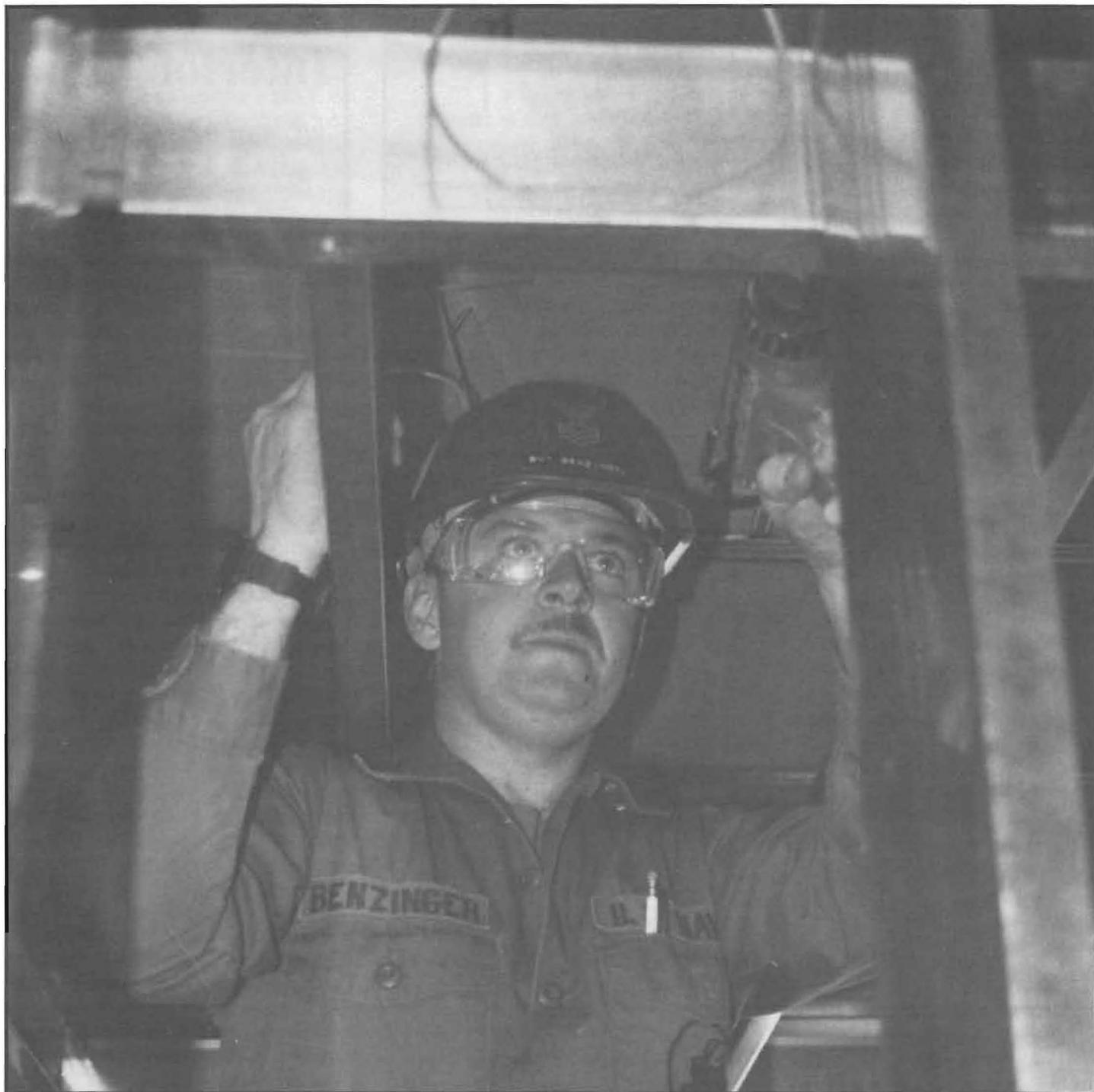


Beeline



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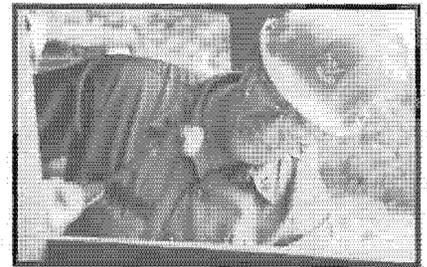
March-June 1994



BU1 Brian Benzinger of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 25 drives screws into steel studs for a barracks renovation project at Camp Pendleton, Calif. Story on page 8. (Photo by JO2 Ronald E. Flesvig)



A Seabee from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 21 caulks a doorway for a storage building in the Navy Housing area at Little Creek, Va. Active duty and reserve Seabees saved the Navy \$3 million in the Hampton Roads, Va., area last year and are expected to save another \$3 million this year. (Photo by JO1 Calvin Gatch)



Interior View

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PLAYING HARD TO GET

Florida Seabees get warfare plns the hard way—they earn 'em. Page 21.

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, *The Beeline*, RNCFS Support Command, 5000 Marvin Shields Blvd., CBC Gulfport, MS 39501-5016. Telephone 800-782-3510, (601) 871-2979, or DSN 868-2979. Fax 601-871-2990. Rear Adm. T. J. Gross, Commander, RNCFS. Cmdr. R.L. Thompson, Public Affairs Officer. JOCS T.S. Padgett, Public Affairs Chief. JO2 G.L. Boucher, Editor.

Women in battalions:

No big deal, says master chief

By J02 Luis M. Luque

GULFPORT, Miss.—When Congress modified the combat exclusion rule this year and allowed women to be assigned to construction battalions, did it open Pandora's box?

The answer is an emphatic "no," if you ask CUCM Clarence LeVelle, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133's command master chief. "What's the big deal?" LeVelle said. "A Seabee's a Seabee. Women are assigned everywhere except the battalions. It's only a big deal if you make it one."

Big deal or not, the battalion is

preparing for the arrival of women, starting April 20 when Lt. j.g. Michaela Bradley comes from Sigonella, Sicily, to her assignment in the battalion's operations department.

Skeptics may still believe that women have no place in the military, and some spouses perceive an increased potential for adultery. But there are also other less obvious issues the decision could raise: visitation policies in the barracks while deployed, fraternization, pregnancy, offensive language, unequal treatment, privacy, search and seizure,

single parenthood and unit readiness.

"My biggest concern is readiness," said Cmdr. Richard McAfee, battalion commanding officer. "Every billet in the battalion is important and contributes to our readiness. People have to be ready physically, mentally and across-the-board. Irresponsible sexual behavior on the part of any military member can eventually diminish readiness.

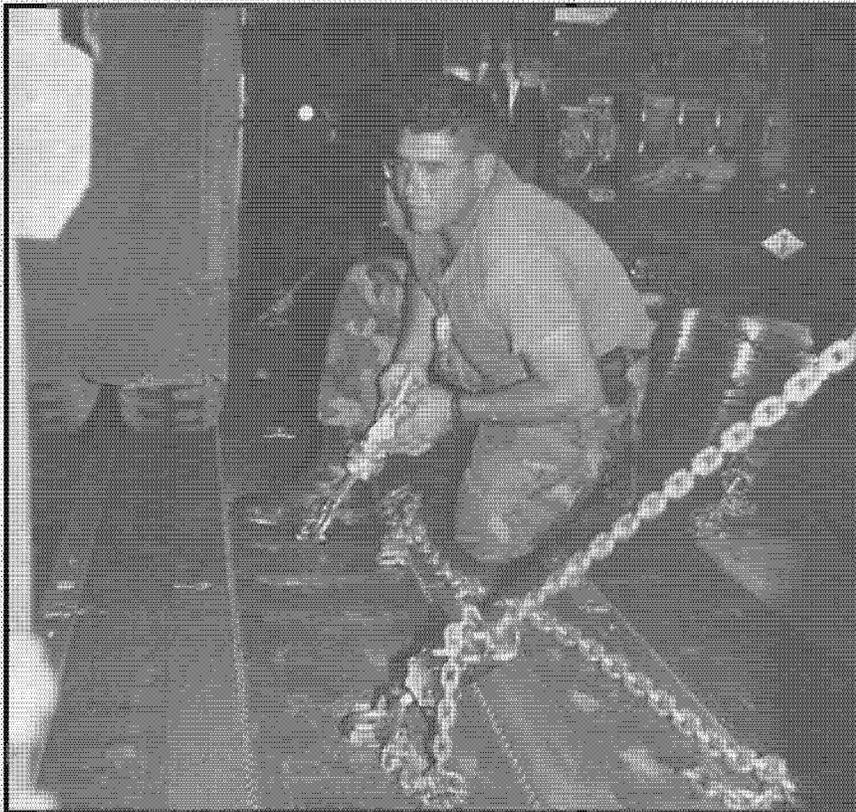
"Women will not receive preferential treatment, nor will they have to meet standards that men don't," he said. "We have made it clear that a person will be assigned responsibilities commensurate with their rank, training, capabilities and drive."

