NMCB 3



EO2 Thomas Reedy chains down crates and equipment during Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 7 air detachment embarkation.

HOME ON T

NMCB 7's air det gets training, and builds, too

GULFPORT, Miss.—Naval Mobile Cons completed a two-week training exercise at C

As soon as they landed, the Seabees w struction projects. "The air det is more int Banks. "We're the first ones out; we have training is concerned. And it's on-the-job tr

The tactical phase lasted four days. Lejeune, N.C., were aggressors for the exer our lines," said EO1 Mark Ewing. "We had

The air det worked on several projects, park. Sixteen RV pads, with water, sewer a also built a new range tower in four days, t

A rear window of the plans, operations a "We replaced it for more convenience," said E from the rear of the building." A sidewalk le

Other projects included grading and projects using 1,200 tons of asphalt; and dig operations center.

MS1 David Robb and MS3 Roger Beatti weren't served anything twice," said Robb. they were going to eat. I can't cook like mo

Air detachment members get experienc during weapons training at Camp Robins

Stories and photos b

HE RANGE

iew types of weapons during Arkansas trip

tion Battalion (NMCB) 7's air detachment
p Robinson, Ark., Aug. 28.
tactical (combat-ready) and started con-
e than a regular det," said BU2 Anthony
pe more prepared, as far as contingency
ng for most of the Seabees."

ne 2nd Air Delivery Marines from Camp
. "The Marines weren't able to penetrate
rong and secure perimeter, well fortified."
uding building a recreational vehicle (RV)
lectrical lines, were installed. The air det
days ahead of schedule.
raining building was replaced with a door.
Richard Trembray. "There was no access
ng to the door was also built.

haping 20 miles of roadway; five paving
g a line to place conduit to the emergency

d an excellent job feeding the det. "They
en I found out how hard they work, I knew
but I'm going to make sure they eat."

n the Mark 19 grenade machine gun
, Ark.

JOSN Mark Wagner

Seabees start work on recreational vehicle pads at Camp Robinson, Ark.

New weapons, new techniques

A new weapon and a new range technique were introduced to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 7's air detachment during their weapons training at Camp Robinson, Ark.

The Mark 19 40mm grenade machine gun became a favorite among the det members. NMCB 7 is the first battalion to range test the Mark 19.

Another new twist at the range was computerized pop-up targets, both day and night. The daytime targets popped up at different distances from the shooter for three seconds at a time. Reaction time had to be quick.

Night shooting was even tougher. "It was totally dark," said GMG3 Jeff Mink, air det armorer. "A one-second red strobe light would flash—that's the target. That's what we had to fire at."

The air det competed at the day and night pop-up targets with the 2nd Air Delivery Marines from Camp Lejeune, N.C. The Seabees had the best overall scores in both categories. HM1 "Doc" Dice had the best score for daytime shooting and CE3 Steven Randall scored the highest in night training.

Among these new additions to the range, there was also some non-traditional training—in grenade throwing. "Only the air det conducts this type of training. It's considered the most dangerous of range training," said Lt. j.g. Shawn Kent.

Builder 'Bees leave mark in Japan

OKINAWA, Japan—Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 74 arrived at Okinawa, Japan, in early March and will depart in mid-October. NMCB 74 Seabees have constructed a seawall; built two hazardous material storage buildings; and worked to complete two major projects for the Marines at Camp Fuji.

Normally, building an 843-foot-long concrete block wall on an existing concrete footer would be simple. But add in seasonal winds of 10 to 15 knots, with gusts up to 76 knots; tidal surges hitting the seawall and spraying 12 to 15 feet in the air; and rain, and you have a recipe for danger.

By mid-April, the project was behind schedule, so a new plan calling for more manpower and expertise was devised by Detail Yokosuka. The men would divide up into two 12-hour shifts and work for 17 straight days around the tides and weather that had put the team behind schedule. On May 20, the 'Bees turned the finished product over to the customer.

At Camp Fuetenma, NMCB 74 worked overtime to finish building two identical hazardous material storage buildings on time. Each building consists of 156 square feet of concrete slab, columns and roof, and walls made of core-filled concrete block. Some of the specialty work done by the Seabees included installing Class A fire-rated doors and gravity-type roof ventilators.

Detail Fuji is working on a washrack/hardstand facility designed as a parking area for Marine amphibious tracked vehicles at Camp Fuji. The parking area consists of an eight-inch-thick concrete slab measuring 103 feet wide and 230 feet long.

