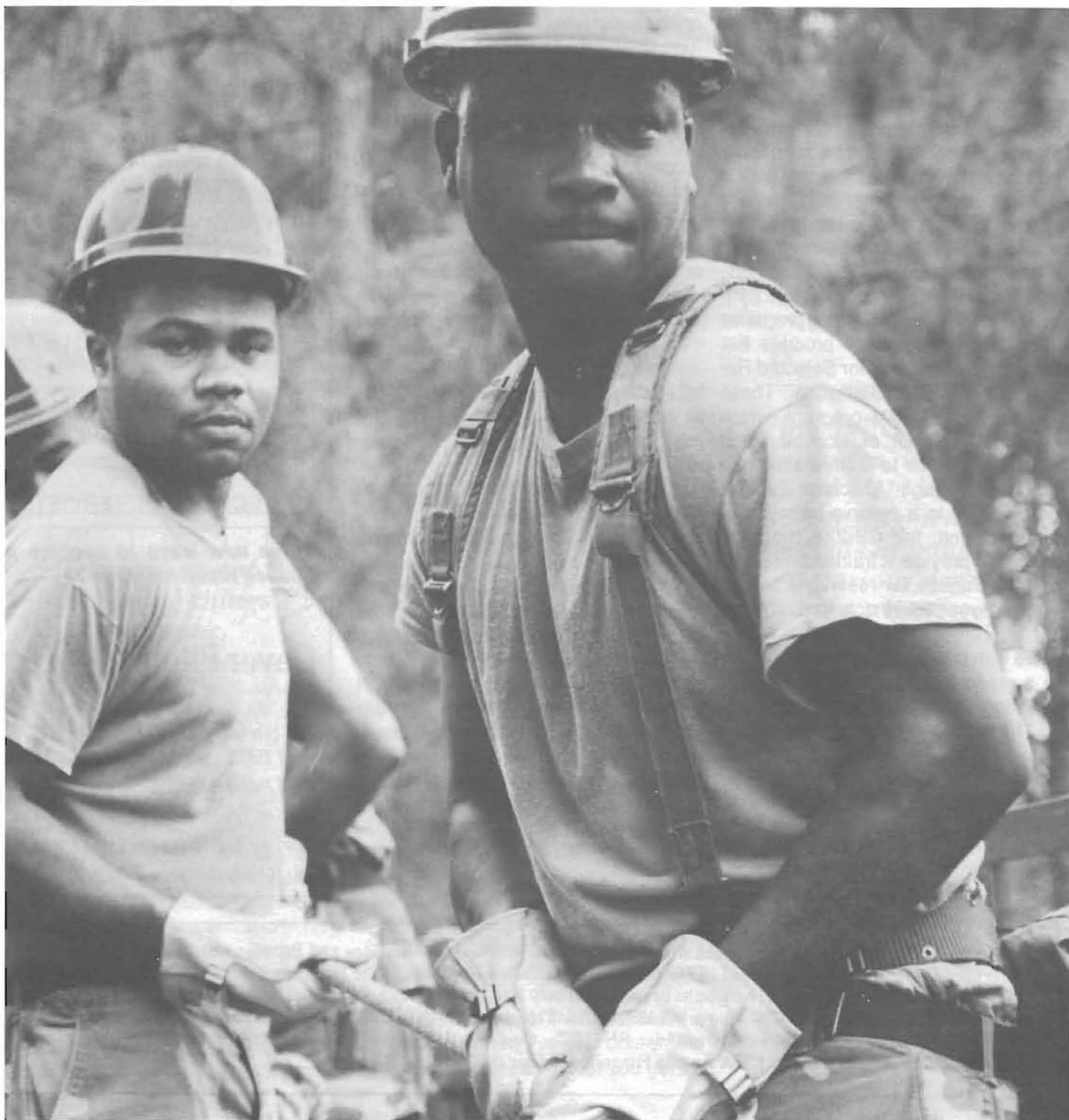


Beeline



VOLUME 3 NUMBER 3

JULY-NOVEMBER 1995



What's Buzzing?

Rear Adm. Thomas J. Gross

A growing challenge for our reserve construction forces has been the short-fall of enlisted Seabees, particularly in the most junior rates. After a normal four-year enlistment, nearly all those eligible for the Selected Reserve have become third class petty officers, ready to advance to E-5. This has made it difficult to fill the most junior billets in our battalions and other units.