LNC Doug Ball, the battalion's legal officer, believes a clear understanding of sexual harassment and fraternization will be needed. "The chain of command is going to have to be more aware of what sexual harassment and fraternization are. We're not just talking about the top, we're talking about the E-6, the E-5 supervisor, and on down."

Rules on fraternization have evolved over the past few years. Relationships don't have to be between people in the direct line of supervision to be fraternization. Now, you must not have an intimate relationship with anyone who can influence your assignment, evaluations, pay or any other aspect of your career.

While the battalion is bound to have some growing pains as it begins to receive enlisted women in May, CUCM LeVelle echoes the feelings of many: "Society changes; you have to change with it or you get left behind. Let us all do our job the best we can so we can get on with business."

Luque is a public affairs representative for NMCB 133.



UT1 Christopher E. Pappas of NMCB 7 prepares to secure equipment inside an aircraft. NMCB 7 sent Seabees to Guatemala in February to drill water wells. (Photo by PH2 Steven Manuel)

Reserve 'Bees train while improving Army camp

Story and photos
by JO2 Ronald E. Fiesvig

CAMP RIPLEY, Minn.—Each year, thousands of military personnel train and work at this Army camp. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 25 is helping make this useful training center even better.

Members of NMCB 25 Detachments 04 and 12 often work on projects throughout the camp.

The reservists drill from two to six days at a time. EO2 Kelly Magnuson said, "Having a couple of guys come a day or two earlier helps. They can check out equipment and tools and have things ready to go when the rest of the guys get here."

NMCB 25 is involved in five major projects at Camp Ripley. In January 1993, the Seabees began replacing windows on troop housing units. Modern steel-framed windows are taking the place of old, wooden-

framed windows. The new windows are expected to work better, last longer and be more energy-efficient.

Two new windows are being put in for every old one. The Seabees have to cut cement block to form a pillar, which acts as a spacer between the two new window frames.

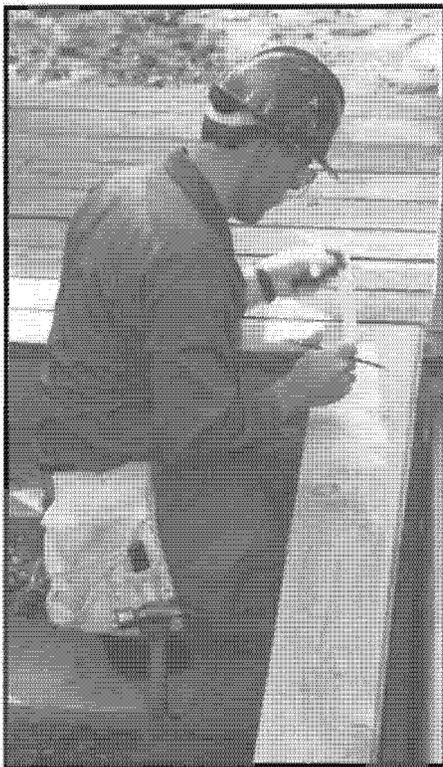
Civilian participation provides a bonus to the Seabees' training. For example, a cement contractor may work with steelworkers and electricians who are not adept at pouring concrete. This is a good opportunity to cross-train, or teach the Seabees skills not normally a part of their ratings. Cross-training makes the Seabees more versatile and more useful.

Elsewhere, NMCB 25 and others moved more than 30,000 cubic yards of earth to upgrade Camp Ripley's ammunition storage point. Covers on the ammo bunkers were insufficient

(Continued on following page)



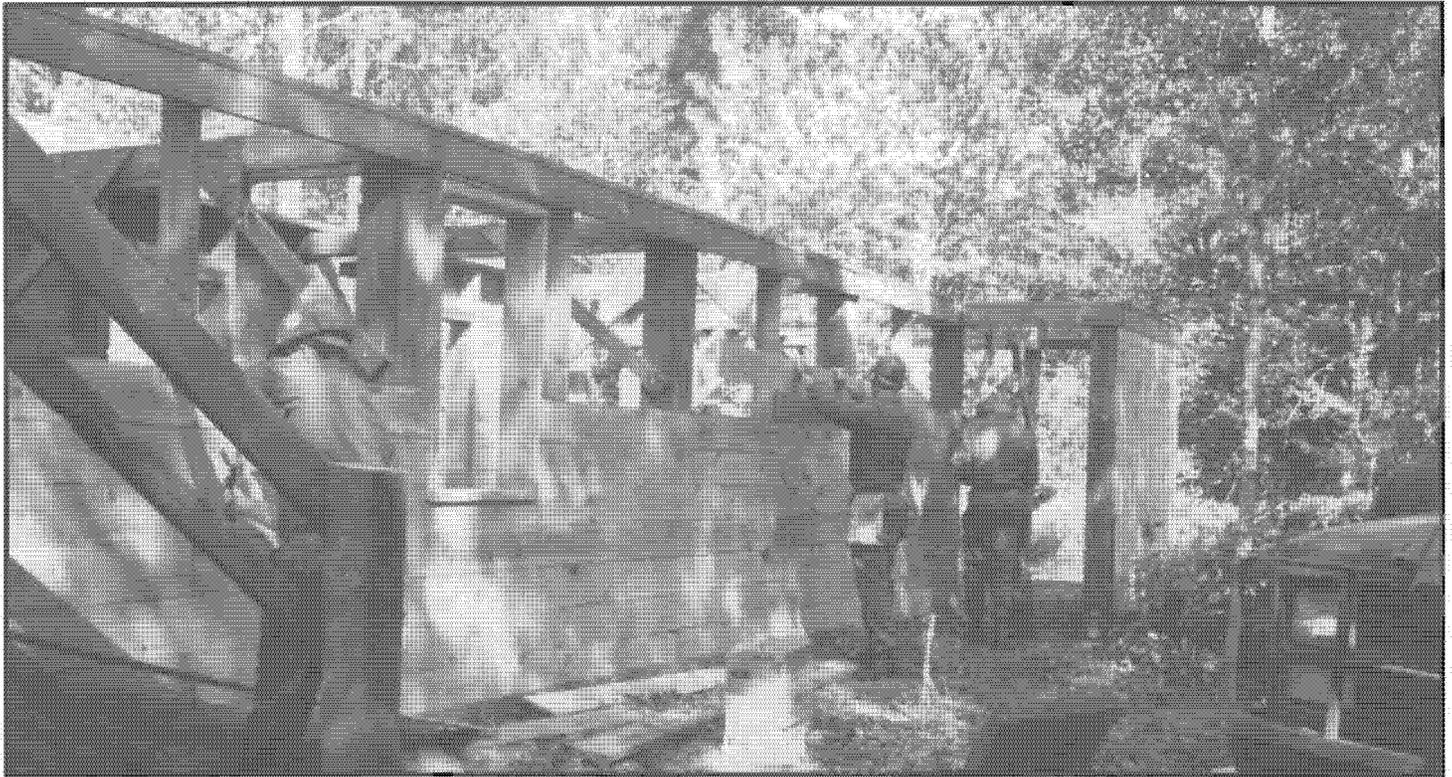
Reservists from NMCB 25 Detachment 12 put siding on a building that will eventually be used at the assault course at Camp Ripley, Minn.



BU2 Gary Kangas measures carefully to insure quality construction on the assault course at Camp Ripley.



EO2 Kelly Magnuson hauls a piece of tongue-and-groove siding to the assault course site.



Reserve Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 25 Detachment 12 work on a building at the assault course at U.S. Army Camp Ripley, Minn. The camp is used by all branches of the military for combat training.

Seabees get training at Army camp

(Continued from page 4)

protection against possible explosions. Working with facilities engineers, the Seabees stripped off the old bunker covering and replaced it with the recommended amount of dirt and clay.

Not only were the bunker covers reinforced, but the steep grade of the slope was reduced to facilitate mowing and maintenance.

NMCB 25 also worked at the camp's nuclear-biological-chemical training area. The area now has a small educational center with heads. The Seabees did most of the finishing work, such as drywall, electrical wiring, and furnace ducting. The battalion helped blaze an approach way, hauled gravel, and did ditch work along the road.

NMCB 25 has worked at another

site since 1989. The camp's Military Operations Urban Terrain (MOUT) assault course has seven buildings of various dimensions and one large sewer unit aboveground.

The MOUT site is used for urban assault exercises. The buildings give a lifelike look and feel to every exercise. Hiding places have been built into each of the large wooden structures. Each assault scenario is different and forces the participants to deal with the unexpected.

Law enforcement agencies, the Department of Natural Resources, and the military services practice at the MOUT site. NMCB 25 has completed almost all the construction work on the MOUT site.

NMCB 25 reservists are building new berms throughout the Miller Tank Range. The berms are dirt mounds that protect the tank target-

raising mechanisms. Each berm has a 10-foot-wide concrete slab at its base. A mechanical device, which raises and lowers the targets, is mounted to the concrete pad.

When tank shells blast directly at the target above the berm, adequate protection is essential for the raising mechanism. A mound of dirt is built up, circling three sides of the cement pad, to act as a barrier from the tank fire. The 27-by-40-foot berms rise four feet from the slabs. The Seabees covered the berms with black topsoil for environmental purposes. They also built maintenance trails to the new berms.