Three washracks adjoin the hardstand, which is surrounded by 530 feet of drainage ditch along with 12 utility poles with two high-intensity light fixtures on each.

Det Fuji's second project is a three-bay hazardous material storage facility being built for a Marine detachment at the camp.

The building has three gravity-operated roof ventilators along with three wall-mounted louvre air vents. The building is 23 feet long, nine feet wide and 10 feet high. The design includes a catch basin area and three double steel doors for access and security.

Compiled from stories by NMCB 74 public affairs representatives.

"Have you seen Lt. Brown?" is a question often asked in Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 4's work spaces. But the real question is, "Which one?" Lieutenants (from left) Edward, Kevin, and David Brown all work for the Port Hueneme, Calif., battalion. (Photo by PH2 Colin Bremner)

Seabees relieve 'closet clutter'

By Lt. Cmdr. Roberta McCorkle

LITTLE CREEK, Va.—Fifty-six families at the Naval Amphibious Base here have relief from closet clutter thanks to Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 21. The reservists built storage sheds at Wherry Housing on the Norfolk base.

"This means that people won't have to store utility items inside," said assistant family housing director John Morello. "It'll also reduce a lot of yard clutter and improve the appearance of the neighborhood."

The Seabees began work on the sheds in late March. "We estimate the Seabees have saved the base more than $50,000," said Lt. Fred Clark, Little Creek's Seabee force liaison. "We provided the materials, and they did the rest."

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

Former Seabee dental officer drills 'em all

Bees' teeth and bull's-eyes

By JO1 Calvin F. Gatch, Jr.

GULFPORT, Miss.—Whether drilling teeth or firing a rifle, Cmdr. Charles Jones has a steady hand. A member of the Volunteer Training Unit in Dubuque, Iowa, the Naval Reserve dental officer won the Illinois Service Rifle Championship last fall.

Jones, who served 10 years with Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 25, has been a crack shot since he was a high school student in Oakville, Ontario. He joined the Canadian Army Reserve and was on the second place team at the 1968 world championship of long-range rifle shooting.

In 1975, while a student at the University of Indiana's dental school, Jones became an ensign in the U.S. Naval Reserve. After two years of active duty at Great Lakes, Ill., Jones set up a private practice in Freeport, Ill. As dental officer for NMCB 25 at Naval Air Station Glenview, Ill., he was usually the highest rifle qualifier of the 500 Seabees in the unit.

Jones was the high new shooter and in seventh place overall at the 1990 Pacific Fleet rifle meet at Naval Air Station Miramar, Calif. He competed last year at the National Rifle Championships at National Guard Base, Camp Perry, Ohio.

Jones is teaching his techniques to his daughter, Meghan, a fifth grader at Carl Sandburg School in Freeport. Meghan won the Indian Princess Turkey Shoot sponsored by the Freeport YMCA last year.

Physical fitness is important in Cmdr. Jones' training, but even more important is the mental training he practices. "I will imagine the process of shooting bull's-eyes in all kinds of conditions, such as being rained on, or shooting in windy weather," Jones said. "Mental training is 90 percent of being successful, if the equipment is in order. The same kind of rehearsal is helpful in my dental practice also."

Gatch is a staff writer for **The Beeline.**

Whether drilling teeth or drilling a target on the rifle range, reserve dental officer Cmdr. Charles Jones has a steady hand.

Naval Reserve needs 3,000 more Seabees

NORFOLK, Va.—The reserve Seabees need nearly 3,000 people to fill E-3 and E-4 billets in all construction ratings.

"Our shortfall has been caused in part by the perception that the military doesn't need people," said Cmdr. Jim Frazer, head of a Seabee accessions team that is developing ways to fill empty billets. "That isn't the case."

The accessions team is distributing referral cards that are wallet-sized to make it convenient for Seabees to carry and give them out.

Because many reserve Seabees are employed full-time in the construction industry, they have direct contact with potential Seabees. "We don't have to go far to find interested, qualified people," said Frazer. "We just have to get out the word."

One of the advantages to drilling as a Seabee is the new flexible drill program. This allows an individual to perform most drills and annual training at one time during the year.

