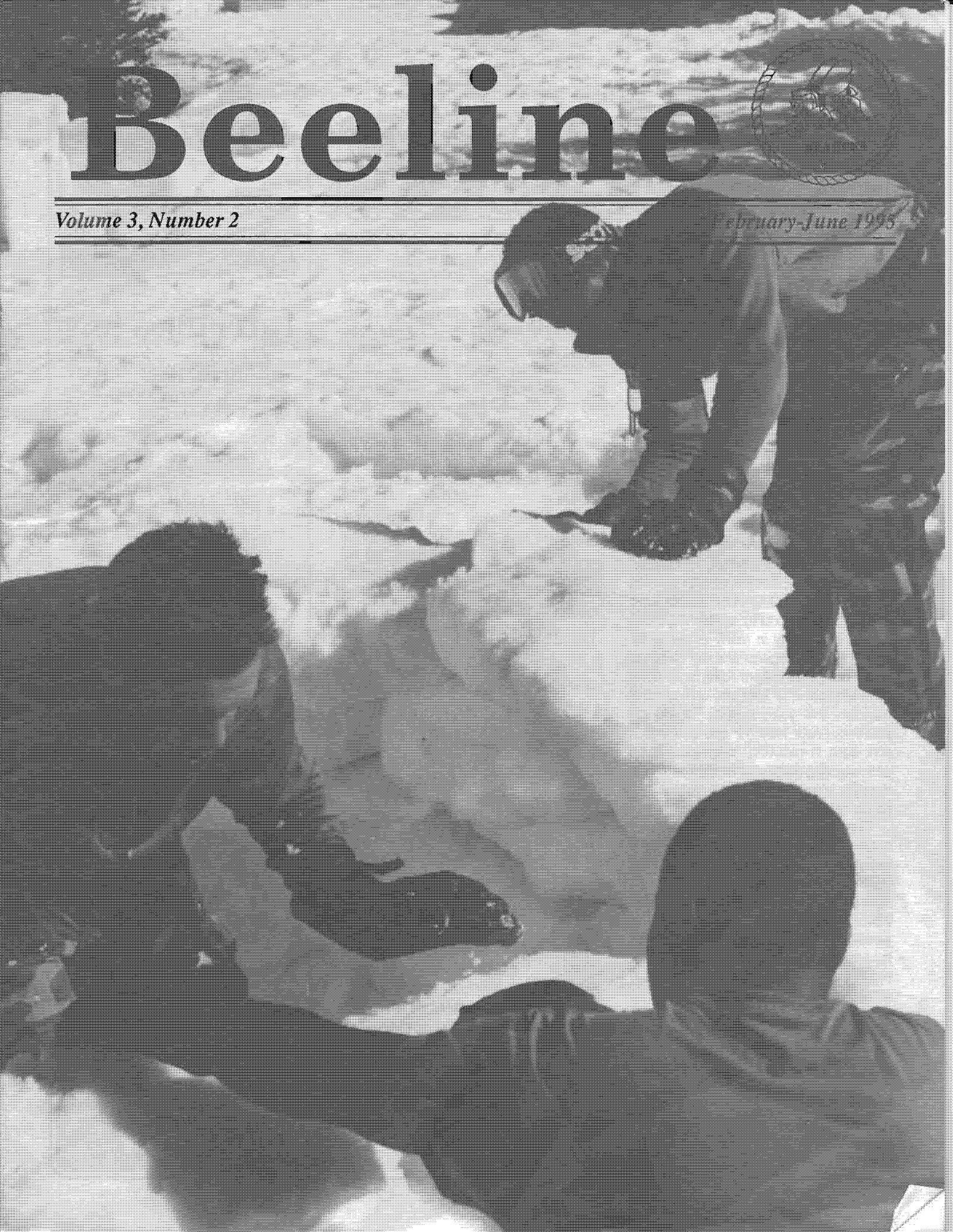


# Beeline



*Volume 3, Number 2*

*February-June 1998*

# What's Buzzing?

by Rear Adm. Thomas Gross

By the time you read this article, we will be in the last quarter of a fiscal year that started, and will finish, with a "lean" budget. I'd like to tell you that we will be returning to funding of our training and support requirements at levels experienced in previous years...but I can't. All indications are that resources, particularly reserve personnel (RPN) funding, will continue to be lower in fiscal year 1996. These budget expectations underscore the need for constantly increasing our productivity.

From senior officers to crew leaders, most of you have heard and are responding daily to messages such as "Do more with less" and "Work smarter, not harder." New technology, combined with policies such as flexible drilling which enable more innovation and flexibility, are turning those cliches into reality in many of our units. Based on your reports and my observations, many units are providing more man-days of support to fleet and unified commanders this year, despite fewer resources. Your initiative and determination, both in reducing "overhead" costs and acquiring additional funds from those desiring your engineering and construction services, are impressive.

During the next month, the officer and enlisted leaders of our Reserve force will be selected for the coming year. Reducing travel costs is more of a consideration than before in making billet assignments. You can be sure, however, that those selected will be expected to continue the march toward improved organizational productivity. Our best leaders are finding many ways to successfully meet the challenge of decreasing funds, as we endeavor to

provide more benefit per reservist. They pack more training into drills by using interactive, computer-assisted training by scheduling more drills together to reduce administrative costs. Some units have routinely combined drill and AT periods, increasing both training and the amount of contributory support which can be accomplished. We are using teleconferencing and computer links with gaining commands, and have begun to explore technologies such as the Internet not only for communications but for training, issues research and document review.

My congratulations and appreciation to all whose resolve to "get it done" is intensified by the twin challenges of increased demands and diminished resources. You're establishing some challenging performance benchmarks. What you are accomplishing is not lost on those for whom your services are being provided. When value is supplied, those receiving it will ask for more...and will work with you to get the resources desired. Take a look at the lists of personnel, active and reserve, who have been called recently to handle real world contingencies, and to plan for those yet to come. Those providing construction and engineering support show up on every list.

I encourage you all to continue finding new and better ways to support our customers, while maintaining high individual and unit readiness. I'm confident our response to this period of tighter budgets will be aggressive, innovative and positive in terms of our mission contribution. After all, who is more directly and immediately linked with the phrase "Can Do"?

**Rear Adm. Gross is the Commander, Reserve Naval Construction Force Support Command**



## Interior View

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*Seabees supporting Fleet Hospital 22. Page 5*

### ON THEIR OWN

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*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) 871-5020, or DSN 868-5020. Fax 601-871-2990. Rear Adm. T. J. Gross, Commander, RNCFS. Cmdr. T. A. Yeager, Public Affairs Officer. JO1 F. Gatch, Jr., Asst. PAO JOSA A. M. Fitzgerald, Editor.

# Second Brigade Commander Visits 22nd Regiment Units at Guantanamo Bay

by JO1 Lorenzo Garcia

GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA — "Never have I seen so much done in such a short time..." exclaimed Rear Adm. William G. Heine, Commander 2nd Naval Construction Brigade (NCB), when he addressed the Seabees and the Air Force's Red Horse and Prime Beef construction engineers, during a recent visit to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The admiral was making reference to these units, which comprise the 22nd NCR forward element, in support of 'Operation Sea Signal' - one of the largest mobile construction operations since World War II.

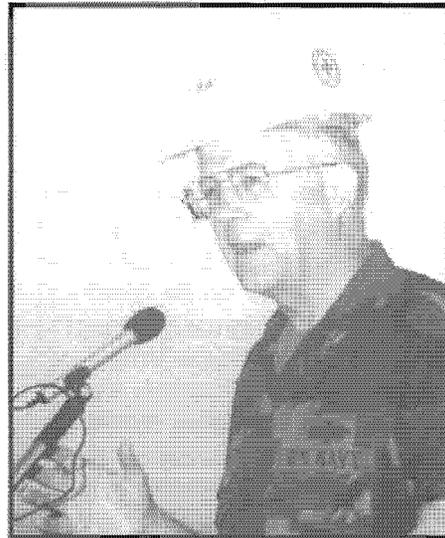
The regiment, composed of Seabees, Marine Corps, Air Force and Army construction engineers, has the mission of improving the quality of life for tens of thousands of Cuban migrants presently living in two areas - Radio Range and McCalla Field. The bulk of the regiment is comprised of Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Four, homeported in Port Hueneme, California.

"You've seamlessly integrated the work force of 600 workers into your operation...truly a joint and collaborative effort. It's just fantastic how you all have worked together. I'm particularly impressed with how you've taken the Cubans (Honorary Seabees) onboard. I have never seen a finer construction effort, but we still have a lot ahead in the next several months."

The magnitude of this operation is hard to visualize, but just in the construction of 1,350 strongback tents that have gone up at Radio Range and McCalla Field, it took 224 miles of lumber, enough plywood to cover 28 football fields,

and 42 tons of nails to put together. The construction crews have also completed 95 percent of the 18,000 feet of piping that will provide the water distribution to the seven villages at Radio Range.

Construction that has been com-



Rear Adm. William G. Heine, Commander 2nd NCB, told members of the forward element, "Never have I seen so much done in such a short time..." (Photo by PH2 Collin Bremner)

pleted, or nearing completion, includes the galley, dining, restroom, shower, laundry, and recreation facilities. There will be 60 restroom, shower, and laundry facilities at Radio Range. The galley will include a 60' x 125' kitchen, a 40' x 60' scullery, and 60' x 120' food storage facility.

Three-quarters of the 70,000 feet of gravity and force main piping for the sewage distribution at Radio Range has been completed by the UT (Utilityman) crews.