Since August, seven berms have been put in. The project calls for 20 more.

Flesvig is a public affairs representative for NMCB 25.

Heroes: *Seabees save three men pinned under dump truck*

By Cliff Mika

JACKSONVILLE, Fla.—Four men from Construction Battalion Unit 410 are credited with rescuing three men whose station wagon was trapped under a 20-ton dump truck filled with wet sand.

AO1 Walter Courtney, SW2 Ray Mathis, SW1 Robert McCullough and CM2 Mike Shelton were eating lunch at a restaurant off Interstate 10 near Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., when a person ran in to make a 911 emer-

gency phone call. The Seabees, returning to Naval Air Station (NAS) Jacksonville from Construction Battalion Center Gulfport, Miss., rushed outside to help. They worked to get the sand out of the truck, first with their hands, and then with shovels that arrived shortly thereafter.

“All we were doing was trying to help. Everything just kind of clicked into place.”

“We needed to get that dump truck off; that was my first reaction,” said Courtney. *“All we were doing was trying to help. Everything just kind of clicked into place.”*

When a tow truck and front-end loader arrived, the Seabees rigged straps to allow the tow truck to pull the dump truck off. The front-end loader was positioned to assist by pushing the dump truck upright.

When the dump truck had been lifted off, rescue workers peeled the car away to get at the men inside. The car’s driver and front-seat passenger were taken by ambulance to a local hospital, and the back-seat passenger was taken by helicopter to the hospital. All three men are recovering from their injuries.

Mika is a public affairs representative for NAS Jacksonville.

Home, home on the range

By JO2 Luis M. Luque

GULFPORT, Miss.—“Learning to hold the weapon still is probably the hardest part,” YN2 Brian DeMange said of firing the M-16 rifle during a recent range exercise with Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133.

“You have this tiny little bull’s-eye that you see from 200 yards away,

and it just doesn’t want to stay still,” said DeMange. In addition to the distance, shooters had to deal with a 70-second time limit and with the visual distortion caused by safety glasses.

Still, 98 percent of those who attended the battalion’s first of three range exercises qualified with M-16s, and 60 percent earned expert med-

als. Over a quarter of the battalion took part in the week-long exercise.

“This year, we had a lot of new shooters,” said range coach EA2 Jeffrey Frank, “and a lot of them just wanted to qualify. They saw that as an improvement. I had a guy who improved his score from 68 to 172 in one day. He was really happy.”

Participants had to shoot 40 rounds from 200 yards and score 140 points to qualify, 160 to earn sharpshooter medals and 170 for expert.

On the .45-caliber pistol range, shooters fire 30 rounds from 25 yards. “The .45 is significantly more difficult,” Frank said. The numbers support the claim. Only 22 percent of the pistol shooters qualified, and no one scored expert (144 out of 150).

The high scorers were SW1 Michael Wetter, 193 on the M-16 range, and EOC William Crawford, 142 with the pistol.

Luque is a public affairs representative for NMCB 133.



New CBMU is commissioned

By EO1 Kevin M. Sullivan

NEWPORT, R.I.—"It's exciting to be commissioning a new unit during a downsizing," said Lt. Cmdr. Charles Vaughan, the first skipper of the new Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit (CBMU) 202.

The New England drizzle could not dampen the spirits of the plank owners of CBMU 202 at its commis-

sioning ceremony here on Oct. 3.

The wartime mission of the CBMU is to provide technical services such as maintenance, repair, and operation of structures and utilities at advanced bases built by other units, or to backfill or augment public works services at existing bases.

The peacetime mission is to provide construction support to Atlantic Fleet bases. The new reserve unit is

assigned to active duty bases, and there is plenty of maintenance work to be done.

After the ceremony, the Seabees unloaded military field gear from a trailer and inventoried the gear. They also set up drill locations, units, and voluntary positions in each company.

Sullivan is a public affairs representative for CBMU 202.

Reserve Seabees help active duty 'Bees in Spain

By JO2 Bob Harvey

ATLANTA—Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 24 recently wrapped up two weeks of work at Camp Mitchell, Naval Station Rota, Spain. The nine-man detachment augmented active duty Naval Construction Force units.

NMCB 24's detail worked on the enlisted club, public works department, airfield terminal, fuel farm fire station, and Southeast Asia huts for a Boy Scout camp. Younger Seabees learned many carpentry, masonry and finishing skills.

"NMCB 133 made good use of our skills," said BU1 Charles Barnes. "They kept us busy, and we were treated as a part of the active duty battalion." BU1 Harold Edwards laid about 4,000 square feet of tile at the fire station. "He was the only one with experience putting down ceramic tile and he spent the entire time doing just that," Barnes said.

Four of the projects were complete and the fifth 90 percent complete when the men returned home, according to BU1 Terry Lenning.

Harvey is a public affairs representative for NMCB 24.



Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 15 erect a concrete pedestal for an F/A-18 aircraft to be displayed at the main gate at Naval Air Station Lemoore, Calif.



UT3 Charley Brown of NMCB 25 cuts a section of pipe for the barracks renovation project at Camp Pendleton. (Photo by JO2 Ronald E. Flesvig)

Barracks renovation by Seabees saves thousands of dollars for Marine Corps Camp Pendleton

By JO2 Ronald E. Flesvig

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif.— Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 25 is continuing a major barracks renovation for the 1st Marine Regiment here.

The battalion began work on one of the 72-room barracks in January 1993. The Seabees have now renovated over 12,000 square feet of barracks space.

Originally, the entire barracks was scheduled to be replaced. To avoid a multi-million dollar investment in the substandard barracks,

the Marines from Camp Pendleton and reserve Seabees from the 2nd Naval Construction Regiment tackled the renovation.

NMCB 25 is remodeling the rooms, which previously housed up to four men, into two-room suites.

Project manager BUC Thomas Jensen said, "One of the goals of the project is to improve the conditions of the barracks. On this job, we are stressing quality construction, not necessarily quantity."

Last year, the battalion provided more than 240 Seabees from 12 de-

tachments to work here. According to Jensen, the Seabees saved the Marine Corps \$234,000 in labor costs last year. Jensen estimates the savings to be at least that much for this year.

The job has provided training for every phase of construction. "We pretty much are working with four walls after we gut out the old room. From there, we replace everything," said CE1 Wesley Hartson.

Flesvig is a public affairs representative for NMCB 25.

In Volcanoes National Park:

Seabees help rehab conference center

By BU3 Gar Heacock

DALLAS—Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 22 reservists helped refurbish conference facilities recently at Kilauea Military Camp (KMC), a retreat nestled in Hawaii Volcanoes National Park.

The Seabees did jobs such as restraining wood to the customer's satisfaction. "The Seabees identified things that either didn't work or that would make the project look better once completed," said Army Capt. David Howard, KMC commander.

Wayne Carey, maintenance foreman at KMC, said he is very impressed with the Seabees' skill levels. "I don't normally get this quality

of skills," he said. "These are responsible people. They know what they're doing." He added, "They have always expressed their desire to make us, the customer, happy."

Keeping the customer happy was no accident. Communication flowed up and down the chain of command, according to Howard and the Seabees. As work progressed, KMC in turn treated NMCB 22 as a customer.

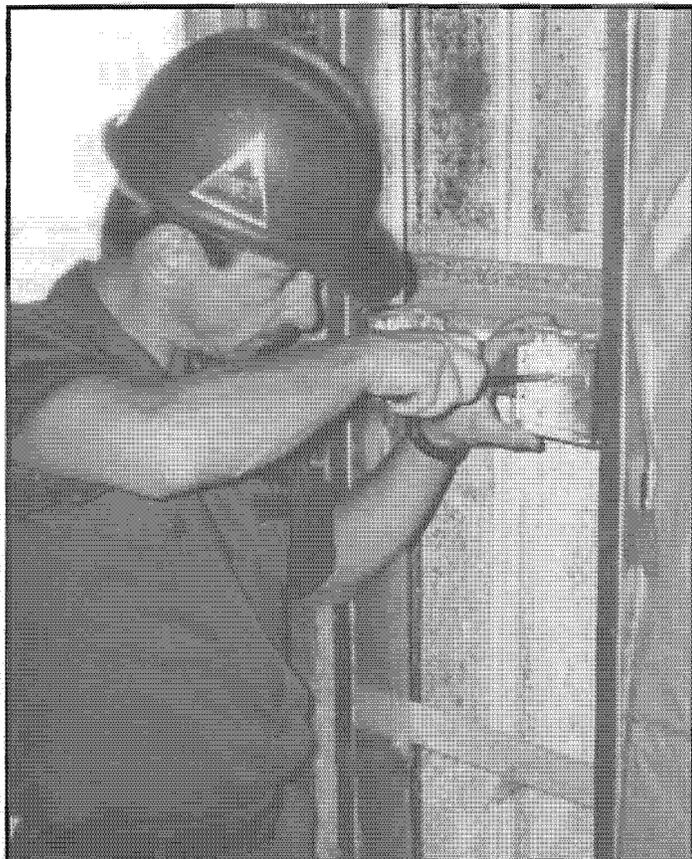
"We didn't want the Seabees to think they came here and had to work with what was already in place, as far as supplies and tools," Howard said. "If any equipment or supplies were needed to make a better project or

their job easier, we wanted them to feel free to ask for it."

