

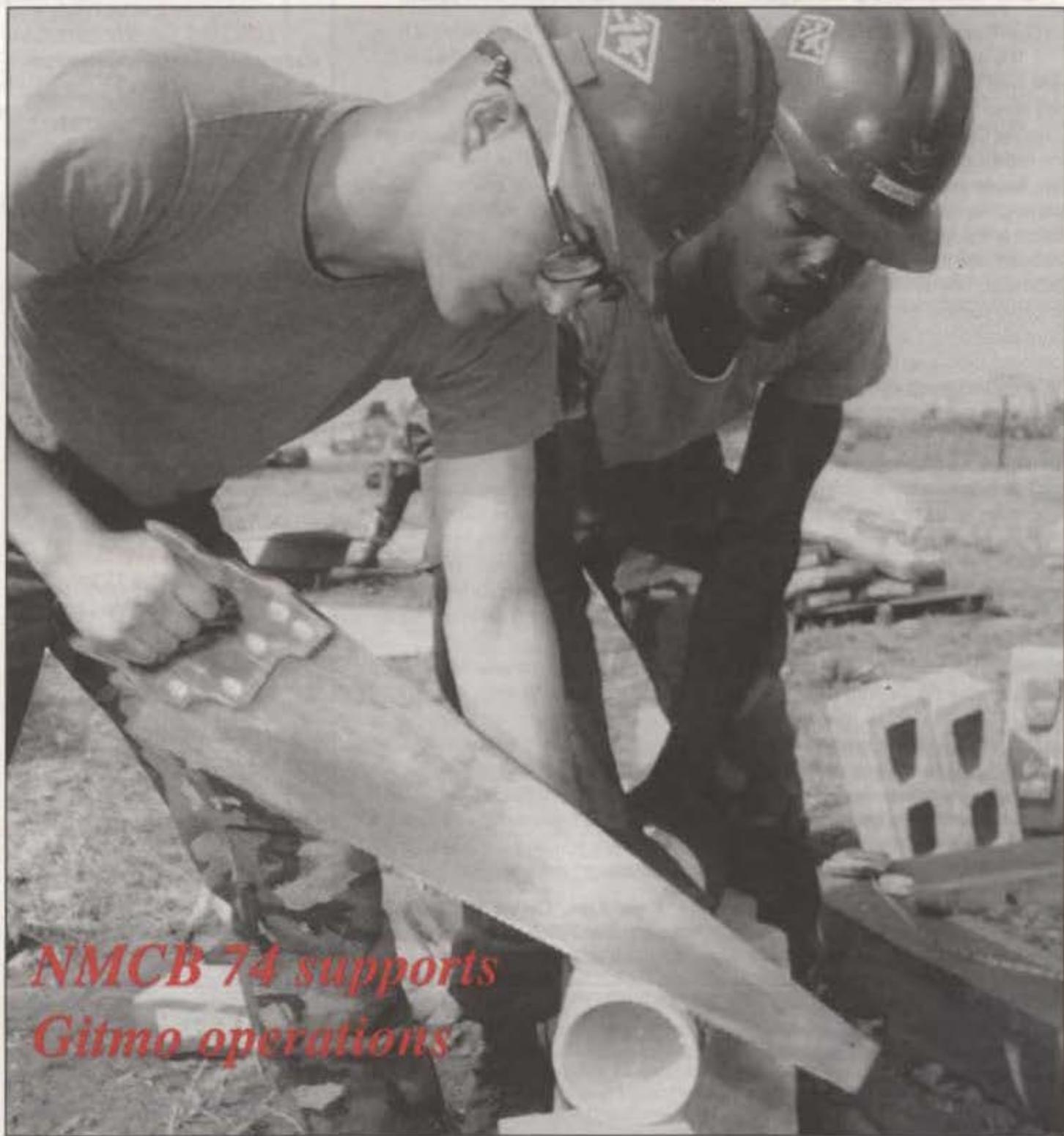
October 1994-January 1995

# Beeline



Volume 3, Number 1

October 1994-January 1995



*NMCCB 74 supports  
Gitmo operations*

# What's Buzzing?

## From the Top: 1995 Challenges

By Rear Adm. Thomas Gross

The beginning of 1995 is an excellent time to reflect — both about what the Reserve Naval Construction Force Support Command (RNCFS) has accomplished in the past year, and about the issues that will challenge us in the coming months. During 1994, we've taken some important steps that have defined and changed the way we do business, and which are intended to improve support for our customers. The consolidation of the Atlantic and Pacific regional orders writing staffs at CBC Gulfport has made us more responsive to the "real-world" needs of the SECOND and THIRD Brigades and the Fleet Commanders they support. Our Strategic Planning Teams have identified specific ways for us to improve support to our customers, and my discussions with those commands indicate that they are beginning to appreciate more the actions being taken.

The DoD budget cuts will continue to affect us. Our AT, IDTT and ADT budgets were significantly reduced this year. This increases the challenge associated with being ready for mobilization and simultaneously providing contributory support. During the coming year, I want us to help build bridges of communication between our customers in the fleets and those who allocate our resources and budgets. The best way for us to justify more

resources is to use those we now have to support the Navy's priority needs and to "get more bang for the buck."

Junior CEC officer accession and recruiting of enlisted Seabees are priority attention areas for the RNCFS. As of now, we're only recruiting 25-30 officers in the ranks of Ensign through Lieutenant each year. This is only partially caused by the Navywide restrictions on recruiting of the past several years.

We need to get the word out — to the quality, hard-working officers leaving active duty and the bright and equally hard-working young civilian engineers — that the Reserve Naval Construction Force is a place where they can learn construction skills and leadership, gain professional recognition, form personal relationships with leaders in their profession, provide financial security for their future, and derive satisfaction from serving their country in a real and meaningful way.

We have top people working on meeting these challenges, but none of us works well in a vacuum. If you're one of the customers we serve, and you've got a problem - or a solution to a problem - let the RNCFS know. With your help, we can continue to improve our support to Navy and joint commands around the globe.

*Rear Adm. Gross is the Commander, RNCFS.*

## Interior View

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**Cover Photo**  
UTCN Manuel Manzano and UT3 Marnique Thompson, both members of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 74, saw a piece of PVC pipe to be used for the showers at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba for Haitians seeking refuge. (Photo by Cpl. Timothy E. Lemaster, USMC)

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*Only top one or two percent are chosen*

## UT2 Berry to work at State Department

By John Hall

### RODMAN NS, Panama

— A petty officer working for the Public Works Department in Panama has been selected to work in the State Department in Washington, D.C.

UT2 David Berry comes from a family of government workers. His parents are enlisted soldiers, his brother a warrant officer. His sister is a Department of the Army civilian and his step-father is an Army officer. In December, Berry will have a family reunion of sorts when he leaves for the nation's capital where his brother and sister work. His wife, Janet, is a petty officer third class working at the base administration office.

To be considered for the

*"This gives me a chance to set myself apart from my peers."*

appointment, Seabees must be an E-5 or above and submit a request through their career counselor. During the initial screening, officials conduct a special background investigation for the necessary top secret security clearance. State Department officials said only the top 1 to 2 percent in each rate are selected.

Berry, who likens the selection process to that of the chief's board, said he chose the move to enhance his career. "This gives me the chance to set myself apart from my peers," Berry said. "My seniors said it's like moving up two rungs on the career ladder and im-



UT2 David Berry, front, and BU3 Brian Dorsey, back, carry forms to build concrete slabs for tents to house Cuban refugees.

proves my chances of making chief."

Berry's supervisor, Chief Dale Cashman, said Berry is the man for the job.

"He's highly-motivated, very astute and career-minded," Cashman said. "He's the kind of person they're looking for."

As the 10-year veteran talks about

why he joined, Berry remembers he wanted to avoid the problems that were commonplace among his California friends.

"My friends were getting into drugs and gangs, so I called my mother and told her I had to get out of there," Berry said.

The 18-year-old moved to Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Md., where his mother was stationed and worked in construction. Berry eventually followed the family tradition and went to the Army recruiter.

"I wanted to get into medical, computers or special forces, but the Army recruiter was being real vague about what was available," Berry said. "I figured I didn't belong to anyone, so I went to the Navy."

The Navy recruiter told him about the jobs Seabees do. Because of his background in construction, Berry signed on the dotted line. As a utilitiesman, he is working with air-conditioners, refrigerators and boilers.

Berry is also a money-saver, to the tune of \$1.3 million. For a year, he stayed after work sifting through paperwork on more than 100 work requests. He pulled out jobs that could be done by self help. He and the commander decided what

could wait and what couldn't.

Berry also revitalized the unit's energy conservation program. He said when the unit picks up the program it will save \$35,000 a year.

Berry was named the sailor of the quarter recently.