Prepared for short-notice deployment, reserve Seabee battalions perform base maintenance projects to support the fleet. Interested reserve Seabee candidates can call 1-800-USA-USNR for more information. *(Story by 2nd Naval Construction Brigade public affairs)*

New ID cards to be introduced

By Master Sgt. Linda Lee, USA

WASHINGTON—To eliminate fake military identification cards, the Department of Defense (DOD) will issue new machine-readable, tamper-resistant ID cards to some 15 million people starting in 1994.

The credit-card-sized ID looks much like those now in use, said DOD officials. A computer system in which digitized black-and-white photographs and personal information are stored prints the one-piece card.

The new ID makes counterfeiting almost impossible. The computer generates a code linked to the individual's Social Security number, places it on the card and enters it into a central data base.

If someone uses a card and the number isn't in the data base, the card is fake.

Security measures also include a laminate that bonds directly to the plastic-coated ID paper. Currently, the photograph is glued to the card and can be replaced with another person's photo. The laminate now used can be peeled away from the card, allowing tampering.

On the back of the new card are two bar codes. One contains the ID information and digitized photo. The second allows for access to data bases. Personnel officials said the codes will save time because they can be scanned to verify the cardholder's eligibility for benefits.

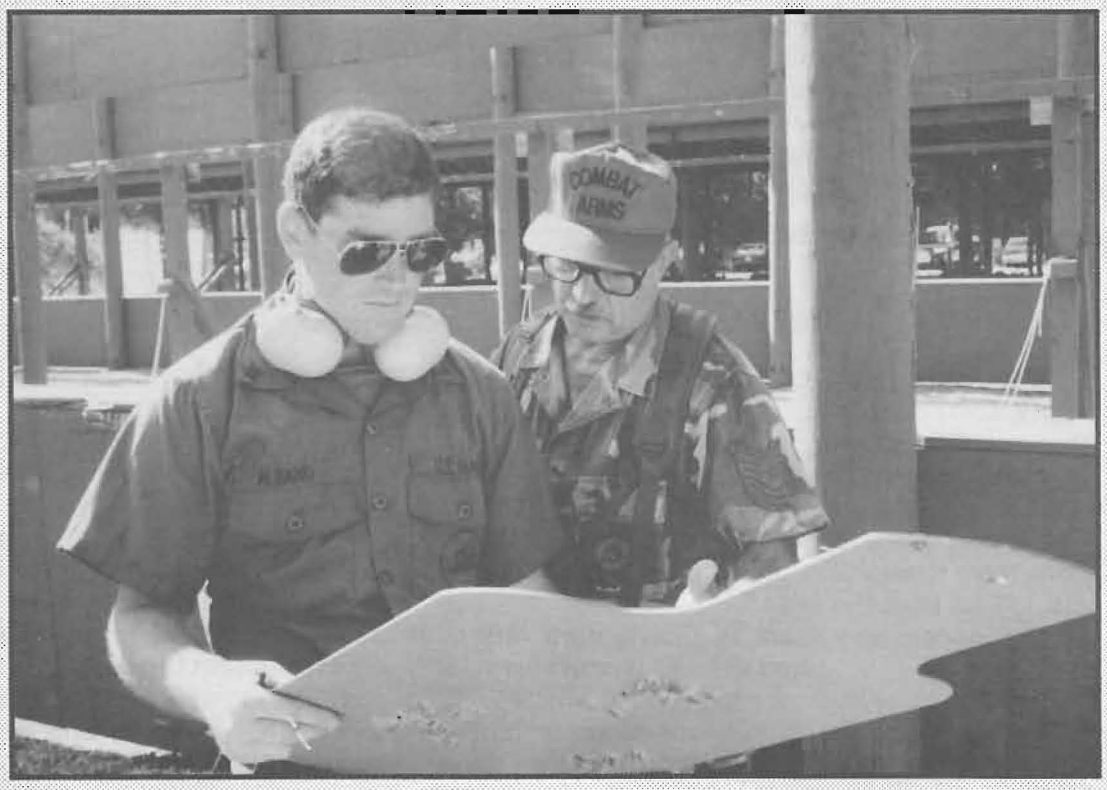
The services will issue the cards to everyone who uses a military or dependent ID. Field testing of the new card begins in October. Installations will be brought on line one at a time. Full implementation begins in January 1994 and is expected to take about four years. The new cards will be issued as people need replacements.

According to DOD, savings will begin right away because the new ID cards take less time to process and don't require controlled card stock, application forms or photographic film. Another benefit is elimination of duplicate forms and photos, and name boards. Estimated savings total several hundred million dollars.