BUCN Andy Rodriguez said, "This is the first real AT [annual training] out of town for me. I'm an E-3, and nobody has been condescending. They don't just tell me to sweep the floor—I get involved."

Carey said the projects the Seabees worked on would have taken years if he had to rely solely on KMC's resources. Completion of the 4,000-square-foot conference center will benefit military personnel and other federal, state, and educational groups that use the KMC facilities.

Heacock is a public affairs representative for NMCB 22.



CE1 Robert Dodd installs electrical conduit box in the new game room. (Photo by JO2 Warren Brandon)

NMCB 28 Seabees build game room in Hawaii

By JO2 Warren Brandon

SHREVEPORT, La.—Four details from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 28 recently deployed to Naval Air Station Barbers Point, Hawaii, for annual training.

NMCB 28 designed, obtained materials for, and erected a 20-by-48-foot pre-engineered building to be used as a game room by the station's morale, welfare and recreation department. The Seabees put in more than 300 man-days, saving the Navy \$60,888 in labor costs.

The first detail completed prefabrication and form work and erected the steel frame of the building. Detail 2 installed the metal sheathing, windows and roof; framed the interior walls and ceiling; and applied primer to the outside of the building.

Detail 3 ran electrical conduit, installed electrical wiring, and put up drywall. They also painted a final coat on the exterior of the building.

Detail 4 finished the interior and applied two coats of interior paint.

Brandon is a public affairs representative for NMCB 28.

Heart attack at 35,000 feet

By J02 Ron Flesvig

GLENVIEW, Ill.—Treating a heart attack victim is a crisis under any condition. But when the heart attack strikes an airline passenger flying at 35,000 feet, the situation is even worse.

While returning to Kansas City, Mo., from Chicago on United Airlines Flight 751, a 65-year-old man suffered this type of medical emergency.

Capt. William Gondring, medical officer for Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 25, was also on Flight 751. Gondring was returning home to Saint Joseph, Mo., from his Naval Reserve duty weekend at battalion headquarters in Glenview.

A flight attendant discovered the elderly man slumped against the forward bulkhead at the entrance to the aircraft. The victim's skin was blue, cold, and perspiring. When the flight attendant asked if she could help, she noticed that he could not easily respond and was gasping for breath. Realizing the seriousness of the situation, the flight attendant told the passengers of the emergency and asked for a doctor.

In Vietnam, where Gondring was a surgeon, he had often treated patients while flying in aircraft. Gondring immediately answered the flight attendant's call for help. He placed the patient on the deck of the aircraft and began cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

To assist the patient's breathing, which is more difficult at high altitude, Gondring placed an oxygen mask on him and monitored his pulse. Shortly after the oxygen mask was on, Gondring realized that the oxygen unit was not working properly. Immediately, he found a working oxygen unit and began the process again, this time successfully.

Gondring instructed the pilot to fly at a lower altitude to make breathing easier for the patient. He also asked the pilot to locate a place to land as soon as possible.

Twenty minutes later, Flight 751 made an unscheduled landing at the Quad Cities Airport in Moline, Ill. On the ground, an ambulance rushed the patient to the nearest cardiac care center.

Flesvig is a public affairs representative for NMCB 25.

Seabees lend helping hands to needy Virginia Beach residents

By Daryl Smith

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va.—With its temperate climate and diverse recreational activities, the city of Virginia Beach draws visitors from all over the world. However, for some of the city's less fortunate residents, living here and maintaining a home has become difficult.

That's why the Reside with Pride program began three years ago, and the Seabees have played a major role from start. The volunteer program is designed to help people who are unable to make needed repairs to their homes. Many of those chosen for help are elderly, disabled or facing financial hardship due to illness.

Local businesses donate materials, and volunteers, such as Seabees, provide labor needed for repairs. This year Seabees replaced roofs, installed new doors and gut-

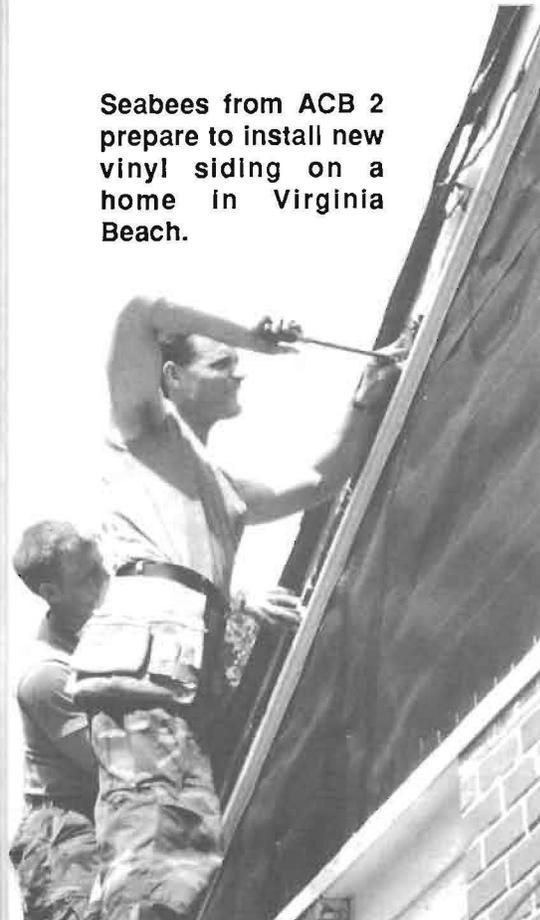
ters, painted trim, put up new siding and cleaned up yards. The Seabees came from Construction Battalion Unit (CBU) 411, CBU 415, Amphibious Construction Battalion (ACB) 2, Underwater Construction Team (UCT) 1 and Training Services from Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek.

Each unit was assigned a house as a project. Working in crews of about 10 to 12 volunteers, they repaired five homes in various areas of the city.

"Our goals are to save the homes, to keep the residents from having further financial burden of fines and repairs, and to preserve the community," said BUC Gilbert Digby of the 2nd Naval Construction Brigade (NCB). "It's hard work, but it's fun, and it's very rewarding."

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

Seabees from ACB 2 prepare to install new vinyl siding on a home in Virginia Beach.



Changing hands:

Support command gets new commander

GULFPORT, Miss.—In ceremonies held at the Construction Battalion Center here, Capt. Thomas J. Gross of Fairfax, Va., relieved Rear Adm. William A. Heine of Austin, Texas, as Commander, Reserve Naval Construction Force Support Command (RNCFSC) April 9.

The RNCFSC administratively supports the Naval Construction Brigades in organizing and maintaining reserve units of the Naval Construction Force for Atlantic and Pacific fleet requirements. Command of the RNCFSC changes hands every two years.

The principal speaker was Rear Adm. Thomas F. Hall, Commander, Naval Reserve Force. In his remarks he praised the heritage and spirit of the Seabees. "It has been my experience that whenever the Seabees get involved it usually means that

something is going to get done...and done right."

Gross earned a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering from the University of Notre Dame in 1962, and a master of science degree in industrial administration from Carnegie-Mellon University in 1964. In June 1965, after completion of Officer Candidate School in Newport, R.I., he was commissioned an ensign in the Civil Engineer Corps.

His first assignment, after indoctrination at the Civil Engineer Corps Officers School, Port Hueneme, Calif., was at the Naval Communications Station, Washington, D.C., as assistant resident officer in charge of construction (AROICC). He next served as AROICC at three locations in northeast Thailand. Gross went on to serve with Reserve Naval Mobile Construction Battalion

23 and the 6th and 8th Reserve Naval Construction Regiments and was later assigned as construction resources branch manager for the Regional Wartime Construction Management program. Since that time, he has been a department head on the staff of the Commander, Reserve Naval Construction Force Support Command, headquartered in Gulfport.

Since October 1992, Gross has been acting deputy assistant secretary for transportation technologies at the U. S. Department of Energy. He is assistant vice president for finance of the Seabee Memorial Scholarship Association. He and his wife, Mary Lou, have four children.: Angela, Joseph, Richard and Mark.

Story by RNCFSC public affairs.

New skipper for Pacific Fleet Seabees

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii—Rear Adm. David J. Nash relieved Rear Adm. G. Brian Estes as Commander, 3rd Naval Construction Brigade (NCB) and Commander, Pacific Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command (PACDIV) during ceremonies held May 13 at the Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet compound here.

Rear Adm. Jack E. Buffington, Chief, Civil Engineer Corps, served as the guest speaker, addressing more than 300 guests.

The 3rd NCB has operational and administrative control over Pacific Fleet Naval Construction Force units.

Nash went to Pearl Harbor from Port Hueneme, Calif., where he served as Commander of the 31st

Naval Construction Regiment and commanding officer, NCBC Port Hueneme for nearly three years. Prior to that tour, he spent two years commanding the Public Works Center in Pearl Harbor.