*Hall is a public affairs representative for Rodman Naval Station.*

## Photo unit documents 9th NCR projects



Seabees from Construction Battalion Unit (CBU) 413 move earth along a road at Naval Station Pearl Harbor in preparation for a new sidewalk. Reserve Seabees from the 9th Naval Construction Regiment are working with CBU 413 members to complete this project. The Naval Reserve Combat Camera Group (NR COMCAMGRUPAC) 0194 has produced a video of the 9th NCR's work. (Photo by PH2 Ronald W. Erdrich of NR COMCAMGRUPAC 0194)

## CBU 421 FEX focuses on leadership

By BU 1 (AW) Mark Bacon

**MARE ISLAND, Calif.**—A unique addition to the annual Construction Battalion Unit (CBU) 421 field exercise at Camp Parks in Dublin, Calif., was the incorporation of the Leadership Reaction Course.

This course allows each squad member to lead the squad in successfully completing a wide range of timed problem-solving scenarios. For example, one team, using limited materials, had to transport ammunition across a river. The only available bridge had been destroyed by mortar fire. These scenarios gave individuals the opportunity to exercise leadership skills.

Training began with topics such as Land Navigation, Patrols and Ambush, Survival, Escape and Evasion, and weapons qualifications on the M-16A2

rifle. Training was provided by fellow Seabees, and the Auxiliary Security Force Marine Cadre at Mare Island. The Marines provided specialized training in Unarmed Self-defense, Hand-to-



CBU 421 members participate in the leadership reaction course. (Photo by BU2 Persson)

hand Combat and .45-caliber pistol qualifications.

After arriving at Parks Reserve Forces Training Area, the unit proceeded on a two-mile tactical road march to the bivouac site. While en route the unit came under simulated attack by aggressors from Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit (EODMU) 9 stationed at Mare Island. This was the first of many simulated attacks the unit experienced. EODMU 9 provided the training which proved to be invaluable throughout the exercise.

The field exercise concluded with a sixteen-hour simulated war in which the unit was tasked with defending a helo pad while fleet hospital supplies were being received by air transport.

*Bacon is the public affairs representative for CBU 421*

## Women assist 'Safe Haven'

By Diane Gonzalez

**EMPIRE RANGE, Panama**—Women in today's military know they may be called upon to do whatever their male counterparts have to do, including contributing to Operation Safe Haven to the best of their abilities. They feel strongly about making sure life will be a little easier for the Cubans now than it was before in their homeland.

UT3 Kristy Sanderfer is a member of the Rodman Naval Station Seabees, and a single mom. "I'm a plumber" she says, "but these days I help with anything from edging concrete to pitching tents." She does whatever's necessary to get the job done. She eventually may decide to get her degree in secondary education, but, she says, having the plumbing background is going to be a good backup.

SWCN Carrie Resheske is another female in the Seabee division at Rodman Naval Station. She has been pouring concrete. "This is the life of a Seabee" she says. "We do what we have to without any question. We have a job to get done and a deadline to

meet, and that means 'JUST DO IT.'

"We knew when we joined the Navy this wasn't the easiest job in the world, but we also understood it would mean a better life because of the experience," says Resheske. "When we decide if and when to leave the service we know we can qualify for some of the best paying jobs available."

Resheske will join NMCB 74 as one of the first women to be assigned to a construction battalion.

They have done that and more. All four camps, nearing completion, have had the help of these women Seabees, who worked alongside their Marine Corps counterparts setting up camps for Cuban refugees. They look back and realize every tent they pitched, every concrete slab they edged and every stake they hammered in was worth the effort.

As refugees moved into the camps they helped build, they could justifiably feel proud of the efforts that went into helping others rebuild their lives.

*Gonzalez is public affairs officer for Rodman Naval Station.*



SWCN Carrie Resheske, standing next to the skid loader on the left, and UT3 Kristy Sanderfer, far right, work with ET2 Janine Hernandez, standing on skid loader, RM1 Alicia Silva, driving skid loader, and ENFM Pamela Rayan helping build a camp for Cuban refugees. (Photo by PH2 Roberto Taylor.)

## Ensign Hensley earns CEC direct commission

**HUNTSVILLE, Ala.**—Engineering Aid Third Class (EA3) Patricia Hensley of Huntsville, Ala., has become the first female CEC officer in NMCB 24. She not only fulfilled her dreams of becoming a commissioned officer, but, according to Lt. Cmdr. John Miller, NMCB 24 Executive Officer, she became the first female reserve ensign in the Navy to fill a billet in a reserve battalion.

The Texas native graduated from the University of Houston in 1990 with a Bachelor of Architecture degree. "There weren't many jobs for architects in Houston," Hensley said, "so I took a job with Ehlinger and Associates, Architect, here in Huntsville. Then I received an offer from the Army Corps of Engineers."

"Currently she's working as a junior architect on the Army's Child Development Center. Hensley's intention after college was to join the active Navy, but when she was offered her position with the Corps of Engineers, doing military construction, she decided to stick with civil service where she felt she would get more hands-on experience as an architect than she would get on active duty.

"I felt that on the active side I would be more of a manager than an architect. At that point I decided to join the Seabees," Hensley explained. She came in under the Advanced Pay Grade (APG) program in August of 1993, as a Third Class Engineering Aid, and put in her package for a commission last October.

"We're really pleased having our first female CEC," said Miller. "It's totally in keeping with modern naval policy, extending opportunities for responsibility to women."

"I'm really anxious to get trained and to get started, but I'm glad that I went enlisted first," Hensley said. "I think it will make me a better officer,

## Retakes Bloody Nose Ridge 50 years later

# NMCB 1 active throughout Pacific Ocean

Story by JO1 Ron Schafer

**UMURBROGOL MOUNTAIN, Peleliu** — On September 17, 1944, the 1st Marines, 2nd Battalion came face-to-face with an enemy as fierce as the Japanese.

The enemy fired no shots; it launched no mortars. But its presence proved to be as difficult an obstacle to overcome as the Japanese forces who occupied it.

The enemy was the Umurbrogol Mountain on the island of Peleliu. A jumbled mass of decayed coral crags rising 300 feet high at its peak, the mountain was once described in a regimental directory as "the worst terrain encountered by Marines in three Pacific campaigns."

However, to the Marines who captured it from the Japanese, it was known simply as "Bloody Nose Ridge."

Recently, some 50 years later, a team of Seabees from U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 1 battled this stubborn enemy with impressive results.

NMCB 1's Civic Action Team 0120 was tasked with building an observation deck around a pre-existing monument erected at the top of Bloody Nose Ridge.

The challenge for the team was to get the necessary building materials to

the top of the ridge and construct a solid platform on a jagged, uneven surface.

A concrete staircase built by Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 1 scaled approximately 60 of the final 100 feet to the peak. The other 40 feet was over a maze of coral that offered little secure footing.

After finishing a hand rail for the staircase, Seabees began the arduous task of setting in place a platform from which veterans of the Battle of Bloody Nose Ridge and other visitors here for the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Peleliu could see the view from this one-time strategic stronghold.

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*"The mountains were once described as the worst terrain encountered by Marines in three Pacific campaigns."*

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CAT0120's crew of BU1 Frank Sorbin, BU2 Michael Christopherson and SW2 John Windley were joined by three civilian apprentices assigned to the team. They installed 17 concrete footers of various heights and stacked and core-filled concrete blocks to provide a level base for the platform.

Then, using 2-by-12-inch and 4-by-4-inch timbers as stringers and bracing, the crew laid 2-by-8-inch timbers as decking. The finished product consisted of a three-level observation deck covering almost 375 square feet.

Perhaps more impressive than the platform itself is the work that went into its construction. Due to the steep terrain, all the materials used on the project had to be carried to the top of the ridge by hand including all the lumber and all the concrete—one five-gallon bucket at a time.

A generator was positioned at the base of the hill providing electricity for a power saw and a concrete mixer. From there it was a 100-foot trek to the top of the ridge.

"When you get to the top of the ridge and look down," began Cmdr. Eric C. Smith, NMCB 1 Commanding Officer, "and you realize what these guys had to go through to hand carry all the materials up that ridge, it's very impressive."

"I think the veterans will really appreciate it as well, especially when they remember what it took for them to get to the top of that ridge. And they were being fired on. Our crew did a terrific job up there."

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

## NMCB 3 raises \$\$\$ for CFC

Story/photo by BU3 Palmer Pinkney II

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 3 raised more than \$16,000 for the Combined Federal campaign in 1994.

The effort was spearheaded by Lt. Gary Tave and SWC Mark Giardina, who organized a team of battalion members to campaign for the CFC. BU1 Jame Corter personally canvassed the mainbody personnel, asking each individual to contribute. BU2 Walter Vasquez, BU2 Kathleen Sampson, and EO2 Lester Bylsma all spread the word to their respective companies.

Det representatives who volunteered time included UT2 Darrin Strobe, UT2 Clemente Riley, SK1 Alan Carpio, BU3 Scott Little, CE3 Darrick Robison, CM2 Ron Schawo and BU2 Robert Bingham.



From left, EO2 Lester Bylsma, SWC Mark Giardina, MS1 Florencio Bautista, Lt. Gary Tave, and Cmdr. Brad Jackson

## Lighting the way: NMCB 1 members volunteer for difficult mountainside project

By Lieut. Jeff Saville, CHC

**CAMP COVINGTON, Guam** — Seabees from U. S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 1 recently completed an important chapel-sponsored civic action project for the Christian Serviceman's Center in Guam. Led by UTC Donald Toutant and CE3 Carlos Garza, a dozen men participated in the project to install lighting on a dangerous stairway up a steep cliff to the Center.