Personnel officials are also exploring the possibility of a DOD-wide civilian employee ID card.

Forerunners of today's ID cards were first issued in September 1950. The last major changes to the active duty card were in 1974, when fingerprints were removed and the Geneva Convention statement was added.

Lee is a public affairs representative for the American Forces Information Service.



Air Force Reserve small arms instructor Bob Boisbert (right) takes a look at CM2 Bill Albano's target. Albano and other members of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 27 traveled to Westover Air Force Reserve Base in Chicopee, Mass., in July for M-16 rifle qualifications. (Photo by PH1 D. John McCarthy)

Seabees work mighty hard on Tonga...but Never on Sunday

By JO1 Rebecca Fox Newsom

NUKU'ALOFA, Tonga—From midnight on Saturdays until midnight Sundays only vital work is done in the Pacific Kingdom of Tonga out of respect for their Sabbath. The custom is welcomed by Seabees of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 74.

The Seabees are building four classrooms for an elementary school here. What would normally be a routine project has become a race with the clock, with only 19 days to do the job.

"We lost about five days to rain, setup and scheduling," said Michael T. Maphis, project supervisor, "so we went to 24-hour operations to try to get the building finished on schedule." Overseeing 18 Seabees and three Tongan Defense Service personnel, Maphis split his workers into two teams, working 12-hour shifts, six days a week. Out of respect to their Tongan hosts, they rest on Sunday.

After two days of 24-hour operations, they regained lost time and have made steady progress since.

Blocks to support the flooring were prepared before the Seabees arrived, and a local contractor made the roof trusses. Another local business loaned a heavy scaffold.

The Seabees' day-and-night presence at the school naturally sparks the curiosity of the children. The 'Bees have visited classrooms, telling the children about the Seabees. "They ask a lot of personal questions," said CN William B. Bell. "They ask if your parents are dead, if you have any kids. They wanted to know if I stole pocketbooks. I told them, 'No.'"

After tasting the Seabees' steady fare of MREs (meals, ready-to-eat), the students' parents began a parade of sandwiches, cakes, fruit, casseroles, and roasted whole pigs. The Tongans are not shy in showing their gratitude for the Americans' efforts.

"We are very grateful for the work they are doing," said Helena Taufaeteau, the school's principal. "They are working so hard and doing such a wonderful job for us. But they need to rest."

And they will—on Sunday.

Newsom is a public affairs representative for the 3rd Naval Construction Brigade.

Reserve Seabees build facilities for training weapons handlers

LITTLE ROCK, Ark.—Construction Battalion Hospital Unit (CBHU) 11 and Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 28 Detachment 01 are completing a training facility at Naval Weapons Station Yorktown near Little Rock. The station saw a lack of training in handling weapons with forklifts, and the Seabees saw a chance to help.

Several years ago, the same Seabee detachments built a simulated ship's hold to permit the first stages of training in cargo handling. This summer, the 'Bees added a 20-by-40-foot, two-room storage building, plenty of handling area, and a boxcar staging area to give the weapons handlers more in-depth training.

BU1 Trice Ellis from CBHU 11 and BU1 Dennis McGinty from NMCB 28 Det. 01 brought to life the plans provided by project managers Lt. Mel Scheurman and Lt. Cmdr. Marty Phillips. Detailed manpower planning, material takeoffs, and equipment requirements were given to the commanding officer of Navy and Marine Corps Reserve Center Little Rock one weekend after she had the money available.

These worker 'Bees have finished every phase of the project ahead of schedule and under budget. By Oct. 1, forklift drivers from all over the country will benefit from their efforts by being able to come to Little Rock to train.

Reserve Seabee carries lumber for new weapons training facility.

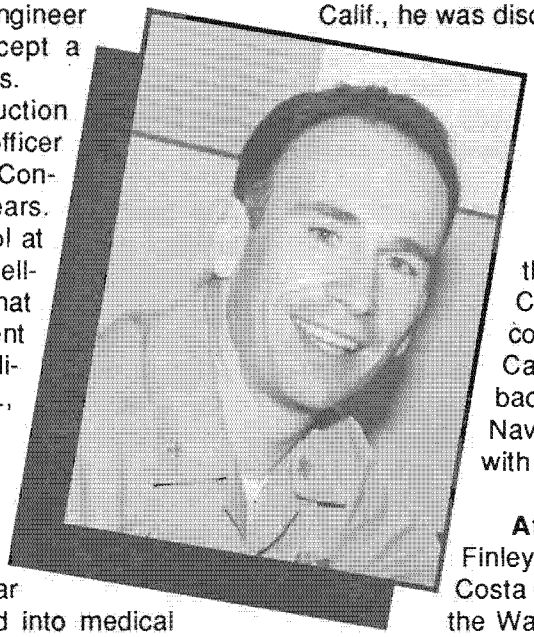
Busted? Not quite!