The change of command also served as a retirement ceremony for Estes, who was piped over the side after more than 30 years in the Naval Construction Force. During his career, he went from his hometown of East Millinocket, Maine, to duty stations around the world, including Puerto Rico, Guam, Spain, and several locations in the continental United States.

His career culminated at Pearl Harbor, where he served in the dual roles of commander of PACDIV and 3rd NCB since August 1992. Before reporting to Hawaii, he served as the

vice commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) in Alexandria, Va., and deputy chief of civil engineers.

Estes has earned the Legion of Merit with gold star in lieu of second award, Meritorious Service Medal with three gold stars in lieu of subsequent awards, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, Navy Unit Commendation with bronze star, Meritorious Unit Commendation with bronze star, Vietnam Service Medal, and the Humanitarian Service Medal.

He and his wife Roberta Montgomery have two children, Sean and Julie, and three grandchildren.

Story by 3RD NCB public affairs.

Washed out:

Seabee reservists bring aid to island damaged by heavy rains

Story and photos
by JO2 Ronald E. Flesvig

SAN CLEMENTE ISLAND, Calif.—Reservists from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 25 are helping the Naval Auxiliary Landing Field here recover from torrential rains that washed out most of the island's roads in January 1993.

To fix the roads, equipment operators load and haul dirt to the damaged areas. After the dirt is dumped, the ground is leveled, graded, and compacted with a "sheep's foot" roller. After the dirt is leveled and rolled, rock is spread over it and a coat of sealant is applied.

A second layer of rock is spread. Smooth-drummed rollers pack the road's surface before a second seal coat is applied. A slightly thinner layer of rock, one last seal coat and a fine layer of sand finish the process. NMCB 25 plans to construct new culverts and a drainage system along the newly repaired sections of road.

The Seabees have access to 15-ton dump trucks, front-end loaders, a grader, and a bulldozer. All equipment and materials are brought to the island by barge. Workers are flown to and from the island daily. Most people, however, stay on the island for extended periods.

On the first day of his two-week annual training (AT), EOCN Charlie Steffen of NMCB 25 Detachment 12 said, "This is the best AT I've ever been on. I'm actually contributing to the progress of a project and not just sitting in a driver's seat training behind the wheel."

Operating the heavy equipment on San Clemente Island can be challenging for even the most experi-

enced drivers due to the island's steep and rocky terrain.

The equipment operators have been instructed to steer clear of posted archaeological sites and rare natural resources. Fourteen species of plants and three species of birds on the island are found nowhere else in the world.

To alert the Seabees, small pink and yellow flags dot the terrain and line the roads. The flags serve as locators for a protected area. While respecting San Clemente Island's environment, NMCB 25 is restoring the roads to essential areas.

Flesvig is a public affairs representative for NMCB 25.



EOCS Paul Ausloos stands at the top of the hill. NMCB 25 have logged more than 400 hours of work since the flooding at the Naval Auxiliary Landing Field.



A new stretch of road with repaired wash-out in the lower left. The new roads are blacktop, but should be more durable for transportation and more weather-resistant.



Stuart Bruce (left), a student at the University of California-Long Beach, and EOCS Paul Ausloos study map of island roads to highlight protected Indian archaeological sites.

Reservists from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 10 are repairing wash-out. Reservists from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 10 are working 24 hours on San Clemente Island, Calif., repairing roads damaged by a storm.



Similar to a rock-laden road, the terrain is very rough and uneven.

EO1 Stephan Bashaw operates a front-end loader during road construction at San Clemente Island, Calif.

From the ArchIve

A member of a modern-day construction battalion recently visited the Pacific island where his dad labored as a Seabee in World War II. Here's what the younger man found.

By SK3 Donald R. Anderson

AS THE PLANE DESCENDED, I noticed something out of place in the distance. Among the islands dotting the South Pacific, I could see a landing strip. It looked like a large, manicured putting green in the midst of the jungle.

Fifty years ago, my father, CM2 Morris S. Anderson, with the 47th Seabees feverishly labored to create the landing strip I saw. I grew up hearing stories of World War II and the runway in the South Pacific. Now, at last, I had come to see it for myself, not only as the son of a Seabee, but as a Seabee reservist.

During World War II, the United States was bombing the Japanese airstrip at Munda, New Georgia. The big bombers coming up from Guadalcanal needed fighters to escort them to the target. Due to limited range, the fighters needed an airstrip closer to the target. Seghe Point, New Georgia, proved to be the best location. It was positioned about 40 miles, through the jungle, from Munda. There was just one problem: it was in enemy territory.

On June 30, 1943, Seabees began work at Seghe Point. Shortly before this, an advance party of Seabees had landed to stake out the airstrip location. They encountered a Japanese camp which they eliminated with grenades and gunfire. Marines then came ashore and advanced carefully, weapons at the ready. Lt. Bob Ryan came out of the jungle to meet them, saying, "Colonel, the Seabees are always happy to welcome the Marines to enemy territory."

Seabees and Marines landed at other locations on New Georgia and at Rendova Island to try to divert atten-

tion from Seghe Point, keeping the secret airstrip just that. Work at Seghe Point began quickly. The Japanese finally discovered the activity and began nightly bombing raids.

The Seabees strung lights in the coconut trees in order to continue working after dark. One night, Rendova was not able to signal Seghe that Japanese bombers were approaching from Munda. The Japanese thought the lights were a decoy and bombed elsewhere. From then on, the 'Bees left the lights on and continued to work through the bombing raids.



While the Seabees built the Seghe strip, 14 inches of rain fell. Food didn't arrive for many days, due to supply ships being sunk. With the heat and humidity, many Seabees discarded their shirts and cut off the legs of their trousers. Some men dropped to less than 100 pounds while others died of malaria. Still, the 3,000-foot-long strip was completed in 10 days, 22 hours, and 12 minutes.

With the new airstrip, Allied forces were able to wrest Munda from the enemy defenders. As the war moved on, so did the Seabees.

The natives at Seghe, who took great interest in the war photos I brought with me, allowed me to walk around without restriction because my father was a Seabee. I found what was left of the Seabee camp, as well as many relics.

While I was visiting Munda, my native guide took me to the thatched hut of 72-year-old Obed Kunga. Kunga led

(Continued on following page)



In October 1943, Seabees worked to widen the airstrip they were building at Seghe Point, New Georgia. This and other Seabee-built airstrips in the South Pacific played a vital role in the successful "island-hopping" strategy of the Allied forces.



Fifty years later, the same airstrip as it appears from the air on a misty tropical morning.

From the Archive

(Continued from page 14)

us to a concrete slab not far from his hut. He brushed away leaves to reveal markings made in the wet cement some 50 years earlier. There, encircled in a heart, was "47 CB 1944." As the guide led me away I heard Kunga say, "Leana." In response to my question, the guide said, "Leana mean good."

As I headed home, I thought about the sacrifices made by those iron-willed construction workers. They had been the best at their trade when summoned to World War II, many really too young to have joined and others middle-aged. I took a last look back and thought, "Leana."

Anderson is assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 28.

Seabees repair elderly woman's damaged home

By J02 Luis M. Luque

GULFPORT, Miss.—Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133 "Kangroos" recently volunteered their off-duty time to restore the burned house of a local resident.

"They're doing a wonderful job," said the homeowner, 90-year-old Virdie Brown of Long Beach, Miss.

Fourteen "Kangroos" shingled Brown's roof, and two others are doing interior work. All the work is voluntary and is being completed at no cost to the government. "The owner provided shingles and nails," said one volunteer, Lt. Rick Taylor, "and we brought our own personal tools. In about three and a half hours, we had the roof completed."

The men who replaced shingles are on the battalion's civic action team, which up to that point had not worked on a project together and were looking for more training. "The most difficult aspect of the job was figuring out everyone's skill level," said BU1 John Boughton. "Most of these guys have never done any roofing. They had limited instruction and supervision and came up with outstanding results."

EA3 Amelito Manganti normally does administrative work for the battalion. "I was nervous because I was up on this roof," said Manganti, "but it was also exciting doing this 'cross-rate' job. I had fun and I learned a lot."

Luque is a public affairs representative for NMCB 133.



Reserve Seabees screed cement for a new sidewalk at Construction Battalion Center Gulfport, Miss. (Photo by J03 Mark Wagner)

Augment unit helps out at CBC Gulfport

By J03 Mark Wagner

GULFPORT, Miss.—The second of five Construction Battalion Center (CBC) Gulfport Augment detachments finished its two-week annual training (AT) here recently.

The reserve unit's primary purpose is to back up CBC Gulfport, and the CBC was happy to have them here. "There's more than enough work for us," said SWC Charles Flake, Detachment H assistant officer in charge. "Because of the drawdown, we're working more one-on-one with the civilians. We're getting some quality on-the-job training."

The det worked at several sites during their AT. Eight reservists were kept busy at a containerization warehouse. "We received some good rate training," said SK1 Roy Edwards, a 14-year reserve veteran. The Seabees received CD-ROM computer

experience, attended a forklift school and received forklift licenses. Edwards and his crew also went through containerization indoctrination.