Previously, visitors were dropped off at the bottom of a zig-zagging 177-step stairway. Often, they would have to climb and descend the steps at night without the benefit of light.

"It was dangerous for people to climb that stairway," Garza said. "One false step and you could fall more than a hundred feet down to Marine Drive, a real busy highway."

With funding provided by the Protestant chapel communities of NMCB 1 and Construction Battalion Center Gulfport, the Seabees purchased lights and electrical materials, which they installed over four Saturdays.

Seabees who worked on the project were: UTC Toutant, UT1 Michael



Seabees from NMCB 1 gather with Bob Finsen, director of the Guam Christian Serviceman's Center. From left, SW1 Clay Guillory, CE3 Carlos Garza, Finsen, BU3 Mark Mackenzie, and SK3 Matt Gilliland.

Clark, SW1 Clay Guillory, CE1 Kevin McDonald, EA2 Scott Boudreaux, EO2 Dana Helman, EO2 Don Higdon, CE2 Clinton Rainey, SK3 Matt Gilliland, BU3

Mark Mackenzie, EA3 Tony Sowell, and EO3 Jack Williams.

*Saville is a public affairs representative for NMCB 1*

## NMCB 1 aids Guam 50th liberation celebration

By JOI Ron Schafer

**CAMP COVINGTON, Guam** — Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 1 helped in the events surrounding the 50th anniversary celebration of the island's liberation from Japanese occupation. The celebration was in mid-July.

Projects included construction or repair of sites along a 34-site historical trail, created especially for the commemoration. The sites include a monument to the Seabees, a Navy/Marine Corps memorial park, and a military war dog cemetery.

NMCB 1 members built an obelisk monument at a site along Marine Drive on the Naval Station. The monument, complete with a plaque made by sailors onboard USS HOLLAND (AS-32), was

dedicated to the Seabees of the 5th Naval Construction Brigade who landed with Marines and soldiers on July 21, 1944 to recapture and subsequently rebuild the island of Guam.

A memorial park at the former site of the Marine barracks on a hill atop Sumay Cove was dedicated by Gen. Carl E. Mundy Jr., Commandant of the Marine Corps. The park honors the sailors and Marines who were killed during the Japanese occupation of the island and those killed when the barracks was seized by U.S. Marines during the invasion which liberated Guam. NMCB 1 built sidewalks, poured pads and placed two restored anchors at the base of one of two flagpoles.

The Battalion also constructed a military war dog cemetery at a site originally thought to have housed an

anti-aircraft fortification. Seabees cleared the area of overgrown brush and vegetation, brought in select fill and compacted it, and relocated 24 headstones. They then constructed flagpoles and built a monument which was adorned with a slab of one-inch thick granite veneer bearing the names of the brave canines who lost their lives acting as scouts, detecting mines and booby traps, and carrying messages and supplies.

Just as their counterparts of 50 years ago played a vital role in the liberation of Guam, the current complement of NMCB 1 Seabees played an instrumental part in making the 50th Anniversary of that historic event a celebration to remember.

*Schafer is a public affairs representative for NMCB 1*

# NMCB 74 Seabees help manatee research

By J03 Thomas Peske

**ROOSEVELT ROADS NAVY BASE, Puerto Rico** — Seabees of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 74 are usually associated with building and fighting. Recently though, some volunteers of 74 had a chance to help research scientists with endangered aquatic wildlife.

When Moses, a manatee researchers had raised and tagged, returned to a fenced-in water inlet at the Roosevelt Roads Navy Base, he brought with him another manatee. The researchers saw this as an opportunity to tag that manatee — if they could get enough volunteer help.

Seabees from NMCB 74 joined a host of other civilian and military volunteers for the attempt. The plan was fairly simple.

A line of volunteers was to wade across the five-foot-deep inlet on one side. Moving forward in a line, they were to splash their hands in the water. This was done to herd the manatees towards the other side where other volunteers were manning a one-hundred-foot long net.

Notwithstanding the soundness of the plan, the new manatee escaped the net. As darkness started to fall, there was no more time to try again, but a lot was learned from the first night's attempt.

The group of Seabees from the first night recruited a few more volunteers and devised a plan for the next day. They worked at putting the net into position during their lunch-hour.

The Seabees also discussed with Antonio Mignucci, a native of Puerto Rico and a research coordinator for an endangered animals organization, on how to net the animals more successfully.

When the volunteers arrived later in the afternoon, they took up positions beside the Seabees. This time, as the net was pulled towards the shore into shallow water, both manatees were caught.



**EOCN Todd Stead, one of the Seabee volunteers, holds the head of a manatee out of the water during the research tagging effort.**

The work for the volunteer Seabees was not over though. Moses, who was accustomed to the researchers, lay still

***"The Navy has helped the research. There's never a shortage of volunteers."***

in the water. The other manatee was not as cooperative, and thrashed about in the net. The volunteers had to carefully restrain the aquatic mammal, keeping its head above water so it could

breathe.

"It's different," said BUCN Daniel A. Tomalis of Schenectady, New York. Tomalis helped set up the net and then hold down the massive six-to-seven-foot animal. "They're big and strong. It was an experience."

Mignucci and his team of researchers worked as fast as they could to take measurements and various types of samples. The volunteers had to work in unison when it came time to flip the manatee over. This was to keep it from escaping and so it did not hurt itself or others.

The next step was to brand it, tag it and install a collar similar to Moses'. The collars allow the research team to study where the manatees go. Mignucci hopes the research will one day be used to increase the declining population of manatees.

Mignucci says he's very grateful to the Navy for the assistance he has received on his research projects. There has

never been a shortage of volunteers, he said.

Finally, Mignucci named the new manatee Houdini, an appropriate name for such an elusive animal. After farewell pats, Houdini and Moses were set free and the gates opened.

The Seabees of '74 were burned by the sun, stung by plants in the water, bitten by insects and bruised by the manatee, but when asked if they would do it again, they all answered emphatically, "Yes!"

***Peske is a public affairs representative for NMCB 74***

## CBU 406 wins Bronze Hammer award

**NAS LEMOORE, Calif.** — Construction Battalion Unit (CBU) 406 was recently awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation for the period September, 1992 to October, 1993. During that time, the unit maintained a high operational tempo, accomplishing 52 quality of life, maintenance and repair projects throughout the Naval Air Station.

CBU 406 successfully integrated the Reserve members from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 15 and a Tiger Team comprised of 12 sailors temporarily assigned from NAS Lemoore and increased the direct labor provided to the station from 1928



mandays in Fiscal Year 1992 to 4,171 mandays in Fiscal Year 1993.

The major projects included construction of a Child Development Cen-

ter Annex, a 1,500 man-day, \$200,000 project, and the conversion of a cafeteria into a conveniently-located Navy Exchange County Store.

In recognition of their efforts, the station received first place in the CNO Bronze Hammer Award.

At the same time, CBU 406's members successfully completed a joint field exercise with Naval Mobile Construction (NMCB) 3 and achieved 100 percent M-16 rifle qualifications. Additionally, they contributed positively to the local community and earned the Capt. Jack McAuley award for their contributions "taking care of people."

## UCT reserve augment units seek divers

Over the years, it has been recognized that there were not enough Underwater Construction Team (UCT) Air Detachments to support the Team's mission — wartime tasking. To reduce this shortfall, the UCTs were authorized to organize a reserve augment for both of the Teams, one of which is located at Port Hueneme, Calif., and the other at Little Creek, Va.

The 37 Reserve billets (34 enlisted and three officer) came on line beginning October 1, 1994. The concept of these augment units is that they will be assigned and fully integrated with their active duty parent organizations and when mobilized would carry out the same mission as the active UCTs.

The specialized mission of the Teams requires that all UCT personnel be highly professional, extremely motivated individuals. All divers in the Air Dets have undergone training for at least two NECs, with many of the people holding three or more NECs.

The UCT Reserve program is still in the formative stages, and because there are a limited number of fully qualified reservists to man the teams, plans are to take up to five years to fully man the reserve organizations. Currently, four reservists have been assigned to the program.

The UCTs have a strong training program. Emphasized topics are: military weapons and tactics, diver refresher, physical fitness, and specialized training to meet the requirements of a particular project. Professional development is also enhanced through various local training commands.

The two UCT commands send detachments throughout the world. As-



**A UCT diver enters the waters of San Francisco Bay to perform repairs to the pier. (U.S. Navy photo)**

signments have included Africa, The Arctic ice cap, Diego Garcia, Iceland, Bermuda, Australia, Operation Desert Storm, and numerous other locations. The teams are composed of three officers and 52 enlisted. Forty-five of the 52 billets in each team are for Seabee divers with the remaining being a diving medical technician, three non-diving Seabees, two storekeepers and a yeoman. Shore duty billets are spread throughout the U.S.

Like Seabee battalions, the UCTs have a homeport deployment cycle. Detachments of from six to fifteen people may move to six different deployment sites completing projects at each site. Deployments can also be aboard ships and other seagoing platforms.