The electrical distribution by the CE (Construction Electrician) crews at Radio Range is nearing completion. It will include the installation of 200 power poles, 150 street lights, 82 transform-

ers, and 53 miles of cable.

Heine made a previous visit to Guantanamo Bay in February 1994. At that time the batch plant (Public Works Mineral Plant) wasn't in operation and when Heine asked Public Works about the plant during that visit he was told that it wouldn't work. Nonetheless, several days after the regiment's advance party's arrival here the plant was on line and in operation. According to Admiral Heine, the Seabees have saved the Navy approximately \$700,000 in the production of all the concrete for Operation Sea Signal.

Heine was on his third day onboard Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, before continuing on to Puerto Rico where he will stop at Camp Moscrip to visit with the Seabees supporting the 22nd NCR's forward element.

One of the topics addressed by the admiral was the down sizing of the Navy - always a topic of considerable interest. In particular he discussed the Naval Mobile Construction Battalions which presently number 20.

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***"I have never seen a finer construction effort."***

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Heine said, "Often we are overlooked...not intentionally. Often because our fellow shipmates and Marines don't know what you do... and how critical it is to keep a strong Naval Construction Force ready to build when the country needs us."

"Whether it be a single Seabee who fixes the plumbing in a set of quarters or BEQ... or a well drilling crew in a remote location of the world ... your efforts are vital to the Navy, to the Marines, to our country. Seabees I salute you - I'm proud to be part of such a great legend in our time."

***Garcia is a public affairs representative for the 22nd NCR.***

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by JOSA Angela Fitzgerald

A bead of sweat rolls down his dirt-covered forehead. His hand carefully reaches out to pull himself to the top. He's already crossed trees, battle-scarred land and dense brush. He sees his fellow Seabees beside him fighting with the same thing in mind. Finally, he makes it to the top then jumps to the ground only to be greeted by another a challenge.

Even though it may seem like he is in a battle, all he is doing is running the obstacle course recently built for the Seabees.

In June 1994 the idea of building an obstacle course here was sent through the proper channels by UTI S.M. Coffelt in a memorandum to 20th NCR Military Training Division.

"Coffelt was given the task by Marine Capt. Michael Beale, of the training division, a couple of months ago," said Master Gunnery Sgt. Charles Rogers, regimental training



**Capt. Frank DiGeorge, Seabee Center Gulfport Commanding Officer, cuts the ribbon officially opening the obstacle course while staff anxiously wait to run it for the first time. (Photo by JOSA Angela Fitzgerald)**

operations chief.

The course was estimated to cost \$17,000 and take a five-person crew 370 man-hours.

"Through Coffelt's initiative, imagination and scrounging techniques, he was able to build the course for virtually nothing," said Rogers.

"The final cost of the obstacle course was \$400," said Coffelt.

"Everyone on base has been very generous. Naval Construction Training Center pro-

vided the truck to drill the holes for the logs and the the logs from the Pole Climbing Training. NCTC Disaster Recovery Training donated the rope. The Public Works Department donated the land and excess steel pipe. Mississippi Power Tree Service donated the pine chips for the mulch covering some areas of the course," he added.

Coffelt worked after hours, weekends and any spare time that he could find.

"Instead of 370 working hours, it took a one-man crew 80 hours with occasional help," said Coffelt.

The course is designed for everyone. It has step-ups for people who aren't as strong or who are short. There is one rope in the rope climb that is knotted for the people who can't make it up the other ones.

"It doesn't require you to have a lot of strength. However, it does require you to have some technique and promotes teamwork," said Rogers.

The course should take one minute to a minute and a half once sailors are confident in running it, he added.

Anyone who wants to run the obstacle course can go out and run it, said Rogers, but before people dive in they need to know the proper way to cross each obstacle. There is an instruction in the works and there should be a safety vehicle with corpsmen there whenever it is used, he added.

"The Seabees have a fun, new training



**CE1 James Wolfgang, BU1 Bill Cochran, CE2 Roy Martinez and BU1 Rusty Gilbert demonstrate the proper way to battle your way through the obstacle course. (Photo by JOSA Angela Fitzgerald)**



**CEEN Steve Papin tightens an electrical fixture on the camp generator. Seabees were at the camp for construction, maintenance and power. (Photo by Lt. j.g. William M. Schroeder)**

**by Lt j.g. William Schroeder**

CECN Steve Papin was the most junior Seabee supporting Fleet Hospital 22 during the USMC Combined Arms Exercise (CAX), but that did not mean he was the least experienced.

"This is the most realistic training that I have ever had," said Papin. "Except of course when I was deployed to Bahrain during the Gulf War."

CECN Papin lives in St. Louis, Mo. and is a member of Naval Reserve Fleet Hospital 22, located at REDCOM 13 from Great Lakes Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, Illinois. Fleet Hospital 22 was deployed during "CAX 5 & 6" during late April and early May at Twenty-Nine Palms, California.

When I joined the Navy I wanted to join the Seabees as an electrician," said Papin. "I did not want to be on a ship because boats sink and sharks eat

## Seabees help build Fleet Hospital History

people. Besides the Seabees are a bunch of great guys!"

Fleet Hospital 22 made history as the first Naval Reserve Fleet Hospital to deploy in support of a Marine Corps exercise treating casualties in a "real-time" environment.

A USMC CAX contains all of the elements of a Marine Ground Task Force (MGTF) with ground troops, armor, fixed and rotary winged aircraft.

Seabees supported Fleet Hospital 22 by providing the camp set up, construction and power generation for the hospital. "When we finish our camp set up we establish a maintenance cycle," said Papin. "After that we all pitch in and do what ever we can to make the hospital run smoothly."

A USMC CAX involves up to 6,000 Marines practicing ground armor maneuvers with large formations at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC) in Twenty Nine Palms. The soldiers and sailors live in the desert and have to quickly adjust to their surroundings. "This is an excellent exercise to do what we do best; build and maintain," said Papin.

"The Marines are great and I really enjoyed working with them," said Papin. "We shared equipment and traded stories. They had what we needed and we helped them build what they wanted."

The Marine ground elements are coordinated with the air side of the Marine Corps. The ground forces vehicles range from the "Humvee" to the M1A1 Abrams main battle tank. The air side blends in F/A 18 support with Cobra Attack Helicopters and transport helicopters.

A CAX will usually last for several weeks with many of the troops deploying away from their spartan base camp

and living in the field. "This is very unique training because most sailors have never done this before," said Papin. "This is especially good for the new people who have never deployed before."

A traditional Fleet Hospital deploys in support of a Marine Ground Task Force and when fully staffed can have 1,100 people. It's designed to provide a buffer between the initial casualty stop at a battalion aid station and the highest form of theater care received at a hospital ship. Fully equipped, a Fleet Hospital can perform most of the treatment found at large hospitals.

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*"This is the most realistic training that I have ever had . . . except when I was deployed to Bahrain during the Gulf War."*

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The Fleet Hospital training plan is very simple; take the fleet hospital out of the sterile environment of a military base hospital and deploy the people and serve the troops in emergency situations, far forward.

The training value was also enhanced with the experience of working in a joint service environment.

The men and women of Fleet Hospital 22, comprised more than 20 different rates, had more to do than just care for the sick and injured. They had to set up wind proof camp, desert sandproof sensitive equipment, quickly organize into "hut mothers" for personnel administration, and learn to communicate with the Marines. "This was all very excellent training," said Papin.

**Schroeder is a public affairs representative for Naval Reserve Fleet Hospital 22**

# Port Hueneme Seabees Do It Themselves

By JO1 Lorenzo Garcia

GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA — Your job is to provide all mineral products and concrete for every project required to construct various facilities for approximately 40 communities with a population of over 20,000. But you're told that it will be virtually impossible to get the mineral products plant in operation to meet job requirements.

That's what the crew of 10 Seabees with the 22nd Naval Construction Regiment (Forward), found themselves facing when they came to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, in support of Operation Sea Signal. With the operation's mission to improve the quality of life for the tens of thousands of Cuban and Haitian migrants the Seabees didn't have the luxury to ponder their predicament. Nonetheless, three days after surveying the plant and equipment, the crew had the plant in operation.

The Port Hueneme, Calif., Seabees (with one augment from NMCB Seven's Air Det) have provided over 2,833 cubic yards of concrete in just the first three months of production, and just under the halfway mark of their seven month deployment. The crew has been projected to provide 10,000 cubic yards of cement by the end of deployment.

Petty Officer 1st Class Edward T. Bruns, Leading Petty Officer, said, "We provide all the concrete on the island, supporting everybody; Army, Air Force, Ma-

rine Corps and Public Works." This support includes any requirements that Naval Base Guantanamo Bay, Cuba may have.

The operation is comprised of the plant supervisor, plant operator, seven transit-mixer (TM) drivers (one of these drivers also

up for their first load, the plant operator pre-starts the plant.

The drivers don't just wait around their cement mixers before getting their first load, there are other tasks that have to be taken care of. The bins holding the minerals, such as the aggregate

According to Bruns, the crew can easily meet a requirement of 200 cubic yards of concrete in one day. That's 180 tons of aggregate (rock), 130 tons of sand, 52 tons of cement, and 8,000 gallons of water. Try comparing that order to the repair job you might have to do on your driveway, or sidewalk next time.

Who's checking the quality of this product? Well, that falls on the shoulders of the 'Mix Master'. Normally the job of an Engineering Aid (EA), Equipment Operator Chief Tom Herald, Mineral Products Chief, holds that title.

The Mix Master is at the job site with the first TM to ensure that the formula (concrete mix) for the particular job is met. If there are any changes to be made in the minerals he makes that call.