The Seabees replaced sidewalks around Building 60. The walks weren't in bad shape, but the area flooded during heavy rains. "The crew raised the level four inches and installed a drainage system and a wheelchair ramp," Flake said.

Det construction electricians helped install a new lighting system at a softball field.

A four-person team helped the public works department conduct an annual inspection of electrical, mechanical and structural elements of base buildings. Three other members of the augment unit conducted day-to-day maintenance on the base.

Wagner is a public affairs representative for CBC Gulfport.

NMCB 40 sends det to Zagreb, Croatia

By BUCN M. A. H. Rivera

ROTA, Spain—Thirty-seven Seabees boarded a C-141 aircraft here in March to leave for Zagreb, Croatia. The detachment from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 40 will support Fleet Hospital 6 in Operation Provide Promise.

The hospital, in place since October 1993, receives patients from Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

BU1 Richard Dawson said, "We're pretty far removed from any fighting and that allows us to concentrate on the mission. Supporting the fleet hospital allows the United States to perform an important humanitarian role."

To prepare for the deployment, the men attended Fleet Hospital Ori-

entation Training at Camp Pendleton, Calif., for 10 days. They became familiar with their tasking and the routine of the hospital.

"I feel secure in my ability and my unit's ability to do the job because we have the experience of Somalia under our belts," said UT3 Jered Muoio. Most battalion members served in Somalia during Operation Restore Hope.

Lt. Christopher Sibert, officer in charge of the detachment, said, "The fighting is always in the back of our minds, but the threat level is low. It seems as though some headway is being made at the negotiation table, so we can only hope for the best."

Rivera is a public affairs representative for NMCB 40.

Seabees participate in Emerald Express

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii—A cell from the 30th Naval Construction Regiment (NCR) recently deployed to support the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force during Exercise Emerald Express in the fictitious nation of Orange.

Orange represented a small republic wracked by drought, starvation, and 10 years of civil war—a scenario quite plausible in today's changing world.

The three-phase humanitarian aid exercise honed the regiment's ability to build in a contingency environment.

The regiment's exercise tasking included airfield maintenance and expansion, construction of berthing facilities for U.S. forces, and water well drilling.

Submitted by 3rd Naval Construction Brigade public affairs office.

JADO: Gulfport CB Center plays major role in joint exercise

By Mike Crump

GULFPORT, Miss.—The exercise is over. Most of the equipment has been removed. The Construction Battalion Center (CBC) here is finally returning to normal.

For two weeks in March, 183 joint-service personnel conducted war games in and around the CBC as part of the Joint Air Defense Operations (JADO)/Joint Engagement Zone three-year test.

The test was designed to explore new air defense methods in a "joint" environment. CBC Gulfport was selected to host the near-land test (NLT) portion of the exercise.

Why CBC Gulfport? The southern Mississippi base is close to the sea, only three blocks from the Gulf of Mexico. Several tall bauxite piles at the Seabee base offer a high vantage point, and the center is near an Air National Guard (ANG) base.

The NLT involved personnel from all services. The Army and Marine Corps provided Patriot missile batteries with air search and targeting radars at the CBC and the ANG base. The Navy and Air Force provided fighter and support aircraft. The Navy also brought two Aegis cruisers into the Gulf for support. All simulations were controlled by the Air

Force from Eglin Air Force Base in Niceville, Fla.

Throughout the exercise, command and control rotated among the four services. Simulated missile attacks were made daily. All test participants simulated both U.S. and opposing forces, and each tried to identify friendly and hostile forces in mock battle. The goal was to make sure all military branches would be equally effective in repelling a real attack.

Previous tests were conducted in the spring of 1992 and in August 1993 at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.

Crump is a public affairs representative for CBC Gulfport.

Not just landscaping—it's Xeriscaping

By J03 Sarah E. Burford

PORT HUENEME, Calif.—Whatever image comes to mind when you hear the word "Navy," it's sure to include water. You probably don't think of arid land or a drought problem.



Workers install "Xeriscaping" in front of the main barracks at CBC Port Hueneme (Photo by J03 Sarah E. Burford)

But for the bachelor quarters (BQ) staff at the Construction Battalion Center (CBC) in Port Hueneme, Calif., having to cope with drought is an everyday part of their Navy experience.

For seven years, residents of southern California have suffered through severe drought, water shortages and rationing. Watering a lawn today could mean no water to drink tomorrow. But California is also known for beautiful plants and landscaping, which are suffering from water rationing. The CBC is not immune to this problem, but the staff of the Seaport Inn BQ may have found a solution in the form of "Xeriscaping," better known as waterless gardening.

Chief Warrant Officer E. B. Trinidad, BQ officer and developer of the CBC waterless garden, said the Xeriscaping idea came during a trip through Arizona where he noticed how people adapted landscaping to the arid climate. "The landscaping was made up of drought-tolerant plants," he said. "I got together with a botanist who explained the waterless idea to me. From there I read a

lot on the subject and sought out advice from experts."

While the term "waterless garden" implies that no water is needed, the system does use water, but a lot less than traditional landscaping.

Instead of soaking the ground all day with sprinklers, the waterless system uses a drip tube connected to a computer that controls the time and length the system releases water—usually 20 minutes a day. By using drought-tolerant plants and layers of mulch and gravel to hold in moisture, the system drastically reduces the amount of water needed.

"On the first day we turned on the system we used 11 gallons of water for the entire day," said Trinidad. "The old system used 77 gallons a minute for an hour at a time. Sometimes during the worst part of the drought we were using the sprinklers two or three times a day."

The system will pay for itself several times over in cost savings on maintenance, labor and water.

Burford is a public affairs representative for CBC Port Hueneme.

2nd Brigade forms five-year strategic plan

By Daryl C. Smith

LITTLE CREEK, Va.—The 2nd Naval Construction Brigade (NCB) recently finished its strategic plan, which will chart the command's course for the next five years.

The 2nd NCB strategic planning board is composed of active duty, reserve and civilian department heads from the 2nd NCB as well as the commanding officers of Naval Mobile Construction Battalions 1 and 23 and the 8th Naval Construction Regiment.

Strategic planning helps focus organizations on their most important processes. It asks, "Who are our customers? What are their expectations of us? How do we plan to meet those expectations?" Strategic planning helps get organizations on track by getting them to define their mission, vision and guiding principles.

The strategic planning board also established key

accomplishments, which are broad intentions. These were further broken down into goals and then to current-year tasks or objectives. Much of this work was done in small groups dealing with external, internal and people issues separately.

Some issues addressed were standardization and modernization of equipment and supplies, proficiency-based training, improving construction quality, new areas for growth, recruitment, reduction of rework, active/reserve integration and reduction of overhead costs.

The strategic plan is not intended to gather dust on a shelf, but will be reviewed by the group at least annually. The status of specific goals will be reported regularly to the brigade chief of staff.

Smith is deputy public affairs officer for the 2nd NCB.

News to Use

RECRUITERS NEEDED—The Navy's hometown area recruiting program (HARP) provides an opportunity for sailors to go home for 12 days to assist local recruiters in enlisting quality recruits by relating their Navy experiences to their peers.

Applicants must be 18 to 24 years old, high school graduates from the area where they want to participate, and their hometown must be within 30 miles of the nearest recruiting station. Applicants must exemplify the highest standards of appearance, conduct and courtesy.

For more information, contact YN2 Ken Williams at the Navy Recruiting Command in Arlington, Va., at (703) 696-4597 or DSN 226-4597, or see your command career counselor. *(Navy News Service)*

TAX DELAY—An automatic extension of time to file 1993 income tax returns is available for service members serving in Somalia or former Yugoslavia. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) will grant this extension until Oct. 15, 1994, for any member departing the defined areas on or after March 15, 1994.

For the extension, you must write at the top of your tax form, either "Somalia" or "Former Yugoslavia." Instructions are being issued to IRS centers on processing military returns that contain these notations.

If anyone serving in one of these areas receives correspondence from the IRS, they should note at the top, "Currently serving in (Somalia or former Yugoslavia)" and return the correspondence to the issuing office.

The only area where there is no leeway is in providing relief of interest charges. Because of this, any member owing tax and filing after April 15, 1994 will be assessed an interest charge. *(Navy News Service)*

EARLY OUT—Six-month early outs are being offered to enlisted personnel in Fiscal Year (FY) 1995.

The voluntary program is part of the Navy's strategy to cut manpower using only voluntary separation. The FY 95 program authorizes commanding officers to grant up to six months early separation without any monetary incentive.

To be eligible, personnel must have an end-of-obligated-service (EAOS) date before Jan. 1, 1996. Commanding officers have approval authority for requests from service members meeting the program's criteria. Requests from others must be forwarded to the Bureau of Naval Personnel (BUPERS).