The UCTs are interested in bringing highly motivated people into the program. If someone is already a qualified diver, they will need only to be interviewed by a Team Diving Officer. Anyone else interested will be required to undergo a screening by one of the Teams. More information may be obtained by contacting: UCT 1, 1465 Hewitt Dr., NAB Little Creek, Norfolk, VA 23521-2523, 804-464-7447 or UCT 2, 4643 Dock Rd. CBC Port Hueneme, Port Hueneme, CA 93043-4321, 805-982-3249.

## Operation Sea Signal: *NMCB 74 Seabees swarm to humanitarian effort at Gitmo*

By PH1 (AW/SW) Kvello

**GUANTANAMO BAY, Cuba** — It was getting hard to tell which was the main body and which was the detail. With the requirement to send 40 additional personnel to support Operation Sea Signal at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 74's detail there almost outnumbered the main body site in Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico.

The latest tasking of NMCB 74's historic deployment was to support Naval Station Guantanamo's Public Works Department. Gitmo's PWD had been hard pressed with the large influx of migrants and the loss of some civilian workers resulting from the evacuation of dependents and civilian personnel there.

Eleven Utilitiesmen, nine Builders, eight Equipment Operators, five Construction Electricians, four Steel Workers, and a Storekeeper all mounted out of Roosevelt Roads bound for Gitmo to help keep the base operating in support of Joint Task Force 160.

"We've gone where no Seabee has gone before, to coin a phrase," said CUCM Bruce Kelly, Operations Master Chief. "No battalion has deployed a detachment of this size since Vietnam, and then the battalions had 1,100 to 1,200 people in them. To have a detachment that size is like having a mini-battalion."

Lt. Cmdr. John W. Zink, NMCB 74's Executive Officer, said he is proud of the "Can Do" spirit exhibited by the battalion.

"We work like a rapid deployment force. When given a mission we tailor a crew and equipment to it, then get them on the job. We fill the gap until follow-on forces can be brought on line."

*Kvello is a public affairs representative for NMCB 74*



**CECN Jason Hayes and CE3 Todd Fontaine install braces for the floodlights surrounding the camp built for Haitians at Guantanamo Bay. (Photo by Cpl. Timothy E. Lemaster, USMC)**

## PT daybreak activity for NMCB 74



Seabees from NMCB 74 do PT three times a week, starting at the crack of dawn. The workout includes stretching, leg calisthenics, push-ups, sit-ups, and at least a mile-and-a-half run.

## Prefabricating for the Army in Korea

By J02 Rodney J. Furry

**CAMP LONG, Korea** — A detail of 28 Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 5 constructed two K-Span buildings for the Eighth Army in Korea, providing them with a new gym and living spaces. The detail was in Korea participating in a seven-month Deployment For Training (DFT).

The Camp Eagle prefabricated building is 116-by-80 feet. Because the camp has limited recreational facilities, the Army plans to use the building as a gym.

A second K-Span building was constructed at Camp Hialeah, 394 kilometers to the south in Pusan. This one, 50-by-60-feet, will provide new

living quarters for units that train there periodically. Both structures were completed in November before the detail returned to Port Hueneme.

K-Span structures are frameless, arched structures made of sections of formed sheet metal. Each arched section of the building is fabricated on a trailer-mounted machine on the site. The sections are then lifted into place by a crane and seamed together.

K-Span structures are relatively quick and inexpensive to construct, and they are strong enough to provide a permanent facility. The entire structure is placed over a concrete foundation.

Providing construction assistance to the Army is becoming more common for Seabees as they continue to expand their service capabilities.

Assistance was also been provided to Army operations in Colombia, Belize and Panama during the Battalion's Caribbean deployment last summer.



BUCN Mayfield, left, and UT3 Beckles set arches at Camp Eagle.

# 'Kennel Bear' tests skills of NMCB 5

By J02 Rodney J. Furry

## CAMP SHIELDS, Okinawa —

Three hundred Seabees of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 5 completed a five-day field exercise at the Central Training Area (CTA) to test their ability to respond to a contingency situation rapidly and fulfill their role of support to the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force (III MEF).

The call to mobilize NMCB 5 came August 8th, setting Operation Kennel Bear in motion. The scenario described a fictional democratic island nation known as the "Country of Blue" that was in a state of political unrest. A revolutionary terrorist group was wreaking havoc all over the island, causing the fictional nation to call for help from the United States. Help came in the form of U.S. Marines, who were called in to support loyalist forces. The Seabees were also called in to provide construction support.

An early morning convoy transported the advanced party and the majority of the battalion's equipment to LZ Whippoorwill at the CTA where the camp was established. The main body was airlifted to the camp only a few hours later in Marine CH-53E helicopters courtesy of HMH-466, a local squadron from Futenma Marine Corps Air Station on Okinawa.

According to NMCB 5 Embark Petty Officer, Equipment Operator First Class Mark Soenksen, getting a battalion on the road quickly with all of its equipment and personnel is the most important part of its ability to respond to emergencies.

While the line companies dug in and established the battalion's defensive perimeter, the first tents were erected and the camp quickly began to take shape. Before the last of the Seabees even arrived, the galley team had the grills fired up and were preparing a hot lunch. Throughout the four day exercise, the Seabees enjoyed hot meals three times a day in the galley tent.



With a range of up to two miles, the M-264 60 mm mortar is one of the Seabees favorite crew-served weapons.



CM3 Wayne Frost and CM3 Christopher Sims discuss their fire direction plans as



HM2 Carl Halliburton, front, and Lt. Cmdr. Jerry Gentry work quickly to help as many "patients" as possible during the mass casualty exercise.



They look over their M-60 machine gun.

Communications were quickly established within the camp, linking three Company Command Posts with the Command Operations Center (COC), where the pulse of the battalion originates. There, the Operations Officer maintains control over all functions of the battalion in the field. Communications, Fire Support, Intelligence, and Construction Operations are tracked in the COC.

From the COC, the Operations Officer directs convoys which must leave the camp regularly with personnel and supplies. Seabees move in convoys to the many construction projects they work on in the field. During Operation Kennel bear, "The Professionals" exercised their convoy and contingency construction skills at a nearby small arms shooting range. The Seabees restored two berms at the range, providing a valuable construction service to the training area while exercising contingency operations.

Infantry Marines from Headquarters Company, 4th Marines, 3rd Marine Division, took the role as the "terrorist aggressors" during Operation Kennel

Bear, providing the Seabees with a realistic threat scenario. Their diligent efforts at infiltrating the Seabee camp kept "The Professionals" of NMCB 5 busy defending their position.

BUCA Brian Woodie of Charlie Company remarked, "This is the best action I've seen at a FEX. These guys have been all over us since we got here. It's made it a lot of fun to stand watch out here on the line. It sure isn't boring". During the exercise, the Marines tested the Seabees abilities to defend themselves on the line and in the camp.

As the Seabees prepared to wrap up the exercise and get back to Camp Shields, they were faced with one final task; respond to a mass-casualty incident. A fictional mortar attack caused heavy casualties in the camp. The Battalion's Medical team leaped into action, treating the wounded and preparing them for evacuation. Within an hour, the wounded personnel were aboard a CH53E helicopter on their way to a fictional field hospital.

*Furry is a public affairs representative for NMCB 5.*

# NMCB 3 Chaplain returns to Slavic roots

By J03 Sarah E. Burford

**PORT HUENEME, Calif.** — Lt. Stan Surbatovich, the former chaplain of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 3, accepted a missionary challenge in Yugoslavia upon his discharge from the Navy in October.

Formerly a Naval reservist, Surbatovich, whose parents are both natives of Yugoslavia, was recalled to active duty in 1991 during Operation Desert Storm/ Shield. Surbatovich was instrumental in counseling homeported Seabees during the Gulf crisis. At the end of the conflict, Surbatovich remained on active duty as a battalion chaplain.

"I enjoyed my time with the battalion. I watched a lot of people come closer to God," Surbatovich said. "Being in the battalion allowed me to do a lot of follow-up with the people I counseled. In the civilian world you don't have the chance to be with people on a day-to-day basis, seeing first hand what affects their lives."

Surbatovich has long had an interest in Slavic language and culture. He became interested in mission work in Yugoslavia following conversations with Simo Ralevic, a pastor of a church in Yugoslavia, who has written 100 books



**Lt. Stan Surbatovich, former chaplain for NMCB 3, will serve as a missionary to four churches in Yugoslavia.**

on the ministry. Ralevic was imprisoned for a time for his work in bringing Christianity to the native people of the country. Inspired by Ralevic, Surbatovich traveled to Yugoslavia to consider becoming a missionary there.

"I went to see what was going on," he explained. "People who had previously been atheists were willing to listen. We talked in train cars and restau-

rants. The people were very interested in discussing western Christianity. This was very encouraging and influenced my decision."

Surbatovich is being sponsored by the Faith Community Church of Oxnard, Calif., and several other churches and individuals. He, his wife Vicki, and their four children left for their new life in December. Surbatovich will divide his time among four churches. His goal is to eventually participate in church planning in Montenegro, the area where his parents grew up.