Running a mineral products plant isn't new to Chief Herald having run a similar, but smaller operation in Rota, Spain, while assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Three. He explained that this deployment will give the crew a chance to work in their ratings (occupational specialty) and hone their skills.

Herald added, "We have a lot of new personnel in the battalion and this operation is going to give them a great opportunity to find out what a mobile construction battalion is all about. It's going to be good for the battalion and for the Joint Task Force."

*Garcia is a public affairs representative for the 22nd NCR.*



**The concrete plant is projected to provide 'Operation Sea Signal' with 10,000 cubic feet of cement before the Seabees' seven month deployment ends in July. The mineral Products Plant crew is also tasked to support every concrete project on the island. (Photo by PH2 Colin Bremner)**

fills in as the dispatcher), and one mechanic. Petty Officer 2nd Class Albert Cooper an equipment operator, and the dispatcher, describes the crew as very professional.

Every crew member plays an integral part in the overall operation. Once a requirement is received it's all business. First, the drivers are given their assigned TM. Anywhere from four to five TM's will work on a project, or job site. As the drivers finish conducting their pre-start checks, and start lining

(rock), sand, and cement, have to be maintained at a level to meet the required number of cubic yards necessary for a particular job. The TM drivers must be qualified as front-end loader and forklift operators, to be able to move the minerals from the holding area.

Before a driver moves out, he must ensure the concrete meets the required consistency. This is done by performing a slump test to determine the flow characteristics of the concrete.



## Seabee Painters

Seabees of Construction Battalion Unit (CBU) 423 of Little Creek Naval Amphibious Base paint a home in Virginia Beach as part of the city's annual "Reside With Pride" program. During one week each spring, volunteers repair homes of elderly and disabled residents who are financially or physically unable to do the work themselves. All materials are donated by local businesses, and volunteers provide the labor. Although the Seabees have participated in the program since its inception three years ago, this is the first year for CBU 423, which recently moved to Little Creek from Staten Island, N.Y. Seabees from Amphibious Construction Battalion (ACB) 2 at Little Creek and Oceana Naval Air Station's CBU 415 also participated in the project. (U.S. Navy Photo by Daryl Smith)

## Customer Support

by YNCM (AW) Carter Thompson

The one thing that can make or break a unit is how they take care of their people. How well we handle contract berthing, AT/ADT/IDTT orders and claims, evaluations, advancements and other administrative details shows our level of concern for our personnel and their families. In recent years we have made a tremendous shift toward Fleet Support. The days of working at a VFW or nursing home to maintain construction skills are gone. We are faced with increased demands and decreasing funding.

We must meet Fleet CINC needs and still get people to NAVLEAD Classes; conduct PRTs and urinalysis screening; prepare enlisted evaluations and officer fitness reports; recommend and qualify people for advancement; follow-up on drill pay and travel claims; frock selectees for advancement and track tasks that have little to do with Contributory Support.

We must not lose sight of the fact that, while the goal may be to put the "Right Seabee at the Right Place, On Time, Every Time," we still need to be sure he is trained, physically fit, equipped with the right tools, and motivated when he or she gets there! We are sometimes tempted to work the job order and ignore the troop who carries it out. It's time to step back and regroup on this one. We did not get where we are by ignoring our personnel (officer and enlisted). Every Seabee or

CEC Officer, active or reserve, that we allow to go home without a retirement ceremony, is a black mark against our record of leadership. We must take the time to train and motivate personnel for advancement and write the evaluations and fitness reports (on time...every time!) that will ensure our top performers get selected.

If you are having trouble getting "good service" from your PSD or Reserve Center, have your C.O., Training Officer or CMC make a visit to talk to the C.O., Training Officer or CMC of that activity. You get what you ask for and reward. If you are unhappy with your current level of service, work to improve it. If you are getting good service, identify who is responsible and send a Letter of Appreciation to them via their C.O.

A new COMNAV-SURFRESFOR instruction on Readiness Command and Reserve Center Support to Commissioned Units is in draft. It should clarify both unit and REDCOM/RESCEN responsibilities, and resolve some long standing issues. The key to the success of these guidelines is how our units respond to their part of the bargain. This is a two way street - to get top notch service from the REDCOM/RESCEN, make a commitment to do what it takes to establish the rapport and open the lines of communication that will allow that support to happen.

*YNCM Thompson is Director of Admin Services at the RNCF Support Command in Gulfport.*

# “Camp Hohiemer’s” Seabees at MILEX '95

NMCB 26, NMCB 21 show their true colors . . . *camouflage*



Reserve Seabees from NMCB 26 prepare to board their “magic carpet to paradise” to MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C. They participated in MILEX '95 for their two-week annual training. (Photo by JO1 John D. Hines)

by JO1 John D. Hines

Over 300 reserve Seabees kicked off MILEX '95 at “Camp Hohiemer” of Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N. C., recently for 14-day combined training and field exercises. The main body of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 26 (NMCB 26), from Mount Clemens, Mich., served as lead battalion for the exercise which commenced February 15th. They were followed by NMCB 14, from Jacksonville, Fla., Naval Construction Force Support Unit 3 (NCFSU 3), from Fort Jackson, S.C., and the Seventh Naval Construction Regiment (7THNCR), based in Newport, R.I.

The battalions were organized into a combined force, integrating smaller groups into NMCB 26's company

structure, so that a Seabee's original battalion was completely transparent to the outside observer.

Shortly after occupying Lejeune's Tactical Landing Zone “Parrot,” NMCB 26, under the command of Cmdr. Gary J. Keil, decided to “re-name” it Camp Hohiemer in honor of former Grand Rapids detachment Seabee, John Hohiemer III, who was killed on active duty with the battalion during a military convoy in late 1993.

From the beginning of the exercise, the Reserve Seabees hit the ground running in order to meet their scheduled goals. On February 15, NMCB 26's advance party, led by Lt. Cmdr. Terry Huxel, assumed the command of the exercise from an active duty Air Detachment from NMCB 1. The Air Det built the tent camp that served as a base for the Reserve Seabees. Working with the 20THNCR, the training regiment for the Naval Construction Force's 2nd Brigade, the advance party completed the base camp by establishing security, communications, an armory, a completely self-sustained field kitchen, a Base Aid Station to provide medical and dental care and Alfa company operations and a Command Operations Center (COC) to manage the entire operation. Facilities such as a laundry service, showers and tent heaters were also in place prior to the arrival of the main body.

“The NMCB 26 advance party was very organized,



Marine Corps instructors provided valuable training on a variety of topics while Reserve Seabees performed the MILEX '95. This session covered what to do if unexploded ordnance was encountered. (Photo by JO1 John D. Hines)

productive and started the exercise off on the right foot. When the main body arrived, everything was in place and defensive positions were being established the next morning. "It really helps to have a strong battalion coming in on the front end to support following battalions," stated Cmdr. William Manrod, 20THNCR Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations and Equipment.

The purpose of a MILEX is to train for sustained operations in a hostile, rear area environment. By the first weekend, the combined battalions had completed the majority of the classroom training and hardened its defensive positions. The first week's training concentrated on basic military skills including weapons training on the M-60, M-50, MK-19 machine gun, M-203 grenade launchers, M-16 rifles, .45 caliber pistols, AT-4 antitank weapons, 12 gauge shotgun and 60mm mortars. Basic combat skills training practices various construction and repair skills in hostile conditions. Other military training included CBR warfare, land navigation and patrolling, communications, and rapid runway repair.

The battalions also used the Tactical Warfare Simulation Environment Analysis System computer-aided command and control simulator. Key personnel were selected to practice communicating with higher commands and local field organizations in the TWSEAS simulated, real-time battle-field environment just prior to the four-day combined command post and tactical field exercise.

The combined battalions did tactical field training dur-



"Bubble Heads" delight in the comfortable fit and light, streamlined design of their gas masks during CBR training at MILEX '95. (Photo by JO1 John D. Hines)

ing the second week of MILEX '95, while completing construction projects. The tactical exercise featured 24 hour per day adherence to readiness conditions Alfa through Echo. The Seabees manned the defensive perimeter using all the weapons on which they were trained—a battalion's entire Table of Allowance. The combined force assumed full communications responsibility while defending a 700 X 400 meter area during cold and wet weather conditions under constant pressure from active-duty Marine Corps' aggressor forces. This included the deployment of rapid response teams, tactical convoy movements, night probing, rear area support coordination and several CS gas smoke attacks which tested the Seabees' CBR skills in highly realistic scenarios.

Throughout the tactical exercise the Seabees worked on a variety of construction projects including the construction of SEA Huts, improvements to Camp Hohiemer's defensive perim-

eter, and camp road maintenance. In addition, sixty percent of a project to relocate a berm at Camp Lejeune's range F-18 was also completed during week two of the MILEX.

For NMCB 26, the training provided during MILEX '95 yielded an increase from 67% to 70% in overall in PRCP/military skills, bringing NMCB 26 to the next readiness level. This included significant improvements in CBR qualified Seabees, military special skills, and military basic skills.

Another feature of MILEX '95 was the presence of approximately thirteen women in the camp and, during the field exercise, in the thick of the action. The women were totally integrated into the force structure.

"NMCB 26 did an outstanding job at MILEX '95. They came with good enthusiasm and an eagerness to learn and train. Having changed many key billets, they made great strides in military training and related areas. In my opinion, NMCB 26 is one of the best battal-

ions in the Naval Construction Force, and I'd go to war with them anytime," stated Marine Maj. Dean Smith, advisor for the 3rd Naval Construction Regiment, following the MILEX '95.