From lieutenant commander to ensign

By JO1 Calvin F. Gatch, Jr.

GULFPORT, Miss.—Lt. Cmdr. Allan M. Finley is about to become an ensign, but he hasn't been busted. Finley won an Armed Forces Health Professions Scholarship, so he is resigning his Civil Engineer Corps (CEC) commission to accept a commission with the Medical Corps.

Finley has been the Construction Battalion Hospital Unit planning officer for Commander, Reserve Naval Construction Force for the past two years. At 43, he is starting medical school at an age when most doctors are well-established in their practices. But that doesn't deter Finley. His enrollment in the College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific at Pomona, Calif., fulfills a lifelong dream.



"I really have wanted to be a doctor since I was a boy," Finley said. "One of the things that held me back of late has been the fear that I was too old to be accepted into medical school. My wife, Teresa, a family practice physician in the Navy, has been a real encouragement."

Finley is leaving a career in civil engineering that included a stint with the Navy and most recently with the Department of Energy's New Production Reactors program. He hopes to become a primary care physician. That will involve four years of medical school and three years of residency. He'll be ready to start practicing medicine when he is 50.

Finley enlisted in the Navy after high school and served 30 months as a personnelman on the aircraft carrier Hancock. After a year at Naval Station Mare Island, Calif., he was discharged as a second class petty officer.

Although he took pre-medical school courses at community college, Finley switched to engineering as a junior at the University of California-Berkeley, where he graduated in 1977.

While working as a civil engineer at the public works department of Contra Costa County, Calif., he accepted a direct commission as a reserve CEC ensign in Cargo Handling Battalion 3. Finley went back on active duty in 1980 and served at Naval Training Center Orlando, Fla., and with Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 5.

After his second tour of active duty, Finley returned to his civilian job with Contra Costa County. He worked there until moving to the Washington, D.C., area.

Finley figures his scholarship is worth about $100,000 in tuition and other benefits. Upon completion of his studies, he will be obligated to four years of service.

Gatch is a public affairs representative for Commander, Reserve Naval Construction Force Support Command.

Reorganizations to affect Construction Battalion Hospital Units

Realignment of Naval Reserve Readiness Commands (REDCOMs) and changes in the Fleet Hospital program will affect the Construction Battalion Hospital Units (CBHUs.)

Effective Sept. 30, Fleet Hospital 20 at Fort Dix, N.J., will convert from a reserve unit to an active duty unit. CBHU 20, in Harrisburg, Pa., will be retained to support Fleet Hospital 20. With the REDCOM realignments, the following actions are planned by the end of fiscal 1994:

- **Fleet Hospital 7, now in Cleveland, will move to Fort Dix. CBHU 20 will become CBHU 7, and other units will absorb the personnel now in Cleveland's CBHU 7.**
- **Fleet Hospital 22, Olathe, Kan., will move to Naval Station Great Lakes, Ill., and will continue to be supported by CBHU 22, Granite City, Ill.**
- **Fleet Hospital 11 will expand its area of responsibility. CBHU 11, located in Little Rock, Ark., will still support Fleet Hospital 11.**

Timing of the moves will depend on the realignment of REDCOMs and Fleet Hospital relocations.

Short Bursts

PICTURE THIS—A photo by PH1 D. John McCarthy of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 27 was recently accepted into the General Collection of the 102nd International Exposition of Professional Photography at Mount Prospect, Ill. The images were displayed in June at the Opryland Hotel and Convention Center, Nashville, Tenn., during the Professional Photographers of America, Inc., annual convention.

Titled "Portland Head Light," McCarthy's entry and more than 2,500 other photographic works constitute the world's largest annual exhibit of professional photography. More than 6,000 entries were submitted. The images were judged by 70 eminent photographers. ***(Submitted by Professional Photographers of America, Inc.)***

" Did you know this hair restorer you're using is made by the same people who invented the 'chia pet'?"