"My wife doesn't speak the language so we will have to get her some lessons once we get there," Surbatovich said. "The children are really excited. They have read stories about missionaries and now they see themselves in the role. They are really too young to fully understand what we will be doing. To them it is an adventure."

Surbatovich says many people are concerned for his safety. He assures them the fighting is mostly in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Serbia which are north of the area where he will be working.

Surbatovich encourages others with the call to the ministry to consider a missionary opportunity.

*Burford is a public affairs representative for NCBC Port Hueneme.*

## Shields memorialized in ceremony

**GARDINER, Wash.** — At a tiny hillside cemetery in the woods overlooking Washington's Puget Sound, soldiers, sailors, marines, airmen and civilians gathered on August 20 to honor CM3 Marvin Glen Shields, a Seabee hero of the Vietnam war.

Shields died in Vietnam on June 10, 1965 following several acts of bravery for which then President Lyndon Johnson posthumously awarded him the Congressional Medal of Honor. Shields holds a special place in Seabee history as the only Seabee ever to receive the medal.

The ceremony drew top Seabees

including Rear Adm. J.S. Buffington, Shields' former wife, Joan Shields Bennett, and surviving members of the team he served with in Vietnam.

On June 9, 1965 a Viet Cong regiment attacked the compound. Despite being wounded twice, Shields assisted in removing a more seriously injured comrade and then resumed his gun position.

He volunteered for a hazardous assignment to knock out a machine gun emplacement. Shields was mortally wounded while returning to his defensive position. He died shortly after being evacuated by helicopter.

The citation accompanying Shields' Medal of Honor reads: "His heroic initiative and great personal valor in the face of intense enemy fire sustain and enhance the finest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

Rear Adm. Buffington said it was an honor to be a part of the ceremony honoring Shields and inspiring to see Shields' home.

Shields' name graces a Seabee performance award, a barracks and several encampments around the globe, as well as the frigate USS MARVIN SHIELDS (FF 1066) that was decommissioned in 1993.

## NMCB 3 air det aids 'Dynamic Guard'

By BU3 Palmer Pinckney II

**ROTA, Spain** — The first leg of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 3's air detachment took them to Turkey in support of the Second Marine Expeditionary Force's participation in the NATO exercise Dynamic Guard 1994.

Lt. Max D. Rogers was the officer in charge of the 44 air det members. Preparations included extensive checking and rechecking of supplies, records, Table of Allowance (TOA) items, and condition of equipment and tools.

BU2 Stephen Eckert, CM3 Richard Issacs, CE2 Travis Rogers, UT2 Bryan Epps, HM1 Don Rogers, MS1 Louis Miezjewski and SKSNERik Broskie all had leadership roles in the advance preparations.

After two weeks of hard work, the air det had accomplished all their pre-deployment preparation tasking and loaded all their equipment for shipping to Turkey aboard the MV American Veteran. The air det worked 22 hours

alongside stevedores, longshoremen and EO3 Peter Martinez, who operated the ship's overhead crane.

On Sept. 23, EOC Allen Hill, the assistant officer in charge, and nine other Seabees boarded the ship for the trip to Tekridag, Turkey. Upon arrival, they "road marched" all equipment and supplies to Kesan Air Base. The remainder of the air det flew from Rota on Sept. 28.

While in Turkey, the air det provided support to the Second Marine Expeditionary Force. They also built and maintained a Seabee camp, constructed a K-span building for Turkish use as an aircraft hangar, and assembled a wash rack and loading ramp for the Marines.

After Turkey, the air det went to Ghana, Senegal, Sao Tome and Norway.

In addition to preparing for Dynamic Guard '94, the Air Det put in a lot of time preparing for the annual PT test. The time was well spent.



Air det members load a roll of steel onto the MV American Veteran.

Led by the enthusiastic BU3 Koby P. Ferris, many Air Det members excelled.

*Pinckney is a public affairs representative for NMCB 3*

## Historic haircut raises money for MWR



Constructionman Mechanic Luis A. Vega surveys Chief Equipment Operator Allen Hill's mane.

Photos and story by  
BU3 Palmer Pinckney II

This historic haircut was part of an effort to raise money to support the Airdet's MWR fund. Chief Equipment Operator Allen J. Hill volunteered to have his head shaved.

Members of the air det bought raffle tickets for the chance to cut part of Chief's hair. Almost \$300 was raised.

Rumor has it that Hill's hair only grows to a certain length, resulting in his hair not having been cut for the past 15 years.

*Pinckney is a public affairs representative for NMCB 3*



Mess Specialist First Class Louis Miezjewski puts the finishing touches on Hill's head.

# Short Bursts

**The Seabee Memorial Scholarship** Committee has awarded 65 scholarships with a total value of \$84,500. Scholarships are awarded to a child or grandchild or a regular, reserve, retired, honorably discharged or deceased officer or enlisted member who has served or who is now serving with the Naval Construction Force or Naval Civil Engineering Corps.

Applicants must be attending or accepted for full-time undergraduate studies at an accredited four-year college or university. Awards are based on character, good citizenship, leadership, scholastic record and financial need. The committee considered 292 applications. A total of 48 scholarships were continued and 17 new recipients were selected.

The new recipients are:

**Joseph C. Moss**, son of BU1 Richard K. Moss, Jr., currently assigned to CBC Gulfport; Mississippi State University, Miss.

**Anna M. Spartz**, the daughter of CE3 Dennis L. Spartz, who served in Vietnam with NMCB 62 and Seabee Team 6205; St. Cloud State University, St. Cloud, Minn.

**Gabriel Stewart**, the son of SW3 Jerry C. Stewart, who served with NMCB 133 and Seabee Team 13309; Idaho State University, Pocatello, Idaho.

**Barbara Perrone**, the daughter of the late BU2 Roscoe L. Perrone, who served in Vietnam with MCB 10; Paul Smith's College, N.Y.

**Jennifer A. Strong**, the daughter of BUC Ronald J. Strong, who drills with NMCB 21; Lock Haven University, Lock Haven, Penn.

**Vanessa A. Lipton**, the step-daughter of EO3 Charlie A. Monroe, Jr., who served in Vietnam with NSA DaNang, and granddaughter of the late CEC Melvin F. Grimm, who served on ships during World War II and later with the Reserve Construction Battalion Di-

vision 13-6; University of Washington, Seattle, Wash.

**Ann-Denise Hula**, daughter of BU2 John T. Hula, who drills with NMCB 21; Hofstra University, Hempstead, N.Y.

**Angela N. Hiestand**, the daughter of EOCS James P. Hiestand, currently serving with the 3rd NCB; Hendrix College, Conway, Ark.

**Carrie Pyell**, the daughter of BUC Dennis A. Pyell, currently assigned to NAVFACENGCOM; University of Maryland, Baltimore, Md.

**Leslie D. Van Pelt**, the daughter of BU3 Charles T. Van Pelt, who served with NMCB 74, and is currently a civilian with CBC Gulfport; Delta State University, Cleveland, Miss.

**Olivia C. Studley**, the daughter of CE3 Gary C. Studley, who served in Vietnam with NSA DaNang; University of New Hampshire, Durham, N.H.

**Michelle J. McClellan**, the granddaughter of a retired BUC and the great-granddaughter of a World War II Seabee. She is the daughter of CM1 Michael L. McClellan, currently serving with NMCB 133; University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, Iowa.

**Angie M. Shaver**, step-daughter of BUC Larry Perry, who served with NMCB 24 during Operation Desert Storm; University of North Carolina, Charlotte, N.C.

**Jennifer M. Crayne**, the daughter of BU2 William A. Crayne, who served with NMCB 40; Chico State University, Chico, Calif.

**Elizabeth A. Debour**, the daughter of CE2 Randall L. DeBour, who served with the Naval Support Facility, DaNang, Vietnam; College of St. Catherine, St. Paul, Minn.

**Amy L. Hicks**, the step-daughter of CMCS Shannon P. Sloan, who is serving with Underwater Construction Team One; Florida State University, Tallahassee, Fla.

**Marie S. Birkhead**, the daughter of YNCS Gregory S. Birkhead, who served with NMCB 23; University of Maryland, College Park, Md.

SMSA scholarship applications can be obtained from Command Master Chiefs of individual units or by requesting one from the SMSA.

Completed applications and documentation should be forward to SMSA Scholarships, P.O. Box 6574, Silver Spring, MD 20916, no later than April 15 of each year.

## Support the Seabee Memorial Scholarship Association

For more information, write to:  
SMSA, P.O. Box 6574  
Silver Spring, MD. 20916

**Seabee Veterans of America** — The Navy Seabee Veterans of America National Convention will be held at the Riviera Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, Nev., Sept 18-22, 1995. Anyone interested in attending should contact Convention Chairman Arnie Schrader at 3124 Harborside Dr., Las Vegas, Nev. 89117, (702) 254-7000.

Membership in the Navy Seabee Veterans of America is open to anyone who has or is serving with any unit of the Naval Construction Force, including USMC military advisors. There are 87 islands (chapters) throughout the U.S.