"I have put five NMCB battalions through this exercise and, for the battalions put through this year, both NMCB 26 and NMCB 21 proved themselves the best at adapting to the situation; both did an outstanding job in the MILEX," said Marine Lt. Col. W. C. Smith, Advisor for the 7THNCR.

The overall supervision for the military training evolution was provided by the active duty Second Marine Expeditionary Force based at Camp Lejeune. The second 14-day training took place from March 2 until March 15 and included Seabees from NMCB 21 based in Lakehurst, N.J.; NMCB 27 based in New Brunswick, Maine; NMCB 23, from Fort Belvoir, Va.; Underwater Construction Team 1 based at Little Creek, Va.; and 7THNCR.

# Seabees and Cubans "cement" friendship

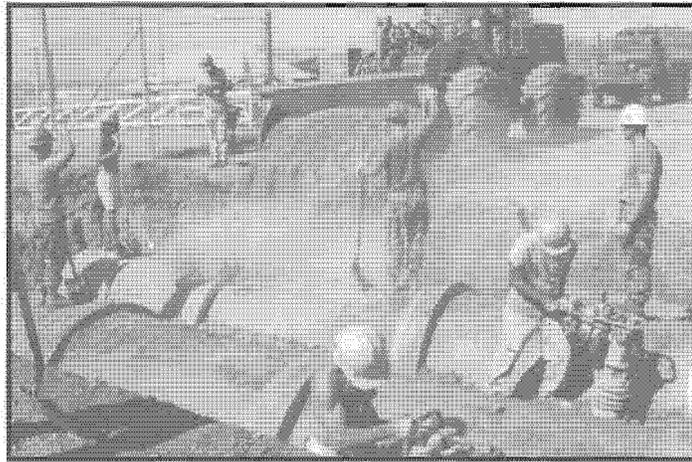
by JO1 Lorenzo Garcia

GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA — Two Seabee crews, and a Cuban (day) crew of eight with the 22nd Naval Construction Regiment (NCR), forward element, worked around the clock laying 40 tons of concrete piping that will serve as sleeves for lines running under the main thoroughfare at Radio Range, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The lines will handle the gray water and sewage distribution to the sewage treatment plant from the seven migrant villages at Radio Range vastly improving the quality of life for those migrants being housed there.

The Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) FOUR, homeported in Port Hueneme, Calif., have completed 75 percent of the sewage network at Radio Range. This has accounted for about

21 miles of piping.

The network will handle all of the gravity fed sewer and graywater (recycled water) lines for the latrines, laundry, showers, service, and messing facilities. This network will also handle the force main lines from the lift stations, at each of the seven villages, to the treatment plant.



NMCB 4 Seabees and their Honorary Seabee Cuban Counterparts work backfilling and tamping six-inch lifts at a time to stabilize the culverts. (Photo by JO1 Lorenzo Garcia)

Chief Thomas W. Siegler, Projects Manager, said the hardest part of the evolution was safety. "Handling an eight-foot concrete pipe with a diameter of 48 inches and weighing 8,000 pounds, and only so much room to work in... you have to be very careful."

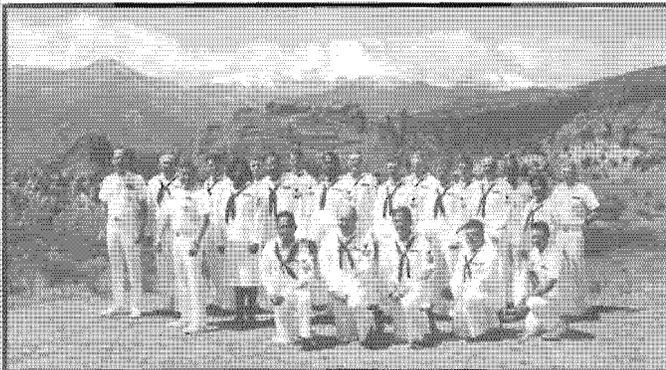
The curious bystanders and some of the Cuban mi-

grants from the nearby camps expressed appreciation for the Seabees' back-breaking and tedious work. Once the ten 8-foot sections of the (48 inch in diameter) concrete pipes were set in place, the slow part of the operation began.

With the use of a bulldozer the Seabees and their Cuban "Honorary Seabees" counterparts began to compact the dirt - filling in six inches of dirt at a time. This process is to prevent settling and possible failure of the 6 to 8 inch concrete pad that will overlay the pipes.

Siegler's crew will be burning some long hours during the next two and a half months (the tail-end of their 7-month deployment) to have 100 percent of the gray water, sewage and force main lines at Radio Range completed.

*Garcia is a public affairs representative for NMCB 4*



Back Row From Left to Right: NCC Paul Shoemaker, BU2 Dwight Easley, EA3 Leonard Deal, EO2 Mark Williams, CE2 James Atwood, BU1 Clarence Mattingly, MS1 Leslie Turner, EO2 Scott Sellar, EO2 James Wilkins, EOC William Sawyer. Middle Row: BUCS Anthony Gomez, UT2 Gennail Clark, JO2 Warren Brandon, EA2 Emanuel Matthews, CM2 George Raby, HT1 Tillman Schleiff, UT2 Billy Atkins, PN2 Jolivette Velasquez. Front Row: MS1 Jun Reyes, Sh1 Michael Aylward, SW1 Steven Steward, BU2 Joseph Yedynak, NCC(SW) Steven Warner. (Photo by JO2 Warren Brandon)

## Career Counselor Training

by JO2 Warren Brandon

Active and reserve Seabees from the Naval Construction Force NMCB 28, NMCB 15, NMCB 17, NMCB 18, CBMU 303, CBHU 2 and the 31st NCR recently participated in Career Counselor Training and Total Quality Leadership Training in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Rear Adm. Dames of COMLANTDIV Naval Facilities Engineering Command came by the Career Counselor School and was very impressed of what was going on and said "Keep up the good work" Seabees can do.

BUCS Anthony Gomez, NCC Darrell Mathis, EOC William Sawyer and NCC Paul Shoemaker were the instructors of the Career Counselor School. They were looking for the quality of life, leadership, job development and the opportunity to share their knowledge with the Seabees.

The Reservist Seabees were from Arkansas, Arizona, California, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, Tennessee and Hawaii.

# Amphibious Unit trains in Virginia hills

by JO1 Scott Sutherland

NMCRC Roanoke—In order to move quietly without drawing attention from the enemy, troops have to know what to do to stay alive, and to eventually come out victorious in battle. It takes more than a textbook assignment to learn the details of victory and self-preservation. Ask any military leader and he or she will tell you it's training that counts.

The rolling, rugged hills of Western Virginia offered the perfect setting for troop movement and land navigation training for Naval Reservists during a recent drill weekend.

Once a year, Reservists of Amphibious Construction Battalion 2 Detachment 106, Roanoke, pack up and travel 25 miles to a site near New Castle, Va., a small town west of Roanoke. The property is owned by the father-in-law of unit member SW1 Tim Martin, making it convenient for the troops to train.

EOC Harry Stevens, the unit's

operations officer and Army veteran, used his combat experience to brief the troops about safety, even though no weapons were used. Most of the safety brief covered hazards in the terrain and how to deal with wildlife.

There were three parts to the training; ground movement, map reading and tent building. On this particular day, Marine Reservist Sgt. Chris Stevenson agreed to spend his drill weekend teaching the Seabees how to advance on the ground and how to set up and use field radios.

Fortunately, unlike past training here, the weather was on the side of the "friendly forces."

"Last year, it was pouring rain when we did this," said the unit's commanding officer, Cmdr. Mary Kappus. "But, through all that, no one said a thing, no one complained."

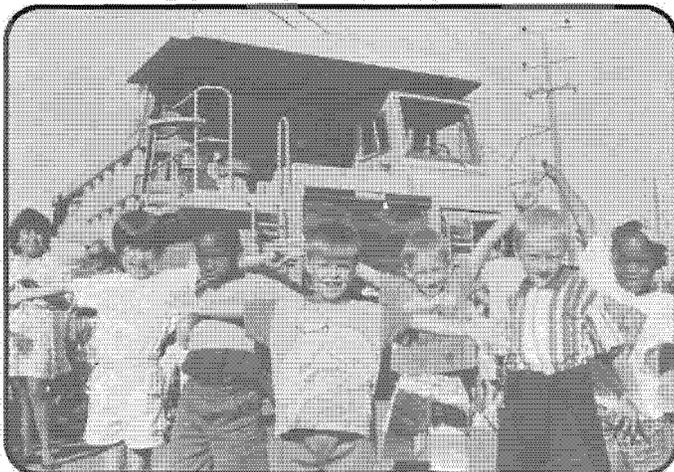
EA 1 Gary Brant looked and sounded like a field general, readying the troops for battle. With charts and maps, he held the re-

servists spellbound with insights on various types of terrain and how to correctly identify those areas. One map was so detailed that one reservist quipped, "You can even see a state park designation."

Most of the selected reservists in NR ACB 2 Det 106 have civilian jobs, with some of them even attending college part-time. For two days a month, the routine of the daily grind comes to a halt, and the Citizen-Sailor enters a new world, where they may not know what the day will bring until well after morning muster. It's easier looking forward to "action" in the field than to sitting in a classroom. These Reservists rarely do the latter.