Personnel assigned to decommissioning units or change of home port can request early separation regardless of EAOS. More information is available in NAVADMIN 031-94 or from command career counselors. *(By Lt. Dan Bates, BUPERS public affairs)*

BENEFITS—Many reservists are not aware of their expanded military exchange privileges. The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1991, Public Law 101-510, enacted changes to Title 10, United States Code, providing unlimited exchange shopping privileges to reservists and their family members.

Individuals possessing the DD Form 2N (reserve) armed forces identification card and their dependents possessing the DD Form 1173-1 or service-specific identification card are granted full, unlimited exchange use identical to active duty privileges. These expanded shopping privileges for reservists and their dependents were authorized in November 1990. *(Commander, Naval Reserve Force)*

SAVE BIG BUCKS—The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is sending letters to active duty service members and veterans with high-interest-rate home loans informing them of VA's streamlined program for converting loans to lower interest rates at little or no cost. Refinancing at lower rates can save veterans thousands of dollars in interest costs over the life of a loan. *(American Forces Information Service)*

Kudos

Legion of Merit

Rear Adm. William A. Heine III,
RNCFSC

Meritorious Service Medal

Capt. William J. Lynch, RNCFSC

Navy Commendation Medal

Cmdr. Thomas C. Ames, RNCFSC
Lt. Ernest J. Burzumato, 2nd NCB
Lt. Terence G. Preble, NMCB 3
Cmdr. Samuel A. Vigil, RDNVAFAC

Navy Achievement Medal

ET3 Richard Harrison, NMCB 22
BU2 Kenneth A. Meriwether,
NMCB 22

Sailor of the Year

CM2 Curtis Ahlers, NMCB 133
SW1 Troy E. Black, 3rd
NCB (Reserve)
BU1 Louis O. Clough, 3rd
NCB (Shore)
CM1 Raymond E. Cooper, 3rd
NCB (Sea)

Short Bursts

ROTATION CHANGE—Based on the anticipated assignment of women to units of the Naval Construction Force, Seabee duty rotation will become sea-shore rotation effective June 1.

The changes replace out-of-continental U.S. (OUTUS)/continental U.S. (CONUS) rotation and could result in opening 4,000 sea duty billets to women.

Personnel reporting to Type 6 (formerly OUTUS) commands on or after June 1 will receive sea duty credit.

More information is available in NAVADMIN 046/94, or from enlisted community managers at the Bureau of Naval Personnel (BUPERS), DSN 224-6645. *(By Lt. Dan Bates, BUPERS public affairs)*

SMOKING—The Department of Defense (DOD) announced recently that a new policy banning smoking in all DOD workplaces would begin April 8. The Navy banned smoking in Navy-controlled work areas Jan. 1.

Smoking will continue to be allowed, under limited conditions, in barracks, family housing, prison quarters, clubs, recreational areas and restaurants.

The new DOD instruction allows for designated outdoor smoking areas accessible to workers and providing some measure of protection from the weather.

The Navy's policy also restricts smoking in living areas with shared ventilation systems. Designated smoking areas are to be away from air supply intakes and building entries

so that smoke will not be recirculated. Additional details on the new DOD policy can be found in DOD Instruction 1010.15. *(Navy News Service)*

OOPS—In our January-February issue, we mistakenly identified Ensign Mike Lukshin as public affairs officer (PAO) for Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 13. Lukshin is actually PAO for NMCB 18. Our apologies for this error.

REUNION—The Chief Petty Officers' Association for Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 19 will celebrate their 20th reunion July 29-31 in South Fallsburg, N.Y. All members are invited.

The reunion will include a tour of the United States Military Academy at West Point, luncheon at the historic Hotel Thayer and a shopping tour at the Woodbury Commons Discount Outlet Shopping Center. For more information, call 1-800-367-4637. *(By NMCB 19 CPO Association)*

MOREELL AWARD—Capt. James T. Spore was selected to receive the Morreell Medal for 1993. The award is given annually by the Society of American Military Engineers to a Civil Engineer Corps officer or civilian employee of the Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) for the most outstanding contribution to military engineering.

Spore was Officer in Charge of Construction (OICC) East Africa, supporting "Operation Restore Hope" in Somalia from December 1992 to May 1993. OICC East Africa was set up to contract for construction, leasing, and services ranging from buying fresh fruit to water well drilling and base camp support. With only three days' notice, Spore assembled a staff of Navy and Army officers and civil servants into a field contracting organization to support the joint task force.

Spore developed a new concept in forward logistics support, using the Logistics Civil Augmentation Program contract conceived by the Army Corps of Engineers. He delivered \$40 million in contracted support in response to over 140 taskings from the joint task force commander. *(Commander, NAVFAC)*



Badges hard to come by:

CBUs ensure warfare pins are truly earned

By Chief Warrant Officer
D. L. Henson

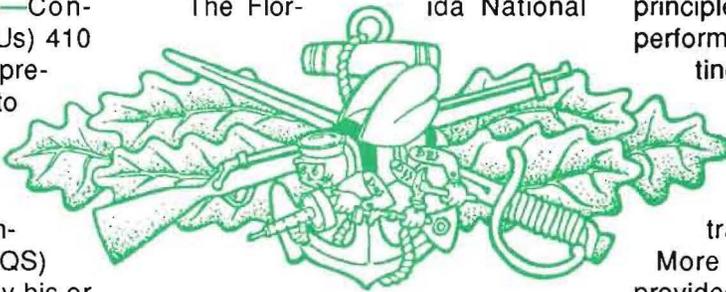
JACKSONVILLE, Fla.—Construction Battalion Units (CBUs) 410 and 420 have developed comprehensive training programs to help local Seabees qualify for Seabee Combat Warfare Specialist (SCWS) badges.

Each candidate's personnel qualification standards (PQS) package is checked closely by his or her chain of command and by an oral board.

PQS and work station requirements are thoroughly covered by formal schools, Special Construction Battalion Training and in-house programs. SCWS-qualified instructors teach Seabee subjects such as contingency construction, camp support,

weapons and tactics, etc. Local experts provide training on subjects such as safety and first aid.

The Florida National



Guard Training Facility at Camp Blanding offers combat training. Army and National Guard instructors and "aggressors" hone the Seabees' contingency skills.

Candidates receive the SCWS pin only after all requirements are met and verified and the oral board gives unanimous approval. The board is the final and most difficult

element in the qualifying process. Each board member must be convinced that the Seabee can apply the principles of each PQS category in performing his or her duties in a contingency situation.

Not all candidates succeed. In those cases, emphasis is renewed on training and field experience. More support and guidance are provided to prepare the individual for a second try.

In the end, each candidate must show that he or she knows the mission of the Seabees; knows his or her role in maintaining unit readiness; and can carry out the combat mission of the unit.

Henson is the officer in charge of CBU 410.

Engineer officers teach TQL in Europe

By JO1 Darlene Jensen

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif.—Reserve Civil Engineer Corps officers are teaching naval forces throughout Europe the principles of Total Quality Leadership (TQL).

Public Works Center Great Lakes, Ill., is sending out fact-finding, evaluation and implementation teams to determine what skills and equipment are needed to produce the highest quality of service and products. Reservists are using their time and talents to improve public works departments at various European bases.

Capt. James E. Shelton, a reservist assigned to Reserve Naval Forces Europe N7 Augment, developed and conducted a TQL process flow diagram workshop pilot at Naval Base Rota, Spain. He identified TQL initiatives to be pursued and collected as much background material as possible from his employer, other corporations and military installations. Preliminary discussions with staffs at Rota also provided a flavor of what was expected.

"They were open, interested and anxious for improvement," Shelton said.

Naval Base Rota's commanding officer, Captain R. Simms, supports the TQL initiatives and wants change. He specifically highlighted a requirement to "focus on the

real operational needs," as opposed to bureaucratic paper shuffling.

Workshop participants agreed that helping individuals reach their highest level of productivity requires leaders to set high standards and really care about their people; make sure they have quality training, support, necessary equipment and supplies; and empower them to make sound decisions.

Leaders have long recognized our nation's need to improve our management skills. After World War II, Japan became an industrial and economic power in 20 years by adopting principles of continuous process improvement taught by the late Dr. W. E. Deming.

Teamwork, communication and empowerment are the keys to a successful TQL program. Under TQL, leaders must let go of the traditional, authoritarian leadership that has been our style for more than 200 years.

"I still see the program in the infancy stage, establishing an awareness of a need for change," said Shelton. "I encourage us to gain momentum; the journey to TQL is worth the effort."

Jensen is assigned to Navy Public Affairs Center Detachment 220.



BU1 Thomas Harris carts away a wheelbarrow full of brush during NMCB 1's cleanup effort at Inarajan's Carmelite Sisters Convent.

Volunteers restore convent

INARAJAN, Guam—Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 1 recently visited the Carmelite Sisters Convent here to assist in a civic action project which included everything from trash removal to restoring a dog kennel.

Lt. Jeffrey Saville, NMCB 1's chaplain, promoted the project among the congregations at the Camp Covington Chapel, hoping for about a dozen volunteers. To his surprise, however, more than twice that number showed up to offer their time on one of their few days off.