# SUPERFEX '94: 90's wartime scenario

By JOC Tim Adams  
Photos by CE3 Kevin Cullen

**FORT HUNTER-LIGGETT, Calif.—**

SUPERFEX '94 drew more than 1,000 Seabees, both active and reserve from the 1st Naval Construction Regiment (NCR), the 31st Naval Construction Regiment (NCR), and Naval Mobile Construction Battalions (NMCB) 3 and 17 during the June exercise.

An important aspect of SUPERFEX is that the 1st NCR, comprised of reserve Seabees, was tasked with Operational Control of both NMCB 3 and 17. This is the first time battalions were placed under the operational control of a deployed regiment, according to the exercise coordinator, Lt. John J. Heinzl, Readiness Officer for the 31st NCR.

Active-duty and reserve Seabees were given a "surprise" mobilization warning and 48 hours to mount out and prepare to fly and convoy to the contingency area of simulated hostilities.

Construction projects, managed by the 1st NCR, were worked on by both battalions to support Facilities Engineering at Fort Hunter-Liggett. The projects ranged from placing a concrete tank crossing pad to building timber bridges.

Throughout the exercise, simulated rocket attacks resulted in simulated casualties that provided training for helicopter medivac. As part of the medivac exercise, Seabees were trained in how to communicate with medivac helicopters and provide visual



Seabees from NMCB 17 receive medical evacuation training from the Army.

signals to pilots.

Some of the simulated missile attacks resulted in the call for everyone to don Mission Oriented Protective Posture (MOPP) gear. Real CS gas canisters were activated in key locations around camps to give those caught without a gas mask a good whiff.

More realism was added to the exercise by the constant pounding of Army tanks firing day and night to the nearby tank firing range and trainers dropping simulators.

The enemy was not always easy to identify, because the scenario included situations from Somalia and other recent Seabee operations. Guerrilla and

terrorist activities were instituted and organized opposition forces kept pressure on the camps around the clock.

The Combat Operations Centers (COC) of all three units were filled with the chattering of radio nets passing information on the enemy threat, status of projects, convoy routes and security patrols.

The scenarios were designed to develop leadership and training in equipment and weapons. Trainers and observers monitored each element of the exercise and presented an evaluation and critique to the participants.

Master Gunnery Sgt. B. Olivas, 31st NCR Training Department said, "We want every Seabee to think, to evaluate, to employ all his resources to the problem at hand."

Despite the constant threat of gas attacks, spiders and ticks, and the heat, the exercise was considered a success by most.

"The training was excellent," said SWCR David Perry of the 1st NCR. "I've learned more in the two weeks here than I did in school. What I've learned is that people make the jobs work the way they should."

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



UT3 Gary Adams sites in targets with his 60mm machine gun.

# From the Archive

## Oilmen-Seabees Blazed Arctic Trail

*(Editor's note: The following story appeared in the July, 1994 Explorer magazine, published by the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG). It is reprinted here with the permission of AAPG and the author, Lee Gerhard. Gerhard heads the Kansas Geological Survey in Lawrence, Kan. He is president of AAPG's Division of Environmental Geosciences for 1994-95).*

By Lee Gerhard

Fifty years ago, a Kansas oil man helped write the first chapter in Arctic oil exploration.

The man was Lt. Cmdr. William (Bill) Rex, CEC, U.S. Naval Reserve, who was appointed the commanding officer of an expedition to explore United States Naval Petroleum Reserve No. 4 on Alaska's north slope.

The situation was this: The United States, worried about the depletion of domestic oil reserves and the specter of increasing reliance upon foreign imports, decided to examine its own resources so as to prepare itself for energy self sufficiency.

In 1944, World War II was closing but fierce engagements were still to come and concerns about future fuel needs were high. At that time, little was known about operating under Arctic conditions.

Orders were cut that year to select personnel and materials for the exploration of "Pet. 4." The Seabees were selected for the task, and a new Naval Construction Battalion Detachment was organized, the NCB 1058.

Bill Rex, born in Missouri and a graduate of the University of Missouri, had built a drilling company out of the ashes of the Depression with partner Ed Morris, and was doing "OK" in El Dorado, Kan., when the war broke out. Under the

prevailing rules, only one of the two could remain with the business; the other had to go to war. Since he had no children — unlike his partner — Bill volunteered, and eventually was assigned to Aleutian Islands Seabee duty with the 66th Battalion.

Rear Admiral Ben Moreell proposed the expedition to drill core holes and explore "Pet 4" on May 8, 1944. The president approved the expedition on June 2, and the 1058 was at sea by July 20, since officials had authority to cut through red tape and directly purchase all necessary supplies.

Screening of personnel led to Rex's appointment as commander, because he was an experienced oil well driller and highly regarded officer. His detachment consisted of 196 Seabees and 235 stevedores, supplied to operate independently for a full year in the field.

***"Everything down to the most insignificant item should be recorded for future use."***

Orders for the 1058 were simple and to the point:

"The purpose of this expedition is to carry out exploratory work in NPR 4 (Naval Petroleum Reserve No. 4) with a view toward determining the presence of oil in commercial quantities and, if so, to establish methods by which it may best be produced and transported to a point of greatest usefulness. This mission, therefore, includes detailed geologic study, core

hole drilling, deep well drilling, and overland and aerial pipeline survey

"This region, being virgin exploratory territory, you will be required to do your utmost to complete your task with the greatest possible amount of information of every type. Everything down to the most insignificant item should be recorded for future use...not only the success but the failures of this first Seabee petroleum venture."

***"We did a lot of things we weren't supposed to. But we drilled that well!"***

Not everything goes well in military ventures. Those who provisioned the expedition did so having had only tropical experience. The Quonset huts provided had plenty of mosquito netting, but no insulation.

And there were no maps.

"... (So) I went down to the local high school and got some geography books," Rex reminisced prior to his death. "Those were our only maps. That's what we knew about our destination."

"We got under way and found we had a lot of oil field experience and a chaplain, but no cook. I guessed the chaplain could cook."

"They gave us this beautiful soft black wool underwear, it was wonderful warm stuff. Only thing is, the first time it went through the laundry, it wouldn't fit a Barbie doll any more."

"We did a lot of things we weren't

supposed to. But we drilled that well!"

Landing at Point Barrow — skipping the planned Simpson landing area because of shallow water and swamps — Bill and his crew built a camp: first tents, then Quonsets. The natives made fun of the tents, but later were amazed at the Quonset city that grew.

The first permanent building was the "Top of the World Officers Club" according to AAPG member George Gryc, now of the U.S. Geological Survey at Menlo Park, and a participant in a companion USGS expedition.

The permanent camp was ready for move-in on Sept. 14, only three weeks after landing.

But Point Barrow was only a staging and testing area. The real work lay 307 miles to the south.

One thousand tons of supplies and drilling equipment had to be moved overland. The inventiveness of the oil men/Seabees made short work of the trans-

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*"Heavy equipment couldn't be moved over the tundra in summer, so the crew invented sled trains and moved in winter, constructing wannigans on conduit runners, pulled by caterpillars."*

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portation problem. Heavy equipment couldn't be moved over the tundra in summer, so the crew invented sled-trains and moved in winter, constructing wannigans on conduit runners, pulled by caterpillars.

By late winter of 1945 the sled-trains had been designed, built, tested and delivered the freight. The 307 miles of sledging was along 58 miles of sea ice, 176 miles along freshwater ice, and 73 miles over tundra.

An airstrip was constructed later at Umiat.

Meanwhile the rigs were tested. Drilling in permafrost is a little different than drilling in the limestone of Kansas.

Frozen drilling mud, plugged bits and ice cores were a problem, partly solved by using large oil-fueled immersion heaters in the mud tanks. Unfortunately this caused the loss of the first rig, which burned on its second test hole.

A National 50 rig proved more serviceable, and drilled a 685-foot hole on its first try, using a flame-thrower to de-ice the lines, standpipe, and hoses when coming out or going in the hole.

Eventually the testing discovered a small gas field at Barrow that was used to heat the camp.

During 1945 the detachment was strengthened for its exploration duties. The main project, drilling of exploratory wells, was to commence.

Umiat is located along the Colville River, in an area of surface anticlines. Lt. William Foran, formerly a USGS explorer of the mid-1920s and later with Imperial Oil, was chief geologist. Foran picked the location for Umiat No. 1 on the Umiat anticline.

MPG member Earle Taylor of Houston was a member of the Navy's geological mapping crew.

Rigging up of the National 50 began in late May 1945, and Umiat #1 was spudded on June 22. The well was continuously cored to 685 feet and cored as possible below, eventually 1,257 feet of the hole was cored.

Drilling was terminated at 1,816 feet because of lack of water for drilling, the only source being a small creek nearby the location that could not supply the needed 200 barrels a day when freeze-up started.

Cement used for setting casing had to be warmed by standpipe in order to set.

The crew did not have the same problems drilling through permafrost as they had during rig testing on the coastal tundra, but there were other problems.

"The permafrost was 356 meters deep on the Umiat anticline (Umiat No. 6)," Gryc said, "and the camp nearly sank out of sight and a very substantial gravel pad had to be built ..."