*Sutherland is a public affairs representative for ACB 2*

## TRUCK DAY!



First grade students at Roosevelt Roads Elementary School show how big the Seabee's 35 ton Caterpillar dump truck is to them. (Photo by RP2 Paul Wolvin)

by Lt j.g. Rich Foreman

Between St. Patrick's Day and Easter, students at Roosevelt Roads Elementary School celebrated Truck Day. Truck Day, although not a holiday, was quite a learning experience for all involved. Many commands from Roosevelt Roads Naval Air Station participated in this event including Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Four, Fire Department, the Naval Hospital, Security Detachment, Marine Corps Reserve, and Weapons Department. Some of the

trucks that were proudly displayed included a fire engine, humvees, a front end loader, and a wrecker. The children were most impressed with the granddaddy of the trucks, the Seabee's 35 ton Caterpillar dump truck whose tires stood twice as big as the students themselves. This was an opportunity for the children to learn about the different types of vehicles and to get a hands on tour.

# NMCB-



by Lt. j.g. Rich Foreman Photos by RP2 Paul Wolvin

Children in the destitute areas of San Miguel El Salvador have a good chance for an education due to the efforts of a detachment from U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Four (NMCB 4). In this humanitarian effort Operation Fueres Caminoa South, two school houses were constructed in remote areas under harsh conditions. Despite extreme heat, rough living conditions, and constant insect annoyance, the thirty-man team lead by Lt. j.g. Gregor Bo completed the project in two months. In an area where houses made of sticks and mud are common, the four room structures made of block are considered a miracle by the locals.

"It's by far the most challenging job I've ever had. I'm proud of the work we've accomplished—It's something that will benefit the people of El Salvador for years to come," stated Lt. j.g. Bo. The thirty-man detachment is currently working on other humanitarian projects in Guatemala.

**PHOTO CAPTION: Photo #1- SW3 Shephard ties rebar for concrete footers at the project site in Santabarbara El Salvador.**

Compared to the sub-freezing temperature of Wisconsin, Puerto Rico is a paradise. However, members of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Four (NMCB 4) Reserve Augment Company proved that they weren't on vacation during their annual 17-day training session in Puerto Rico. Led by their Det OIC, CW02 Mark Reiling, NMCB 4's reserves accomplished much during their short stay. Some of their accomplishments included the construction of five concrete dumpster pads for housing, construction of a gravel sidewalk for the Air Force's Viper Squadron, the grading of the MWR horse stables, construction of 20 feet of sidewalk for VC-8, and a major clearing and grading project for Air Operations. "The work's been great," stated Reiling, "and I've got a great tan to boot."

**PHOTO CAPTION: EO1 Sondgeroth, E02 Vanderah, E02 Welp, E02 Gray, BU1 Young, CMI Kingsley, and E02 McDonald stand in front of the refurbished MWR Stables.**



For years, the children of Aldofo Vive Fereau Elementary School in Puerto Rico have been sitting on broken down chairs and desks held together by a mismatch of nails and tape. This all changed when members of U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Four



# 4 ON THE GO!



(NMCB4) spent hundreds of hours of their off-duty time to rebuild over a hundred chairs for the elementary students.

“It’s a rewarding feeling,” stated Petty Officer Eric Reins, “especially when you see the smile on a kid’s face.”

**Photo Caption:** (Left to Right) CE 1 Francisco Zapanta, UT3 Luis Melendez and BU1 Rex Fuller pose with students from Aldofo Vive Fereau Elementary School and their newly refurbished desks.



At first glance, two cities in Iowa have little to do with the migrant situation in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. However, this story is a reminder that America has always been a country which responds to the aid of others. In this case, the two Iowa cities sent their best to help out in this crisis—they sent their mayors. Mayor Benjamin Dewitt of Shell Rock, Iowa, and Mayor Larry Litterer of Dougherty, Iowa, put aside their bureaucratic duties and donned the camouflage uniforms of the United States Navy Seabees.

As part of their annual reserve training, Chief Petty Officer Dewitt and Petty Officer Litterer have spent seventeen days working with Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Four (NMCB4) detail Puerto Rico.

The NMCB 4 mainbody is currently on a humanitarian mission in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba to improve the living conditions of over 30,000 Cuban and Haitian migrants. Reservists like Dewitt and Litterer have been an invaluable asset for the Seabees and have greatly aided in their mission by performing the duties of their active duty counterparts while they are away. Dewitt has led a small construction crew in finishing a patrol road for Roosevelt Roads Naval Station. Litterer has been keeping busy with the enormous task of maintaining countless pieces of heavy construction equipment.

“It’s been a pleasure working here with NMCB 4,” stated Chief Dewitt. “They’ve been very supportive and we felt a great sense of accomplishment—I’ve certainly been more with Four.”

**PHOTO CAPTION:** Mayor Litterer and Mayor Dewitt give a helping hand to NMCB 4.



# NMCB-23 Renovates Camp Lejeune Barracks

by Lt. Cmdr. C. W. Wells

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Twenty Three (NMCB 23) Seabees are saving the Marines at Camp Lejeune, N.C., big bucks by renovating two barracks during the Seabees' annual training. The project will convert two open-bay style barracks buildings to 16 two-person rooms with a laundry room and a mechanical room. It started on January 9, 1995 and is scheduled for completion in July 1995. Twelve Seabee detachments will rotate through 12-day annual training periods to provide the labor for the project aboard the Camp Geiger section of Camp Lejeune.

The Marine Corps provides materials and will save approximately \$250,000 on labor costs. The Seabees do the work and get valuable rate training in construction skills. The project involves all phases of construction from demolition ("gutting" the interior) to installation of plumbing and wiring, interior framing and finishing and exterior refurbishment and sidewalk installation.

The renovation gives the Seabees numerous opportunities to cross train, learning skills outside their ratings but within the scope of the construction field, thus providing excellent experience and



EO1 John Riccilli cleans a solder joint in barracks rehabilitation. (Official U.S. Navy Photo)

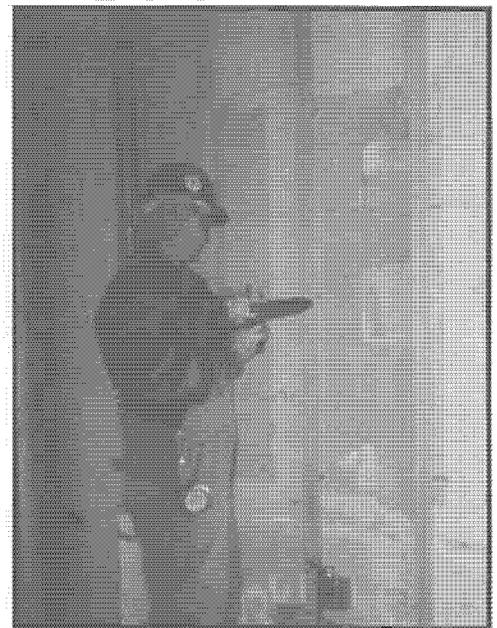
preparation for junior Seabees as they advance in rank.

Lt. Ed Conti, officer-in-charge of the fifth detachment, summarized the arrangement, "Our Seabees get excellent training, the Marines get quality construction at low cost and, as Reservists, we get to earn our keep by providing this support to active forces."

*Lt. Cmdr. Wells is a public affairs representative for NMCB 23*



BU2 Christopher Gilbert and CE2 William Drose drill holes for exterior lighting on barracks building. (Official U.S. Navy Photo)



BU3 Kevin Noak uses a Hilti gun to attach furring in a barracks under rehabilitation. (Official U.S. Navy Photo)

# WWII Veterans Honored

by Capt. Larry DeVries

Apple Valley, MN- Fifty years after their war ended, a dozen surviving members of the World War II U.S. Navy Seabees were honored in a special April 15 ceremony here. Held in conjunction with the annual Twin Cities Seabee Ball, the event at the Apple Valley American Legion Post 1776 was intended to honor all World War II Seabees and their contribution to the war effort.

The recognition ceremony was organized by the two Islands of Seabee Veterans of America in Minnesota: Island X-1 Fairbault, and Island X-2 Shakopee. Together, the two Islands have 85 Seabee veterans of World War II on their membership rolls.

The April 15 Seabee Ball was sponsored by the reserve Seabees of the Minneapolis-St. Paul area to mark the 53rd Seabee Birthday. Recognized for their construction miracles in the South Pacific and elsewhere (often under fire), the Seabees were officially organized on March 5, 1942.

As part of the ceremony, a personal letter of recognition and appreciation of service from Rear Adm. Jack E. Buffington, Civil Engineer Corps, United States Navy, was presented to each WWII veteran. The Director of Veterans Affairs for Minnesota, Bernie Melter, was on hand to personally present a certificate of appreciation to each man from the state. Rear Adm. Buffington is currently the Navy's Chief of Civil Engi-

neers and Commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command with headquarters in Alexandria, VA.

Others offering personal congratulations were Don Mayline, National Publicity Chairman for



**Merlin Denneson of Minneapolis and Cletus Ferkinhoff of Brooklyn Center share some stories during the event. (Photo by Richard Trumbly)**

the Seabee Veterans of America, Allen G. "Bud" Kindseth, Commander of Island X-1 and Gary Mortenson, Commander of Island X-2.

Those honored included:

\* Mr. Robert F. Adelman of Farmington, MN, who was a member of the 116th Naval Construction Battalion (NCB) with service in the Pacific.

\*Mr. Reino R. Aho of Brooklyn Center, MN, who was a member of the 118th NCB with service in the Pacific.

\*Mr Allen H. Anderson of Crystal, MN, who was a member of Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit (CBMU) 618 with service in the Pacific.

\*Mr. Merlin Denneson of Minneapolis, MN, who was a member of the 91st NCB with service in

the Pacific.

\*Mr. Cletus Ferkinhoff of Brooklyn Center, MN, who was a member of the 91st NCB with service in the Pacific. - Mr. Ralph D. Grodem of Eagan, MN, who was a member of the 31st NCB with service in the Japan Occupation Force.