GEICO AWARDS—The Government Employees Insurance Company (GEICO) awards program annually honors one enlisted member of each service for outstanding drug and alcohol abuse prevention, fire safety and prevention, or traffic safety and accident prevention. Each winner will receive $2,500 at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. GEICO pays for lodging and round-trip transportation for the winner and spouse.

Active duty enlisteds with at least a year of service left from the nomination date are eligible. Nominations should contain:

- One typewritten page, single-spaced, with name, grade, duty title, organization and office symbol, duty location, official and personal mailing address, official and home phone numbers, and a brief biography to include family, military history, and military and civilian education and awards.
- One-page narrative describing achievements or services, and how they benefitted the military or civilian community.
- Letter of endorsement from the commanding officer, including DSN and commercial phone number.
- One 8-by-10 color, head-and-shoulders photo of the nominee in service dress uniform (uncovered).

Packages over three pages will be disqualified. Skippers may forward one nomination in each category to: Commander, Naval Safety Center (Code 423), 375 A Street, Norfolk, VA 23511-4399. ***(Navy News Service)***

HELPING HANDS—Members of Naval Construction Training Center (NCTC) Port Hueneme, Calif., began building a bathroom and two-room addition to a home for unwed mothers in Ventura, Calif. Volunteers erected the walls of the 300-square-foot addition in six hours.

Other volunteers were at the American Cancer Society Bike-a-Thon at Ventura Harbor. The Seabees assisted in the setup and teardown of event sites, registration, time keeping and other activities.

Making Strides, a fund-raiser the previous week, had NCTC volunteers lend the same type of help. A 12-man crew that day teamed up with the Graffiti Task Force, created by the Oxnard Police Department, and painted over graffiti at an elementary school. ***(Submitted by EOC Manuel O. Martinez, Jr.)***

RICKETTS AWARD—CE1 David S. Stewart received the Adm. Claude V. Ricketts Award for Inspirational Leadership in June. Given by the Navy League of the United States, the award recognizes a Navy enlisted person for outstanding leadership and professionalism.

Stewart was recognized for service as a static uninterruptible power system technician at Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station Western Pacific Guam.

In Typhoon Omar, Guam's power grid was knocked out and exhausted the back-up power cells. This blackout took the communications station out of service and caused communications backlogs throughout the Navy. Water damaged equipment. Stewart and his team of technicians made power available to the operations spaces while making repairs under severe conditions. ***(Story by Navy League of the United States)***

News to Use

NEW UNIFORM ITEMS—The Navy is adopting a new V-neck pullover sweater in blue-black to match winter uniforms. The sweater can be worn the same way now authorized for the blue "wooly-pulley" sweater.

The new sweater has tabs for soft shoulder boards, but its neck permits collar devices to be seen on shirts underneath. The new sweater will be available in a lightweight acrylic version and a heavier wool version.

The "wooly-pulley" is authorized ashore until Oct.1, 1995. After that, it will be worn only aboard ships.

The other new item is a black windbreaker for officers and chiefs. The new jacket will augment, not replace, the black and khaki jackets already authorized. The new jacket can be worn with summer khaki, summer white, service dress blue (without coat), winter blue, winter working blue and working khaki.

To order the new sweater or jacket, call the Navy Uniform Support Center at 1-800-368-4088. *(Navy News Service)*

FOOD-BORNE ILLNESSES—Bacteria is on the outside of meat, but grinding mixes surface elements, resulting in a good growing place for bacteria. That's why ground meat is a high-risk food if it isn't cooked thoroughly.

The major sources of E. coli bacteria are undercooked ground beef and raw milk. E. coli can cause severe, often bloody, diarrhea and painful abdominal cramps. The infection can also lead to hemolytic uremic syndrome, causing kidney failure, seizures, stroke, and death.

Heat kills the bacteria when the meat is thoroughly cooked, but the germs can survive in rare or inadequately cooked meat. *(American Forces Information Service)*

PREPARE FOR DISASTER—The Federal Emergency Management Agency and the American Red Cross publish free pamphlets to help you plan for a disaster. These include *Your Family Disaster Supplies Kit, Emergency Preparedness Checklist, Emergency Food and Water Supplies, Are You Ready?* and *Your Family Disaster Plan.* For copies, send a postcard with your name, address and the pamphlet titles to: FEMA, Dept. P, Box 70274, Washington, DC 20024. *(American Forces Information Service)*

NMCB 19 CPO CLUB—The Reserve Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (RNMCB) 19 Chief Petty Officers Club held its 19th reunion at Alexandria Bay, N.Y., July 30-Aug. 1. The next reunion will be held next July in the Catskills of New York.