This year, we have taken firm steps toward solving this problem. As you will read elsewhere in this issue (*Ed.*, see "Opening Opportunities," p. 23), there are three new recruiting programs specifically designed to produce E-1 through E-4 Seabees for Selected Reserve Construction Battalions. These include the CB-SAM program, which provides non-prior service men and women a chance to learn a construction trade through "A" school, then report directly to a reserve battalion or augment unit; the CB-2X8 program, which will provide a trained and experienced Seabee for reserve affiliation after a 2-year active duty tour; and the CB-VET program, which sends an enlistee with prior *military* training directly to a reserve unit as an E-3 for construction skill training.

These innovative programs offer a chance to improve our readiness substantially, but to work most effectively they require our active involvement. We need to become our own best

recruiters by identifying individuals in our local communities with the skills or potential to become contributors to our units, and encouraging them to enter these programs. This means "talking up" what you do, letting your civilian co-workers know about the advantages and benefits of your training and a Navy career, and promoting these programs at appropriate opportunities, such as construction or engineering trade meetings, union activities and junior college or trade school visits.

"... Simply making the programs available isn't enough. We must actively help our recruiters find the best people available, in sufficient numbers to achieve the result."

The leaders of our recruiting and manpower programs have given us the opportunity to close a substantial gap in personnel readiness. But simply making these programs available isn't enough. We *must* actively help our recruiters find the best people available, in sufficient numbers, to achieve that result. For further information, contact RNCFSC headquarters, at 1-800-782-3510.

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"A" SCHOOL RESERVISTS

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Cover Photo

CE2 Rodrick Morris, and EO2 Loenard Collins, of CBU 403 work to lower a victim from a 50 ft. tower during CBR training. (Photo by JOSA Angela Fitzgerald)

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*, RNCF 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 RNCFSC. Cmdr. T. A. Yeager, Public Affairs Officer, JO1 Calvin Gatch, Assistant Public Affairs Officer. JOSA Angela Fitzgerald, Editor.

Reserve Seabee surgeon helps Bosnian war victims walk again

by YNCS Thomas E. Flood

ST. JOSEPH, Mo. — For Dr. William Gondring, the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina is more than just a distant battleground.

Three casualties of that war — one Bosnian and two Croats — have come to the United States for his help. Gondring, a reserve captain assigned to the Ninth Naval Construction Regiment (NCR), is an orthopedic surgeon at Heartland Hospital, St. Joseph, Mo., where he specializes in amputation rehabilitation.

The Ninth NCR is headquartered at NAS Dallas. Gondring, who was the Regimental medical officer.

The three men were selected from a list of war victims provided by the International Organization for Migration.

"This was one of the most moving things I've ever done."

Zoran Lucic, a 23-year-old Croat cobbler and part-time soldier, arrived at Heartland Hospital with a painful right stump instead of his leg, the result of a non-anesthetic battlefield amputation after losing his leg to a Bosnian rocket-launched grenade.

Now, with the stump repaired by Dr. Gondring and his team, and his leg extended with a prosthesis, Zoran has returned to his village, where he was able to return to his profession — and coach basketball.

Defending his village from a Serb attack in 1991, 42-year-old Antun

Mulnar was hit in the legs with four machine gun rounds, ripping away his right calf and destroying his left hip socket.

Gondring, who has operated on war victims from Vietnam and El Salvador, stated that the bullets that struck Mulnar are outlawed by the Geneva Convention because they exploded in Mulnar's body. "Even the Viet Cong didn't do that," Gondring observed.

After surviving four bedridden years in intense pain, Mulnar was brought to Heartland Hospital for corrective surgery. During the hour and a half operation, he repaired Mulnar's two knees, left hip and right second toe, which was crooked, painful and would not fit into a shoe. He is now able to stand upright and walk without aid, and has returned home with an optimistic outlook for the future.

His left leg blown off by a land mine in 1994, Croatian Alen Jadrijevic arrived in St. Joseph hoping for relief from the intense pain caused by his artificial leg and the part of the leg it is attached to. The Heartland team was able to repair his left stump and fit him with a better prosthesis. Jadrijevic, 23, returned home without the canes he needed to walk with before the operation.

Gondring led a medical team to Croatia in November, 1994, to find out first-hand how Heartland Hospital and his team could continue to assist war victims in that area. Seeing bullet-riddled ambulances, hospitals scarred from bullet and mortar fragments, and hundreds of young men with various degrees of amputations gave Gondring a new sense of purpose.

"This was one of the most moving events of anything I've ever done," said Gondring. "It's seldom that you get an

opportunity to help a country." The country has about 1,000 amputees between the ages of 18 and 26, with many others suffering from bone infections, according to Gondring.

During their nine-day visit, the team spent time in the capital city of Zagreb, the Croatian cities of Varazdin, Split, Dubrovnik, Gospic and Karlovac as well as the Croatian-held Bosnian cities of Mostar and Medugorje.