\*Mr. Allen G. "Bud" Kindseth of Fairbault, MN, who was a member of the 114th NCB & CMBU 611 with service in France, N. Africa and Alaska.

\*Mr. Joseph F. Koenig of St. Paul, MN, who was a member of the 109th NCB and 134th NCB with service in the Pacific.

\*Mr. Herbert Kortz of Minneapolis, MN, who was a member of the 127th NCB with service in the Pacific and Japan.

\*Mr. Kermit N. McDonald of Roseville, MN, who was a member of the 129th NCB with service in the Pacific.

\*Mr. James J. Moses of Roseville, MN, who was a member of the 129th NCB with service in the Pacific.

\*Mr. Robert W. Rosene of St. Paul, MN, who was a member of the 36th NCB with service in the Pacific.

Master of Ceremonies for the recognition event was Capt. Larry G. DeVries, Civil Engineer Corps, United States Naval Reserve of Eden Prairie, MN. Chaplain was Capt. Paul H. Harwart, United States Army Reserve, of Minneapolis.

The evening's events also included selection of the Seabee Queen for the coming year, recognition of the oldest and youngest Seabees present and a specially constructed Seabee birthday cake.

# Short Bursts

**The Battle "E"** - Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 15 has earned the Battle "E" Award. During FY94 NMCB 15 provided priority construction support for CINCPACFLT, put in more than 5,500 man-days of AT and over 1,100 man-days of ADT and Flex/IDTT were used to complete the projects assigned to the unit.

**Awards** - Capt. Thomas E. Dierkman received the Meritorious Service Medal for outstanding meritorious service as Commanding Officer of the Naval Reserve Construction Battalion Center (RNCBC), Port Hueneme, Calif. Capt. Dierkman directed unparalleled contributory support from August 1992 until September 1994. He also provided more than 6,000 man-days of effort and actively participated in every major tasking at Naval Construction Battalion Center, Port Hueneme.

Capt. Marlin U. Thomas received the Meritorious Service Medal for outstanding service as Volunteer Training Unit Program Manager at the Reserve Naval Construction Force Support Command, Gulfport, Miss., from October 1992 until September 1994. Capt. Thomas utilized his superb leadership and extensive knowledge of construction operations to develop a national Civil Engineer Corps Volunteer Training Unit Program. Under his command, this program provided over \$1.3 million critically needed contributory support to the Navy's Fleet Commands.

Lt. Cdr. William J. Mills, of the United States Naval Reserve, received the Navy Commendation

Medal for meritorious service while acting as Deputy Director of Logistics and Total Quality Leadership Coordinator at Naval Reserve Readiness Command Region Seven. Lt. Cdr. Mills served as the acting logistics officer from April 27, 1992 until Feb. 6, 1995. He provided superb managerial guidance and strong leadership to the department. **-by JOSA Angela Fitzgerald**

**Personal Excellence** - Camp Mitchell, Rota, Spain — U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) THREE was recently recognized as the 1994 Community Service (Shore) category Regional Winner in the Navy's Personal Excellence Partnership Community Service Awards for 1994. From July 1, 1993 to February 1, 1994, despite being tasked with several major projects in Guam and various detail sites throughout the Pacific and Indian Ocean, and enduring a rigorous training schedule for the next seven months while in homeport, 177 Three-Bees volunteered approximately 6,500 man-hours and 530 man-days of their liberty toward numerous community service projects.

U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB 3) recently recognized Senior and Junior Seabees of the Fourth Quarter of 1994 and the 1994 Sailor of the Year during an awards presentation at Camp Mitchell Rota, Spain. SK1 Martin Salinas of Supply Department was selected as both Senior Seabee of the Quarter and 1994 Sailor of the Year. HM3 Sean J. Cramer of Medical Department was selected as Junior Sailor of the Quarter.

SK1 Salinas credited the "dedication and hard work" of his co-workers for his being selected for both awards.

Salinas said his goals before leaving the battalion and retiring from the military are to earn the Seabee Combat Warfare Specialists (SCWS) pin, advancement to chief petty officer, and a bachelor's degree.

The 23-year-old Cramer hopes to earn advancement to second class petty officer so he can enroll in the Independent Duty Corpsman school and wants to earn a commission through the Navy's Physicians Assistant Program. He is working on his PQS for the SWCS pin, and hopes to complete the requirements and pass the examination soon. **-by JO1 Charles L. Bear**

**Commander-in-Chief** - Marine Gen. John J. Sheehan, Commander-in-Chief U.S. Atlantic Command, visited the construction site at Radio Range, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Sheehan was accompanied by Brig. Gen. Raymond Ayres, Commander Joint Task Force 160.

This was the second visit made by Gen. Sheehan since the Port Hueneme Seabees, assigned to 22nd Naval Construction Regiment (Forward), arrived on the island in early December. Sheehan's focus throughout 'Operation Sea Signal' has been ensuring a goal quality of life for the Cuban and Haitian migrants.

The regiment, commanded by Commander Stephen E. Barker, is augmented by an Air Detachment of 68 Seabees from Gulfport, Miss., and a U.S. Air Force Red Horse Unit from Nellis Air Force Base, Las Vegas, Nev. **-by JO1 Lorenzo Garcia**

# "7" Bees take on Pearl Harbor Challenges

by Third NCB Public Affairs Office

Among contemporaries, their motto is "Sunny and 84 degrees," a credo that churns up scorn from their brethren in locations like Adak, Alaska, and Pohang, Korea. For the record, though, they live and breathe the motto: "Construimus battimus: We build, we fight." Almost 5,000 miles from their backyards and bedrooms on Mississippi's Gulf Coast, they are working their way down the anticipated backside of a seven-month deployment to beautiful Hawaii.

Officer in charge Ensign Jay Murphy, and his assistant, UTCM James Lassiter, of NMCB 7 Detail Hawaii took stopped in Pearl Harbor when the rest of the battalion continued on to Okinawa, Japan, and points beyond in mid-December 1994. "Magnificent Seven" billboards immediately sprung up around Pearl Harbor, replacing those celebrating the "Professionals" of NMCB 5, who returned home to Port Hueneme, Calif., after completing their own dramatic checklist of base improvements.

Since arriving, the detail has continued the work of their Seabee predecessors in Pearl Harbor. For the fortunate 26 men selected to fill the ranks of this understandably popular detail, the past three and a half months have been absorbed with many, many days among dirt and lumber and considerably fewer days among sand and tanning oil. But Seabee deployments are notoriously demanding, whether they're in a Middle Eastern desert or on a tropical isle. Tough work makes the days go by

faster.

Seabees from Det. Hawaii are on the front lines, eliminating perimeter fence that has separated the Hickam Air Force Base from Pearl Harbor down the South Avenue divide. And even as one team is carrying out the destruction phase of the operations, another is simultaneously beautifying industrial landscape that marks Navy presence along the border region. Seven Seabees have already poured 1,300 feet of South Avenue sidewalk and curb. Soil, seed and sprinkler system are next on the agenda, followed by preparation for a jogging path. Before

the projects are finished, the detail will expend more than 550 man-days supporting the interservice unification efforts, and save the Navy nearly \$100,000 while doing so.

The detail has another crew at Submarine Base Pearl Harbor, where they built a laundry facility for the Bachelor Enlisted Quarters residents. Secretary of the Navy, John Dalton, and Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet, Adm. Ronald Zlatoper, stopped by the Sub Base project during Secretary Dalton's whirlwind tour of island commands. The visit

provided Mr. Dalton with a first-hand look at Seabee efficiency and service to the fleet. The det is on schedule to complete the laundromat by late April, significantly cutting the current wait submariners have for laundry service.

Along with these two projects, Seven's Seabees are slated for 300 man-days of discretionary work at the naval base compound, as well as a major effort to renovate parking and roadways around the Naval Station Pearl Harbor headquarters building. The detail will head back to Gulfport, Miss., in mid-July, replaced on station by NMCB 74.



BU3 Chris Smith works on the roof of a newly constructed laundry facility aboard Submarine Base Pearl Harbor. (Official U.S. Navy Photo)

# From the ArcHive

## Seabees Rebuild History

by Lt. Cmdr. Vic Beck  
and Lt. Jim Schwab

Charlestown, Mass. — Originally commissioned in 1794, the world's oldest commissioned warship is being refurbished by today's Naval Reservists. Dry docked in the Charlestown Navy Yard, the USS Constitution's last major overhaul was in 1922.

Since that overhaul over 70 years ago, 72 million people have walked her decks, sharing a small piece of our American heritage. One of Boston's major historical attractions, visitors relive history aboard "Old Ironsides" every day.

Assisting in the overhaul efforts to preserve the Constitution are unit members of MCU 2610 stationed at the Naval Reserve Center Quincy, Mass. These reservists are using their construction skills to help the National Park Service who are currently engaged in the three year effort to preserve and restore the mighty vessel.

Becoming a part of the team to help the USS Constitution prepare to celebrate her 200th birthday upon her return to the fleet in 1997, the Naval Reservist Seabees had to demonstrate their talents first by building camels. Leading the naval reservists repair efforts at the deck plate level is the Leading Petty Officer of MCU 2610, BU1 Ernest Trombley. "We proved to the Constitution and the National Park Ser-

vice that we could perform by constructing three camels in one and a half days," said Trombley. The camels, used as bumpers between a ship and a dock, are being utilized today.

With 23 years of combined active and reserve service, Petty Officer Trombley is no stranger to Seabee projects. After serving two tours in Vietnam, Trombley returned stateside where he has been a part of the Naval Reserve since.