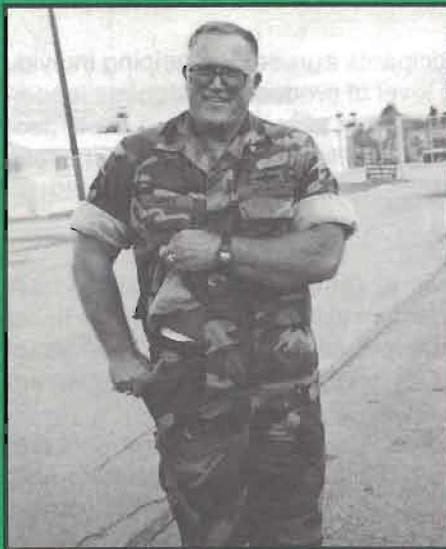
The convent, founded 26 years ago, had suffered through five typhoons during the past two years, as well as last year's earthquake, which measured 8.2 on the Richter scale. With only 13 nuns at the convent, many of them elderly, the burden of keeping up with outdoor maintenance had become impossible. The volunteers performed a variety of tasks including removing trash, brush, and debris from an old greenhouse, lawn mowing, and tree cutting and pruning.

"The biggest thing was teamwork," said EA2 Michael Martin. "Everybody just got in there and got it done."

The project also proved to be a valuable learning tool for some of the men. "One thing I tried to do," said project supervisor UTC Donald Toutant, "was to get junior guys working as crew leaders over more senior guys like chiefs and officers. Everybody enjoyed the change. The crew leaders did a great job and they learned something, too."

Saville said the volunteers will return to the convent to do the painting, rebuild the greenhouse, and complete some landscaping.

Submitted by NMCB 1 public affairs office.



EQCM Donald Turner, 3rd Naval Construction Brigade command master chief, demonstrates proper wearing and care of the camouflage cover. Some units continue to starch the new covers, while others have made cardboard inserts to wear inside of them. "Just take it out of your pocket, go smooey, smooey, and put it on your head. Now isn't that wonderful?" Turner said. For proper wearing and care of the camouflage cover, refer to Naval Facilities Instruction 1020.2.

'Bees give blood to help save child's life

By Rodney J. Furry

PORT HUENEME, Calif.—Five members of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 5 took time to give up a little of themselves to help out a comrade's child in need.

BU1 Jim May was faced with a tough decision when it was decided that his son Matthew, 7, needed a heart operation. Should he trust the blood offered by the hospital's blood bank, or find a source he knew well? The answer lay among his peers in NMCB 5.

After passing the word that he needed donors, more volunteers came forward than were needed.

From among them, BUC George Kohn, BU1 Gene King, EA1 Bruce Jamison, SW1 Richard Glover and BU3 Charles Miller were chosen as suitable donors.

The men made a trip to the medical center at the University of California in Los Angeles to make the blood donations. According to Kohn, "It was an honor to be able to help a friend and co-worker."

Soon after Matthew was born, he was diagnosed with a heart murmur. Several years of testing failed to reveal the exact cause of his irregular heartbeat. Once it was discovered that he suffered from a condition called aortic valvular stenosis, the

search was on for a cure.

The cardiologist who made the diagnosis, Dr. Ralph Weiss, offered to perform an experimental heart valve operation called the Ross Procedure. The operation was a complete success and after only a few weeks of recovery, Matthew is back at school and feeling healthier than ever.

May is grateful to his fellow Seabees. "With their help, my son is alive and healthy today. Thanks isn't enough, though, for what they've given him," he said.

Furry is a public affairs representative for NMCB 5.

Old Ironsides:

Seabees help restore national treasure

By JO2 Luis M. Luque

GULFPORT, Miss.—Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133 is helping to turn a dead tree in the local area into a piece of history.

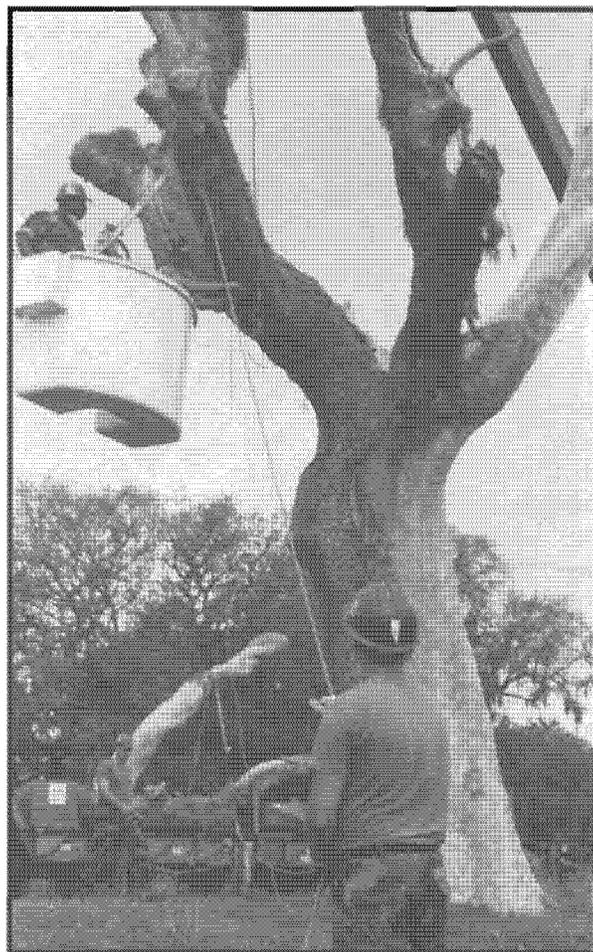
Local city officials sent pictures of an oak tree to the Boston Naval Shipyard, and officials there agreed to use the tree in the project to restore the USS Constitution, the oldest commissioned warship in the world.

The Constitution was made of live oak, red cedar, pitch pine and locust. Now, only about 10 percent of the original ship exists. Live oak, plentiful on the southeastern coast, forms the backbone of the ship. "The wood is real, real hard," said EO1 Thomas Rolls, project supervisor. "It takes about five to 10 minutes to cut a limb. The base of the tree is about six feet in diameter and the limbs are two to two and a half feet thick."

Commissioned in 1794, and dubbed "Old Ironsides" during the War of 1812 because cannonballs seemed to bounce off her hull, the ship is in drydock for three years. She has undergone six major renovations and is due for another major overhaul in 2013, said Richard Wallace, Constitution's general foreman restorer.

Meanwhile, the shipyard collects live oaks for continuous minor repairs and the upcoming major overhaul. Each tree is air dried for two to three years and stored in shelters at various military bases for no more than 10 years, Wallace said.

Luque is a public affairs representative for NMCB 133.



Seabees tie branches to make sure limbs do not fall. (Photo by PH2 Markus White)

Troops to Teachers

Teacher and Teacher's Aide Placement Program helps people who are leaving the military and Civil Service move into teaching jobs

By Sgt. 1st Class Steve Barrett

WASHINGTON—The Teacher and Teacher's Aide Placement Program, or "Troops to Teachers," gives qualified applicants a chance to teach at elementary and secondary schools.

"We can help provide teachers in areas where educators are in short supply and at the same time help service members and Department of Defense (DOD) civilians transition out of the federal work force," said Defense Secretary William Perry in unveiling the program March 1.

Service members have up to a year after they leave the military to apply. Members must have six continuous years of active duty, an honorable discharge and at least a bachelor's degree to qualify for the teacher program. An associate degree is required to participate in the teacher's aide program. Military applicants not meeting education requirements may qualify by earning a degree within five years after separation.

Civilians must face job termination from the drawdown. They have 60 days after termination to apply.

Applicants are placed as teachers and teachers' aides in schools serving low-income families.

DOD is budgeting \$65 million over the next year to finance teacher certification training. Most of the money goes to school districts that agree to hire service members. DOD will provide grants of up to \$50,000 to schools hiring participants for five years. Annual payments offset the new teacher's basic salary. According to Otto Thomas, who heads Troops to Teachers, participants generally become certified and then seek work. "However, we hope some school districts can hire service members immediately and provide them with training," he said.

"Military men and women can draw on a broad range of work and living experiences to enhance their teaching," Thomas said. "And schools value service members as positive role models for children."

Participants cannot replace current teachers, and there is no guarantee of further school employment. Thomas expects 1,100 participants initially and has received over 800 applications. Applications go through the Defense Activity for Nontraditional Education Support (DANTES) for review and placement. DANTES looks for applicants strong in math and science, but will also accept applications from people with other specialties.

Applicants may receive a one-time stipend of up to \$5,000. This stipend must be used in offsetting teacher certification costs. In return, the participants must agree to accept five-year employment in a school serving low-income families. Service members departing under 15-year retirement, Voluntary Separation Incentive or Special Separation Benefit programs are ineligible for the stipend.

Transition assistance centers will counsel departing members on the program and will solicit applications from those eligible. Application forms are available at transition and education centers or directly from DANTES.

For more information, call 1-800-452-6616, or write to: DANTES, 6490 Saufley Field Road, Pensacola, FL 32509-5243. European applicants may call DSN 370-6885 or 8375, and Far East applicants may call DSN 738-5581.

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