The last entry in the drilling log is: "Shut down for winter, P.T.D. 1816' 16 Sept." The Navy had run out of water.

Five oil shows were logged, at 535'-555', 919'-934', 1,305'-1,308', 1,335'-1,386', and 1,736'-1,782'.

No production test was run, and as the season ended, the atomic age started.

After V-J Day, Rex went home to Kansas on Sept. 26, 1945, where his successful drilling business made him a leading member of the community in El Dorado, Kan., until his death in 1991.

What did these intrepid oil men/Seabees accomplish? Bill Rex gave some insight not found in the official records:

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*"I think the second purpose of this expedition was to learn how to operate in the Arctic, so we could fight when we had to."*

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"We invented a lot of stuff, including the sledge trains and how to drill in the Arctic cold and ice. We located a pipeline route to the south to get oil out if necessary."

"But most of all, I think, we had to learn how to survive and work under Arctic conditions. Later on they sent all kinds of people up there, and there was another reason. You see, the Russians had just kicked the hell out of the Germans under winter conditions, and we could see we would probably have to fight in Siberia some day. I think the second purpose of this expedition was to learn how to operate in the Arctic, so we could fight when we had to."

Look at the orders. "Record all details ..." The records are heavy on survival gear and clothing, and how to make machinery work. Bill was probably right.

Bill Rex helped make oil field history — he was a "Can Do!" Kansas oil man. The Arctic was open, the first chapter in Arctic oil exploration.

# News to Use

**MILEAD EXAMS BEING ELIMINATED** — The milead exams will be eliminated after the September 1994, E-4 through E-6 exam cycles and January 1997 E-7 exams. According to NAVOP 030/94 on Navy leadership continuum implementation, questions on military leadership will now be incorporated into the rating exams.

"By including leadership questions in the rating exam, we're hopeful that people will study for the leadership portion, because it's going to count as part of their final multiple," said Electronics Technician Senior Chief Gail Brown, of the Naval Education and Training Center, Pensacola, Fla.

**RIGHTSIZING** — June figures show the Department of Defense (DoD) lost 78,816 people from the same time last year. Total active duty military personnel on June 30, 1994, was 1,643,639. In 1993, there were 1,722,455.

While the figures represent a drop from 1993, they were constant compared to the figures from May 1994.

The Army has 557,546 people on active duty compared with 582,343 in 1993. The Navy has 479,276, compared with 512,678. The Marines dropped from 179,611 in 1993 to 173,726. The Air Force went from 447,823 to 433,091.

**GULF WAR SYNDROME VA PAYMENTS OK'D** — Under a new law, the "Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 1994," the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) has been granted authority to make disability payments to veterans who suffer chronic disabilities resulting from undiagnosed illnesses that appeared during or after service in the Persian Gulf War. The bill directs the DVA to establish exactly how, and how much, will be paid to affected veterans.

The bill also requires DVA to establish tests and standards to detect Gulf War Syndrome, fund medical exams and tests (but no treatment) for children and spouses of affected veterans, and

set up a toll-free number to provide information about Desert Storm-related benefits. Veterans should call their local VA office for more information.

**1st NCR RELOCATES** — The 1st Naval Construction Regiment (NCR) began its fiscal year at Building 836, CBC Port Hueneme, Calif. The 1st NCR previously had been headquartered at Los Alamitos, Calif.

**DoD EXCESS COMPUTERS FOR CLASSROOMS** — The Department of Defense has a large number of excess computers to donate to state-accredited private and public elementary and secondary schools. The only requirements are the equipment be available for use in the mathematics and science curricula and the school cover the cost of shipment.

The program results from Executive Order 12821, Improving Mathematics and Science Education in Support of the National Educational Goals.

Approximately 700,000 excess computer items are reported annually to the Defense Automation Resources Center. During a ten-month period ending in July, 1994, some 16,000 items valued at \$18 million were donated to 317 schools in 38 states.

There are several ways for schools to take advantage of the program.

One way is for a school to request an application directly by writing to: Defense Automation Resources Information Center, ATTN: TXRP, 6301 Little River Turnpike, Suite 200, Alexandria, VA 22312, or by calling 1-703-274-0788.

**MILITARY OPERATIONS** — Uphold Democracy in Haiti is only one of 18 ongoing military operations involving U.S. service members around the world.

The others are:

**Able Manner** — U.S. Coast Guard Haitian migrant interdiction operations

with U.S. Navy assistance;

**Able Vigil** — U.S. Coast Guard Cuban interdiction operations with U.S. Navy assistance;

**Able Sentry** — U.S. military participation in the U.N. Protection Force in Macedonia;

**Deny Flight** — NATO no-fly zone enforcement, close air support and air strikes over/in Bosnia;

**Distant Haven** — U.S. humanitarian operation for Haitian refugees in Suriname;

**Maritime Intercept Ops** — Generic name for U.S. and coalition enforcement of U.N. sanctions against Iraq in the Persian Gulf;

**Provide Comfort** — U.S. and allied no-fly zone enforcement over northern Iraq and Kurdish relief efforts;

**Provide Hope** — U.S. medical supplies and equipment to Russia;

**Provide Promise** — U.S. and allied airlift into Sarajevo and airdrops over Bosnia;

**Safe Haven** — U.S. humanitarian operation for Cuban refugees in Panama;

**Sea Signal** — U.S. Navy support of U.S. Coast Guard's operation Able Vigil;

**Sharp Guard** — U.S. and allied enforcement of U.N. sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro in the Adriatic Sea;

**Southern Watch** — U.S. and coalition no-fly zone over southern Iraq;

**Support Democracy** — U.S. and allied at-sea enforcement of U.N. sanctions against Haiti;

**Support Hope** — U.S. support of U.N. humanitarian operations in or near Rwanda;

**Sustain Democracy** — U.S. support of U.N. Haitian border monitoring in the Dominican Republic;

**UNOSOM II** — U.N. Operations in Somalia; and

**Uphold Democracy** — U.S. military forces in Haiti.

# Lejeune barracks rehabbed by NMCB 24

Story/photo by JO2 Bob Harvey

**CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C.** — The operation started in November, 1993, when the first of 11 Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 24 detachments began a massive barracks rehabilitation project here. The first eight detachments have finished their work, and according to the man in charge of the work, Builder Senior Chief Pat Ingle, the renovation job is in its final stages.

"It's moving along real well. In fact, we're ahead of schedule with nearly 80 percent of the job complete," Ingle said. "This is the first operation of its size where NMCB 24 was responsible for the full scope of the work."

The project assignment involved turning two open bay barracks into individual living units for training instructors. The pre-existing buildings were constructed in the early 1950's, requiring a major reconstruction. In all, approximately 5,000 man-days were expended.

The barracks had to be completely gutted. Interior walls were removed, doors, casings, windows and window casings went next. The concrete decks were broken up, carried away, and the old plumbing was removed.



CE3 James Kent runs electric lines to the renovated barracks rooms.

After the tearing out process, the Seabees began to build. New pipes were laid, concrete poured, wiring installed, and individual rooms began to take shape as walls went into place. When the project is complete, Marine instructors will enjoy more comfortable quarters.

Col. Howard Lovingood, Commanding Officer of the School of Infantry said

the work is greatly appreciated.

"If you're looking for good public relations for the Seabees, you'll find plenty of it here. I've been around Seabees for the past 42 years and they're great. Your battalion is doing a fine job and we're very pleased. We hope Seabees come back again."

*Harvey is the NMCB 24 PAO representative.*

## Staten Island little leaguers 'play ball' after CBU 423 work

Story/photo  
by EA2 (SWC) Tina Keon

**STATEN ISLAND, N.Y.** — The Seabees of Construction Battalion Unit (CBU) 423 have refurbished and regraded the East Shore Little League playing field here.

The job entailed laying 31,000 square feet of sod, erecting more than 2,000 linear feet of fencing, constructing two covered dugouts, constructing concrete steps, fabricated a retaining wall and sidewalks, and erected a 40-foot flagpole. Estimated savings are in excess of \$200,000.

*Keon is a public affairs representative for CBU 423.*



BUC (SCW) Ted Keon, project supervisor, compacts the fill brought in to level the the field. The Verrazano-Narrows Bridge is in the background..

## San Clemente project integrates active/reserve



Seabees saved the Navy \$1.4 million on road construction projects accomplished over a one-year period.

By JO2 Ron Flesvig

**San Clemente Island** — Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalions 1 and 25 recently completed the final phases of a road restoration project on Naval Auxiliary Landing Field (NALF) San Clemente Island.

As a result of unusually severe rain storms, several of San Clemente Island's roads were washed out. NMCB 25, headquartered in Glenview, Illinois, began construction on the project in November 1993, along with NMCB 3. Active-duty Seabees from NMCB 1, based in Gulfport, Miss., arrived in February of 1994.

The joint effort between NMCB 25 and NMCB 1 was one of the largest integration construction projects performed by the Third Naval Construction Brigade. Together, the Seabee units logged over 3,100 mandays of labor on the island.