Continuing to save the Navy thousands of dollars, the MCU 2610 Unit is carrying on the Seabee tradition of providing quality building and construction expertise. Because the ship's hull, frames and longitudinals are all made of wood, preservation and selective replacement of many of her structural

members is periodically required, while at the same time, preservation of as much of the original content as possible is the goal.

"This ship is a part of history, now I am a part of history," remarked CNCM Chris Elias, one of the unit's newest members. He and other unit members have been busy since taking on the project. Painting, preservation and the removal of wooden decking are just a few of the tasks that MCU 2610 is performing.

Whether they are rebuilding the oldest commissioned naval vessel today or constructing an airstrip in the middle of the desert, today's Naval Reserve Seabees are building a better Navy for tomorrow.

**Lt. Cmdr Vic Beck and Lt. Jim Schwab are Public Affairs Officers at NAVINFO New England.**



(Front row from left to right) BU1 Ernest Trombley, directs the removal of Constitution's wooden deck plates with BUCN Michael Pagan. CMCN Chris Elias is in the background. (Photo by Lt. Cmdr. Victor Beck, USNR)

# News to Use

**New Reserve Medical Rules** - Reservists on IDT and IDTT training may receive medical treatment at civilian hospitals in emergency situations only and only if a military facility is not available. Follow up medical care at a civilian facility is authorized with prior approval from the Office of Medical Dental Affairs Great Lakes, Ill. To obtain approval contact MEDDEN at 1-800-876-1131 EXT: 636.

**Cheaper Family Dental Care** - Service members will see smaller prices starting August 1 when they enroll their families in the Active Duty Family Members Dental Plan. Beginning in August monthly premiums will be \$6.77 for one enrolled family member and \$16.92 for two or more. Rates are currently \$10 and \$20, respectively.

Dental services under the plan are offered in the United States, Puerto Rico, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

**Wage Garnishment**- Military personnel may see up to 25 percent of their take-home pay missing because of involuntary allotments for debts. The debts can be to private individuals or to businesses as long as a civilian court determines that the military person owes money.

Before the allotment can be started, the request is taken

through the chain of command and the debtor has a chance to respond accordingly to the claim.

**Rental Options** - Some rental car companies are offering an option of filling up the gas tank before it is returned or buying a tank of gas up front when the vehicle is checked out and paying for the entire tank regardless of how much is used. Travelers may not take this option and should review the bill closely to prevent paying the up front charge unknowingly. Rental vehicles should be returned with a full tank of gas. This is the least expensive method of payment and will avoid gas expenses being disallowed on your travel claim. As always, obtain receipts where possible to submit with your travel claim.

**Evals and Fitreps** - Counseling continues throughout the summer in commands ready to implement the new evaluation and fitness readiness reports. The first reports are due in January 1996.

The Bureau of Naval Personnel Briefing Teams have recently completed introductory briefings on the new system and are gathering feedback. In addition, a video tape of the briefing has been sent to 1,300 commands. Personnel are encouraged to view this tape.

**Photo Contest** - In support of Earth Year (1995) the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Environment and Safety) is sponsoring an environmental photo contest. Acceptable entries must include a negative or a 35mm slide, a print and a brief description of the photo. The cut-off date for entry is October 1. Send entries to Catherine Stokes, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy, 1000 Navy Pentagon, Room 4A686, Washington D.C. 20350-1000. For more information call (703) 695-3487.

**Waste, Fraud and Abuse** - Some DoD employees and military members have been abusing their government American Express cards, and DoD and American Express officials want it to stop. The cards are designed to help DoD people manage out-of-pocket expenses while traveling on official government business. The major abuses involve unauthorized cash withdrawals and charges made while individuals had no DoD travel orders. In addition, with DoD officials' support and approval, American Express strengthened its internal controls over the government card. These controls will prevent some unauthorized uses and make it easier to catch abusers. -by Evelyn D. Harris American Forces Information Service

## Three Bees prepare for Norway NATO Exercise

by BU3 Palmer Pinckney

Camp Mitchell, Rota, Spain — Forty-seven members of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 3 recently completed a Cold Weather Training Exercise along side 100 members of the Spanish Army's 42nd Brigade Engineering Division in the Pyrenees Mountains. Each participant in "Detail SUBZERO" learned basic cold weather survival techniques, while experiencing temperatures ranging from a high of 9 degrees Celsius to a night time low below zero. Battalion members convoyed nine vehicles with equipment from Rota, nearly 800 miles one-way to the mountain town of Benasone, located near the French border.

The successful completion of this training prepared Seabees for the planned support of U.S. Marines in Norway during Operation Strong Resolve, a NATO joint and combined exercise which started in late February.

While in the Pyrenees, the Seabees spent two days of classroom instruction learning from Spanish experts about avalanche awareness, igloo construction, effects of cold weather

on weapons and equipment, and basic cold weather survival.

U.S. Marine Corps personnel taught the second day of classroom instruction and introduced the Seabees to the field. Subjects including how to properly pack an "Alice" pack, donning cold weather garments, and how to put together a contingency daypack for use in emergency survival situations.

Seven days of intense training made all of the participating Seabees aware of the difficulties in living, working and surviving in a cold weather environment. Many Seabees had never

before seen snow or experienced freezing temperatures. Working side by side with Spanish Army personnel made the transition to the frigid environment easier. Spanish soldiers train in the cold climate all winter. During leisure time the soldiers remarked, "The classroom is easy. We can't wait to see the Americans in the field." The Seabees were anxious to get to the field too, and once there, they excelled at all levels of training. Battalion members were able to qualify on their M-16 rifles, fire crew served weapons and familiarize themselves with Spanish

armament as well. The Spanish soldiers were also able to fire the American weapons.

The night before leaving for the journey back to Rota, the Seabees and Spanish soldiers shared stories and memories over American sodas while eating Spanish appetizers. Later the same evening, trade wars began as trinkets and uniforms were swapped among the newly acquainted friends. EOCN Jorge Huezco said, "I wasn't looking for a deal when I traded my uniform cover for a knife, I just wanted a momento to remember this great training."



Spanish soldier with American M16 Rifle. (Photo by BU3 Palmer Pinkney II)

# New home for NMCB 18

by Ensign Mark Lukshin

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 18 (NMCB 18) and four commands of the U.S. Marine Corps held a dedication for their new shared Naval and Marine Corps Reserve Training Center March 4, 1995. Marine units included the 4th Landing Support Battalion, Headquarters Detachment 1, the Marine Corps Mobilization Station, and the Twelfth District Prior Service Recruiting Office. The dedication was for their recently completed 70,000 square foot facility on Fort Lewis, WA.

Development of this joint Naval and Marine Corps reserve facility project began in 1988 with the decision to close the Naval Station at Sand Point, WA (NAVSTAPS). Capt.

Ishihara, now Commander of the First NCR and Commanding Officer of NMCB 18 at that time, made the initial Naval inquires to the major Department of Defense installations in the Puget Sound. After evaluation of the responses and site data, a location on Fort Lewis was selected.

The Navy began negotiating with the Army for approval to build a naval facility at Fort Lewis. Simultaneously, the USMC units at Sand Point gained similar approval for a new building on Fort Lewis. In 1992, it was agreed that since both projects shared similar and compatible requirements, the best solution would be to combine them into a single joint use facility.

Construction of the \$10 million facility began September 12, 1993, and was completed in January of 1995

when both units moved into their respective spaces. Each unit has separate administrative, warehouse, and vehicle maintenance spaces, and share joint classrooms, locker rooms, and a common drill hall.

This Naval and Marine facility is in line with the Navy and Marine Corps White Paper, "...From the Sea," and will encourage joint training possibilities for Seabees and Marines. The Naval Construction Force is an active part of Marine Air Ground Task Force operations according to Navy and Marine doctrine. The Fort Lewis facility will also allow other opportunities for joint and inter-service training with the Army and the Air Force, at nearby McChord Air Force Base, WA.

## Naval Mobilization Processing Sites

by Lt. Cmdr. Bonnie Nault

The Navy has recently established a system of Mobilization Processing Sites in an effort to streamline the recall of reservists to active duty in times of national emergency. Experience during Operation Desert Storm revealed problems ensuring reservists were properly entered in the active duty personnel and pay systems. Recent "rightsizing" in the Navy also highlighted the need to reduce the number of 14 mobilization sites.

Navy Mobilization Processing Sites (NMPS) will provide logistic

support (messing, berthing, transportation, etc.); administrative processing, medical and dental services, legal services and family services. The mobilization process for Seabees will take place at Construction Battalion Center (CBC) Gulfport and CBC Port Hueneme. Naval Reserve Personnel Mobilization Teams (PMT's) will augment the base to support this effort.

Other NMPS sites are Naval Base (NAVBASE) Seattle, Marine Corps Base (MCB) Camp Pendleton, NAVBASE San Diego, NAVBASE Pearl Harbor, Naval

Air Station (NAS) Memphis, NAS Pensacola, NAVBASE Jacksonville, MCB Camp LeJeune, NAVBASE Norfolk, Naval District Washington, NAVBASE New London, and Naval Training Center Great Lakes. NMPS will be implemented October 1, 1995 and tested during JCS exercise "Positive Force '96." Those needing additional information on the NMPS system can contact the Reserve Naval Construction Force Support Command Mobilization Officer, Lt. Cmdr. Nault at 1-800-782-3510 or 203-536-9295.