The club is open to any battalion chief or anyone who belonged to RNMCB 19 and became a chief after its disestablishment in 1974. Guests of chiefs are also invited to attend the reunions. *(By Lt. Cmdr. Peter Young, Reserve Naval Construction Force Support Command)*

DON'T BELIEVE IT—Rumors are appearing that Congress has passed a law entitling veterans to a dividend on their Servicemen's Group Life Insurance (SGLI.) The rumors say that current and former military personnel are entitled to this dividend, regardless of whether or not they still carry the insurance.

Congress has passed no legislation regarding dividends on SGLI, and no dividend is authorized. No one will receive a dividend. You can help eliminate the rumor by passing this information to friends, shipmates and veterans' groups. *(Navy News Service)*

TEACHERS NEEDED—If you're leaving the military and considering a teaching career, look at Troops to Teachers, a new Department of Defense (DOD) program aimed at service members and DOD civilians. It offers teaching jobs in low income areas or certain geographical areas. Qualified individuals may receive up to $5,000 from DOD to offset the costs of training leading to a teacher's certificate.

Military members must apply for the program before separation, must have served at least six years and must receive an honorable discharge. Civilian employees may apply after receiving a termination notice, but no later than 30 days after termination. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree.

Check with your local transition office and education center for more information. *(American Forces Information Service)*

STEROIDS OUTLAWED—Repeated steroid use not only causes physical and emotional problems, but the drug is now a controlled substance, carrying federal trafficking penalties for unlawful manufacture, distribution or dispensing.

Some side effects of steroids are acne, jaundice, elevated blood cholesterol, high blood pressure, rashes, hives, testicle shrinkage, infertility, and personality changes.

Anabolic steroid users are at risk for liver, testicle and prostate cancer, heart attack, stroke, kidney disease, AIDS (if needles are shared), hallucinations and delusions. Side effects for women are permanent deepening of the voice, facial hair, baldness and menstrual irregularities. Many of the drug's side effects remain even after use of the drug has stopped. *(Navy News Service)*

From the ArcHive

In Vietnam, Seabee earns Medal of Honor

By Leon Lazarus

On the night of June 9, 1965, a steady rain fell on the Civilian Irregular Defense Camp at Dong Xoai, Republic of Vietnam. The camp housed a tiny force of South Vietnamese soldiers, 11 U. S. Army Special Forces personnel, and nine members of Seabee Technical Assistance Team 1104. Around midnight, a rocket exploded inside the camp, mortar shells fell, and heavy machine gun fire came slicing across the compound.

As mortar rounds exploded, two of the camp's three compounds were overrun by Viet Cong (VC). Within minutes, the Americans lost their communication equipment and most medical supplies. The camp's ammo reserve was stored in a building now occupied by the VC.

Inside the District Office, Seabees kept up a steady fire. A strong VC force set up a machine gun inside the compound's school building, about 200 yards southwest of the District Office, and although one VC gun crew was knocked out with M-79 rounds, a new crew quickly took over.

Most of the Americans were wounded within minutes of the attack. CM3 Marvin G. Shields had a chunk of shrapnel in his back and a neck wound, but hadn't slowed down. Shields salvaged some 800 precious rounds of ammo from a burning trailer before the trailer blew apart. Scooting from one location to another, he handed out ammo and encouraged his hard-pressed buddies.

A Special Forces sergeant rigged a radio out of parts taken from the wreckage of the communications center. The set functioned, and at dawn the first wave of U.S. jets passed over the camp. Although repeatedly hit with napalm and rockets, the VC fought even harder.

The Cong set up another machine gun inside the schoolhouse and concentrated their fire on the headquarters building where the Seabees and Special Forces had bunched together. The Americans' only heavy weapon was a rocket launcher. They were out of mortars as well as M-79 ammo. Few rounds remained for their M-14s. Increased machine gun fire from the school now bracketed the HQ building and the cornered Americans inside.

As bullets smashed all around them, Lt. Charles Williams, the Special Forces commanding officer, said, "We've got to knock out that machine gun, but I'll need a volunteer to help load the rocket launcher." Shields volunteered at once, despite having an additional shrapnel wound in the face. When Williams asked Shields if he had any experience in loading the weapon, the Seabee replied, "No, sir, but I'll learn awful fast."