Approximately 250 reserve Seabees and 19 active duty Seabees worked on more than seven miles of San Clemente Island construction during fiscal year 1994.

The total cost of the project was approximately \$450,000, with Seabee efforts saving the Navy \$1.4 million.

"The active duty and reservists were a good complement to each other," Lt. Stephen Knapowski, detachment officer in charge from NMCB 25 said.

"NMCB 1 really helped move things along with their proficiency at planning, estimating, scheduling and quality control. The reservists learned a lot of valuable project management skills. The actives learned a lot about equipment operations from reserves who work in their rate for their civilian jobs,"

he added.

At the peak of the project, 37 reservists and ten active duty Seabees worked on the project. Most of the reservists performed their annual training (AT). NMCB 1 spent four months on the island.

In addition to NMCB 1's four-month deployment, eight reserve Seabees volunteered for 60-to-100-day orders to provide operational continuity between the rotating detachments.

Ens. Daniel Turner, Officer-in-Charge of the NMCB 1 details, worked with NMCB 25's Lt. Knapowski during his four months on the island.

"This project has been a tremendous achievement," Turner said. "We surmounted significant operational and logistical problems while managing to successfully integrate active duty and selected reserve operations toward a common goal."

The Seabees not only finished the road restoration on schedule at considerable savings to the Navy, but also completed twelve additional projects for NALF San Clemente Island, providing needed support and perpetuating the "Can Do" Seabee image.

*Flesvig is a public affairs representative for NMCB 25.*



Active duty members of NMCB 1 teamed with reservists from NMCB 25 to complete 3,100 mandays of construction on San Clemente Island.

# Career Corner

**SELRES OFFICERS NEEDED FOR FY '96 CEC SELECTION BOARDS** — Selected Naval Reserve Civil Engineer Corps (CEC) officers are needed to serve as members of the FY96 CEC selection boards for lieutenant through captain.

Applicants must be in inactive status, and must not have served on the same selection board in the prior fiscal year. It is desired that applicants not have failed of selection for any grade. Officers need not be permanent grade, but frocked officers are not eligible to fill requirements for members of that grade. Qualified officers not in drill pay status may apply. Certain boards have variable minority membership requirements. Therefore, applicants are encouraged to indicate their eligibility to serve as minority members.

Serving on a selection board is an important responsibility and an indication of high professional standing. It is a particularly noteworthy item in an individual's fitness report.

More details about service on selection boards, including board dates and an application form, are available in Commander, Reserve Naval Construction Force Support Command letter 1401, serial 467, of 16 October 1994. All Reserve CEC officers should be receiving a copy of this letter. Interested officers may call 1-800-782-3510 for more information.

**RESERVISTS LIVING ABROAD CAN DO AT, DRILL AT O'SEAS BASES** — Admiral Jeremy M. "Mike" Boorda has announced a program which will permit unaffiliated Naval Reservists living overseas to perform drills and annual training at bases there. The program was announced in NAVOP 039/94, released in early September.

Adm. Boorda noted that, "there is a wealth of talent in reservists living

abroad representing medical specialties, Seabees, supply, etc. Individuals in these communities and others can provide critically needed contributory support to our bases and facilities overseas."

Rear Adm. Tom Hall, Commander, Naval Reserve Force, developed specific guidelines which allow overseas reservists to perform 48 paid drills and two weeks of annual training per year.

For the reserve member the process is similar to applying for a civilian job. You contact the employer, the base CO, and see if there are any job requirements he has that you can fill. If so, you'll be interviewed, and the CO will send a justification package to CNAVRES in New Orleans.

The package will be evaluated and most applicants should receive a response within a month.

As of late October, 22 applications were in the process of being reviewed and two had already been approved.

**SERVICE BASIC CONSTRUCTION SCHOOLS TO MERGE** — As the Defense Department moves to cut costs and continue "rightsizing," more and more training common to all services is being consolidated. Military construction will also be taking on a joint look in the near future, as Army and Air Force personnel undergo basic Builder training at Gulfport. Seabees will be learning to operate heavy equipment and Engineering Aide skills at Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo.; and Construction Electricians and Utilitiesmen will take their training at Sheppard Air Force Base. Construction Mechanics will continue to be taught at NCTC Port Heuneme, Calif., but they will be joined there by Air Force mechanics.

Seabee occupational standards which are part of current training will remain unchanged, but training will be

expanded to include other service requirements such as airfield lighting and underground electrical distribution. The result will be a better trained Seabee who has already worked in a Joint Service environment.

## **RESERVISTS RECEIVE BETTER PROTECTION FOR CIVILIAN JOBS**

— President Clinton has signed the Uniformed Services Employment and Re-employment Rights Act of 1994 into law, giving reservists from all services clearer guidelines — and a lawyer — to ensure civilian employers don't replace or fire them because of training commitments or active duty recalls.

The new law places one additional requirement on reservists: they must now notify an employer in advance that they are going on military duty. But the notification can be written or oral, and there is no specific "advance" deadline to be met.

If the required notification is given, and a problem arises, the Department of Labor will either provide a government lawyer or pay the reservist's reasonable attorney's fees to take the employer to court and resolve the dispute.

The act also:

- Requires employers to make reasonable efforts for up to two years to accommodate a reservist's service-connected disability.
- Applies, for the first time, to federal and Postal Service employees.
- Prohibits reductions in eligibility for pension benefits due to military duty.
- Requires continuation of health insurance for deployments of 30 days or less. If the deployment is longer, the reservist/employee is allowed to keep the employer's health plan for up to 18 months, by paying for it.
- Mandates training or retraining programs to qualify reservists for reemployment, if needed.

# Executive Steering Group sets sights on future

By Cmdr. H.L. Schwind

The Naval Construction Force's (NCF) Executive Steering Group (ESG) is developing a strategic plan to guide the NCF through the next decade.

The group, which met at CBC Gulfport in December, is comprised of senior officer and enlisted leadership of the Seabees and has been meeting on a regular basis for more than three years. Its membership includes both active-duty and reserve members.

Facilitated by Rear Adm. Dave Nash, Commander 3rd Naval Construction Brigade (NCB), the group set a goal of establishing the most critical issues facing the NCF in the years to come.

As a result, all members of the ESG took an unconstrained look at the Seabees and the forces affecting how business is accomplished.

Among the many issues explored, those that have the greatest impact on the Force are:

- \* the requirement for the Seabees to be capable of operating with other forces in joint situations;

- \* the Seabees ability to communicate their capabilities and advantages to customers;

- \* how to better access the Reserve

components;

- \* ensuring the capability of the Tables of Allowance (TOA) to support the Seabees' needs;

- \* How to increase the Seabees response through prepositioning ship initiatives;

- \* How to ensure construction mate-



rial support to Seabees deployed to a contingency;

- \* how to better train and develop Seabees for future requirements;

- \* how to improve the quality of life of Seabees and improve communications within the Force.

During the September ESG meeting, the following issues were discussed and are being studied:

- \* a new initiative to establish an

Army Engineer and Civil Engineer Corps officer exchange program involving NCF units and Army combat engineer units;

- \* a new joint 2nd/3rd NCB policy concerning the wearing of boots and soft covers/hard hats;

- \* a safety validation of the NCF practice of transporting troops in passenger configured cargo compartments of trucks;

- \* a review of the status of reserve enlisted recruiting efforts;

- \* a review of the status of the consolidated Seabee "A" school training with the Army and Air Force entry-level engineer training;

- \* the progress being made toward state of the art communications hardware and practices in the NCF.

- \* establishment of a policy that brown T-shirts would be issued as organizational clothing, similar to socks.

Although the ESG will continue to address day-to-day issues, the group will concentrate on the long range plan with the goal of maintaining the Seabees as the "Construction Force of Choice" for the coming decade and beyond.

*Schwind is a member of the NCF Executive Steering Group.*

## NMCB 20, 6th NCR Decommissioned

Photo and story by  
PH2 Jim Geddes

**RICKENBACKER AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Ohio** — Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 20 and the 6th Naval Construction Regiment (NCR) were decommissioned in a ceremony here on Sept. 10.

NMCB 20 was created in 1964. Its members were absorbed by Naval Mobile Construction Battalions 23, 24, and 26, and by the Augment units of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 1.

*Geddes was a public affairs representative for NMCB 20.*

## Selection Board? Check your record

By CUCM P.L. "Rick" Race

Greetings from "inside the beltway." I'd like to start off by thanking everyone who took the time to complete my quality management board survey. I was impressed by the number of responses and the quality of the comments and recommendations. Petty Officer Hayes and I analyzed all of the responses and presented a summary to the Executive Steering Group in December. I will provide an update either in the next *Beeline* or by a special newsletter from my office

A note for all of you who will have

your records in front of selection boards. Whether it's for special duty, a school quota or advancement, it's more important than ever to make sure your Enlisted Summary Record (ESR) or Officer Summary Record (OSR) and your microfiche record are complete and up to date. The most ridiculous thing could make you a "non-select." Check with your personnel department if you need help getting a copy of your records. I hope you and your families enjoyed the holiday season this year, and I wish all of you all the best for 1995.

*Race is Master Chief of the Seabees.*