# Career Corner

**ADSW In Former Yugoslavia** - Selected Reserve Lieutenants and Lieut. Cmdrs. have a chance to provide engineering management and technical expertise to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in the former Republic of Yugoslavia for a period of 179 days. This is an independent duty opportunity working in an international civilian and military relief organization. The officer selected will report 15 Oct. 15, 1995.

Officers who are interested in this active duty must submit civilian and military resumes, and other relevant information, to Lieut. Jim Beckett, Second Brigade European Operations Officer. Application packages are due no later than Aug. 11, 1995.

Civilian clothing will be worn during the ADSW and a clothing allowance will be provided, along with per diem. The assignment is in an area of heightened tension and is considered to involve a degree of risk to personal safety.

For more information, contact Lieut. Beckett at (804) 464-8225, or by Internet at 73420.3601@compuserve.com.

-by Cmdr Tom Yeager

**Junior Officers** - Vice Adm. J. Paul Reason, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Plans and Policy), will be the keynote speaker at the Junior Officers' Symposium which is being held in conjunction with the 42nd Naval Reserve Association National Conference. Slated for Sept. 15-17, 1995, the Symposium will be an opportunity for regional Naval Reserve Junior Officers to attend critical presentations on career planning, community specific issues, workshops and presentations which will address their future and of the Naval Reserve. Rear Adm. Reason will discuss "The Total Force Going Forward." -by Cmdr. Steve Pressley

**Climbing the Ladder** - Senior enlisted Naval Reservists who are qualified and interested in advancing their careers may apply for selection to either the Limited Duty Officer (LDO) or Chief Warrant Officer (CWO) program. Each fiscal year the Inactive Reserve In-Service Procurement board convenes at the Bureau of Naval Personnel to select from open designators, the best qualified applicants for commissioning as an officer.

Requirements for both programs are contained in Bureau of Naval Personnel Instruction 113.1 of August 10, 1993. Specific instructions pertaining to application for Reserve personnel are described in enclosures (4) and (5). Applications must reach BUPERS by September 1, 1995. Mail applications to Bureau of Naval Personnel (Pers-912), Washington Navy Yard, Building 36, 901 "M" Street SE, Washington D.C. 20374-5912. -by YNCM (AW) E.F. Hartman

**Journeyman** - The Navy's National Apprenticeship Program is a joint effort with the Department of Labor which allows sailors to become certified Journeyman. Once basic qualifications are met, participants are eligible to receive a "Certificate of Completion of Apprenticeship" from the U.S. Department of Labor. At this point, participants are considered to be journeymen by the Department of Labor. All fees for the program are paid for by the Navy.

"Having this certificate in hand will allow you to quickly meet the local and state licensing requirements in many technical career areas," said Apprenticeship Program Coordinator, Machinist's Mate Second Class (SW) David Harry, of the USS Shenandoah. "With a certificate you may start off at

a higher rate of pay than your counterparts. This documentation also may be accepted as technical credit towards an Associates Degree."

Sailors wishing to apply should contact their Command Career Counselor to review a copy of OPNAVIST 1560.10 series on the Navy's National Apprenticeship Training. -by JO2 Nancy Hesson



# From the Force Master Chief

by CUCM (SCW) P.L. Race

Greetings! As promised, I would like to provide some feedback in regard to the Quality Management Board for People survey that was recently conducted. Before I get into the details of the results of the survey, I would like to thank everyone who took the time to fill out the questionnaire. Most responses were well thought out and very well written. The number of responses was also outstanding. Poor Petty Officer Hayes almost went blind putting all the comments and suggestions into a data base.

The two main questions on the survey were, "How would you improve the quality of life in the Naval Construction Force?" and "How would you improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the NCF?"

After analyzing and grouping the numbers of responses into specific categories, the top five areas identified by the survey, that if improved would strengthen the Force are: (1) Training, (2) Pay, (3) Tools and equipment, (4) Housing/BEQ issues, and (5) Communications.

I'm happy to report that each of these issues are being actively worked, but, unfortunately, changes often take longer than we would like. For example, the staff at PERS-20 is working to eliminate the anomalies in our pay system, but must wait until the Quadrennial Review of Military Compensation (QRMC) to present proposed changes to Congress. The next QRMC will be conducted in 1996.

You should have read or heard by now that quality of life is the number one priority on our leaders' minds these days. A \$2.7 billion "plus up" was approved for improvements to family housing, barracks and MWR. This is welcome news, especially since housing was one of the top five concerns identified by our survey.

With regard to training, which was the number one issue according to many who completed the NCF survey, the Chief of Naval Operations recently ordered a "bottom up review" of all Navy training. CNET is developing new leadership courses for pay grades E-5 and above and the NCF training QMB is exploring a number of areas to improve the quality of training for Seabees.

Overall, the future looks exceptionally good for

Seabees. With the downsizing nearly complete, the promotion opportunity should be increasing and with the current emphasis on quality of life and equal opportunity, the Navy will continue to be an excellent career for motivated people.

The next subject I want to address is the commemorative stamp for the Seabees 55th Birthday in 1997. In case this is the first you have heard of this, it started in September of 1993 when the Navy Seabee Veterans of America began a campaign to gather signatures in support of the proposal. The campaign is still going, but more signatures are needed before the U.S. Postal Service will approve the request. Let's all help the Seabee Veterans make this stamp a reality.

For more information or to show your support, write to Roland A. Swanson, President, 78th NCB Association, 1271 Rt. 394, Poland Center, Falconer, N.Y. 14733.

Finally, I need pictures of today's Seabees in action for various displays. One of the displays is the Master Chief of the Navy's "Spotlight on the Fleet," so I will need a brief description of who's in the picture and what they are doing. Your assistance will be much appreciated.

Until next time, keep the "Can do" attitude going.  
*CUCM(SCW) P.L. Race, Force Master Chief*

## Persian Gulf War Veterans

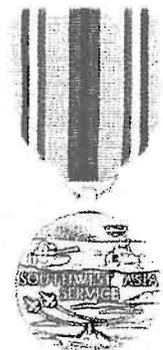
**Help is  
available.**

**If you think you are sick due  
to your military service in the Gulf**

**Call 1-800-PGW-VETS**

for information on:

**medical care  
disability compensation  
health research**



Receive printed VA information anytime, or speak with a specialist for VA referral Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m., CT.

Hearing impaired vets: TDD 1-800-829-4833  
For computer access to VA's Bulletin Board,  
"VA Online," call: 1-800-US1-VETS



**Department of  
Veterans Affairs**

Space donated by this publication as a public service.

# New Hope for Persian Gulf Vets

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## American Forces Information Service

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Sick veterans are one step closer to receiving more assistance for undiagnosed illnesses that may have resulted from their Persian Gulf War service, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

VA developed proposed legislation compensating disabled Persian Gulf veterans with undiagnosed illnesses after President Bill Clinton signed the Veterans Benefit act of 1994 authorizing the compensation.

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Jesse Brown said, "I have taken steps under this law to expedite compensation payments to chronically disabled Persian Gulf veterans while we continue to look for the causes of their health problems and to study the health of their spouses and children."

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*...Monthly compensation rates currently range from \$89 for a 10 percent disability to \$1,823 for a 100 percent disability.*

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VA is contacting each veteran on its Persian Gulf Registry, currently numbering over 34,000. It will also reopen previously denied compensation claims. Veterans or their survivors with potential claims can contact the nearest VA regional office by calling 1-800-827-1000 for information or assistance.

Under the proposed rules, Persian Gulf veterans may be eligible for dis-

ability compensation if they have chronic disabilities resulting from undiagnosed illnesses that showed up either during their service in the Persian Gulf or within the two years after. Disabilities must exist for at least six months to be considered chronic.

Any eligible Persian Gulf veteran with a disability rated at 10 percent or more will be compensated. Monthly compensation rates currently range from \$89 for a 10 percent disability to \$1,823 for a 100 percent disability.

VA already provides priority care for Persian Gulf veterans in its medical centers and outpatient facilities.

A list of 13 categories of undiagnosed illnesses is included in the rule: fatigue, skin diseases, headache, muscle pain, joint pain, neurologic signs or symptoms, upper and lower respiratory problems, sleep disturbances, gastrointestinal problems, cardiovascular problems, abnormal weight loss and menstrual disorders. The categories represent the conditions most frequently reported in VA's registry but are not exclusive. Other symptoms could qualify for compensation.

The new law also authorizes VA study the health status of spouses and children of veterans on Persian Gulf registry established in 1992 to identify patterns of illnesses.

The study will include diagnostic testing and medical exams to formulate research hypotheses on possible associations between Persian Gulf veterans' illnesses and disorders suffered by their spouses and children including miscarriage and stillbirths.

VA will also survey 15,000 randomly selected Persian Gulf veterans and compare results with a 15,000-person control group of veterans from the same time period who did not deploy.

The proposed rules appear in the

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*"We want Persian Gulf veterans to know VA will take every initiative necessary to let them know how we can help..."*

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Dec. 8, 1994, issue of the *Federal Register*.

The Department of Veterans Affairs has a toll-free number to inform Persian Gulf war veterans and their families of available medical care and other benefits. The toll-free information line is 1-800-PGW-VETS (1-800-749-8387). The helpline includes a series of recorded messages enabling callers to obtain information 24 hours a day.

Also information on VA benefits, medical care and research, including assistance for Persian Gulf veterans, is on an electronic bulletin board system. Callers with a personal computer that includes a modem and a communications package can access VA ONLINE. The toll-free number is 1-800-US1-VETS (1-800-871-8387).

"We want Persian Gulf veterans to know VA will take every initiative to help them," Secretary Brown said. "The toll-free number gives them quick access to timely information."