Dashing out of the building, the pair set up near the front gate, which offered a clear shot at the enemy's position. As gunfire hit around them, Shields helped Williams fire four quick shots. The last one was in, shattering the enemy weapon and killing the gun crew. The two men ran back toward the HQ building, but another automatic weapon opened fire on them. A bullet shattered Williams' arm, and two smashed into Shields' right leg. As bullets continued to thud into the earth, Shields dragged himself to a building. Crawling inside, he tried tying a tourniquet to his leg, but the effort was too much. Seconds later, the 26-year-old Seabee passed out.

The last few hours of fighting were a nightmare. When the Cong opened fire at the HQ building with a recoilless rifle, hand grenades and mortars, the Americans—all wounded—rushed to a nearby artillery position. Shields, who had been carried back to the HQ building, now faced another move.

U.S. jets pinned down the VC with strafing and napalm and rescue choppers got the men out. Shields was alive when put aboard with the other wounded, but died enroute to Saigon. Also dead from wounds was Seabee W.C. Hoover. Although all participating members of Seabee Team 1104 received decorations for their part in the battle, Shields was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor, the first Seabee to be so decorated.

(From "The Seabees—Our Medal of Honor Heroes," first published in October 1967)

Medal authorized for Restore Hope

By Master Sgt. Linda Lee

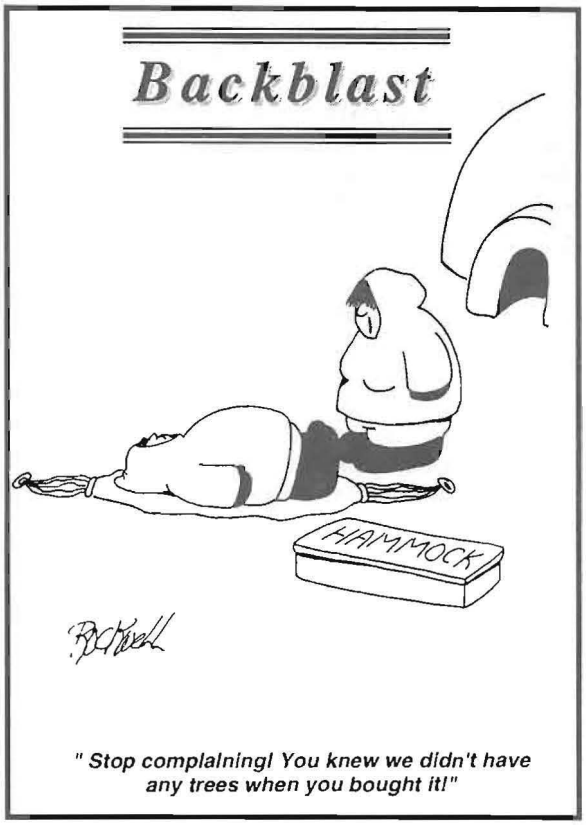
WASHINGTON—U.S. troops who served in Operation Restore Hope in Somalia after Dec. 4, 1992, are eligible for the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal. The area of service includes the total land and airspace of Somalia; land and airspace in Kenya east of 38 degrees east longitude; the Gulf of Aden; and the Indian Ocean north of 5 degrees south latitude and west of 55 degrees east longitude. Individuals who served under the Commander, Unified Task Force Somalia in direct support of the operation are also eligible for the medal. Each service will determine eligibility case by case.

Time spent in the area to qualify for the medal depends on participation in Restore Hope. For example, assignment to a unit deployed 30 consecutive days in the area qualifies, as does 60 nonconsecutive days if the work included entering the area.

It's up to the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff to award the medal. To merit the medal, an operation must fall under one of three categories: a U.S. military operation; U.S. operation in direct support of the United Nations; or U.S. operation assisting friendly foreign nations. Also considered are the threat of hostile action and the number of U.S. troops taking part. Only one other U.S. operation in support of the United Nations was approved for award of the medal, involving service in the Congo in 1960-1962.

In some instances, a separate award will be issued, like the Vietnam Service Medal, or a service may issue its own medal. When two such awards are issued for the same operation, the individual has to decide which to accept. Service members are not entitled to two such awards for the same operation. Specific details for award of the medal are available from local military personnel offices.

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



" Stop complaining! You knew we didn't have any trees when you bought it!"

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