They also visited high-ranking Croatian health and defense officials, including the country's surgeon general and a member of the Croatian parliament.

Seeing bullet-ridden ambulances, hospitals scarred from bullet and mortar fragments and hundreds of young men with various degrees of amputations gave Gondring a new sense of purpose.

During this visit, Gondring was recognized by Dr. Franjo Tudman, President of Croatia, for his "participation and assistance to the defenders of Croatia," and received a letter of appreciation from the head of the Croatian health department, Dr. Kornelije Brkic, for his efforts in assisting the country's war victims.

Gondring said he is hoping to bring other Croatian and Bosnian amputees to Heartland Hospital for treatment over the next several years.



Naval Academy Seabees prove Active/ Reserve Integration works

by SW1 Robert Lesniewski
BU1 (SCW) David Spieles
EA2 Daniel Johnson

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — Earlier this year, an integrated crew consisting of active duty Seabees from Construction Battalion Unit (CBU) 403 Annapolis, Md., and reserve Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 23, Ft. Belvoir, Va., began construction of a 40-station, 25-yard fully baffled rifle range. This new rifle range replaces an existing 200-meter rifle range constructed in the 1940's some distance from the Naval Station's pistol range.

The new rifle range is being constructed adjacent to the pistol range, enabling armory personnel to train the Naval Academy Midshipmen more efficiently by allowing simultaneous rifle and pistol qualifications.

Through eight weeks of construction, four detachments from NMCB 23 have worked in unison with CBU 403 to complete Phase I of the project.

"Immediate integration of Reserve and CBU personnel was critical for the smooth operation and timely completion of Phase I," stated Project Supervisor SW1 Robert Lesniewski. "We've functioned as one crew, an 'Us and Them' attitude never developing. Every member of the crew feels it is 'Our Job'. The pride of ownership here is evident in the quality and quantity of work completed."

The completion of Phase I prior to June 30, 1995 was critical to the Naval Academy's Plebe Summer. Of particular importance was the building of a 12-inch cinder block wall 190 feet long and 14 feet high which separates the rifle and pistol ranges. To meet this deadline, a shotgun range and one third of the existing pistol range was demolished. The disturbed area was then graded and stabilized to meet Maryland's stringent erosion

and sediment control regulations.

Site work completed, the placement of 129 cubic yards of concrete for footings, piers, core-filled block and slabs progressed on schedule. Three thousand blocks later, the pistol range opened on time for the Class of 1999 to qualify on the M-9 9mm. pistol.

An interesting aspect of this project is that most of the Seabees assigned to the project worked outside of their ratings. "Initially, it appeared that the project consisted primarily of horizontal construction. In reality, the majority of work consisted of builder activities," said EOC(SCW) Dave Gourley. "I don't think anyone minds, and it doesn't bother me as an Equipment Operator to be laying block. Seabees enjoy learning a variety of skills as long as their efforts are contributing to a quality product."

"This is OJT for me," added UT2 Cheyne Greek. "I've done pretty much everything; masonry work, earth work, and surveying. Everybody is getting a chance to do something outside of their rating."

Lt. Ken Wydajewski, Officer-in-Charge of CBU 403 praised the work done and the versatility of those involved.

"It's been an excellent project with

great cross-rate training opportunities for both the active and reserve Seabees - strong proof that integration does work! This is one of the largest and most challenging projects undertaken in support of the Naval Academy Midshipmen."

This summer, the Naval Academy's 4th Class Regiment Staff completed pistol marksmanship training for this year's Plebes. The remaining structural tasks will be completed by June, 1996.

We still have a lot of work ahead of us," concluded SW1 Lesniewski. "The second cinder block wall must be completed before the structural steel baffles and the roof canopy can be added. Following the canopy, the Range Safety Officer's booth can be constructed, the precast concrete roof panels installed and the shooting station roof framed in and covered with translucent panels."

With an eye on the future, Bill Karditzas, Small Arms Training Officer remarked, "The safety features and construction design reduce surface danger zones and increase range efficiency significantly. This new small arms training facility will benefit midshipmen marksmanship qualifications well into the 21st century." 



▲ BU3 Timothy Brown and BU3 Ron Markouch from CBU 403 work with two Seabees from NMCB 23 to core-fill a portion of the wall blocking off the rifle range. (Photo by

Veterans Visit Camp Shields

by JO2 Randy Bagoly

CAMP SHIELDS, Okinawa — American veterans of the last land battle of World War II returned to the island of Okinawa in June to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the end of hostilities.

The week-long commemoration was an emotional event, remembering the nearly 120,000 American, Japanese, and Okinawan military personnel and civilians who died during the battle.

But, as 34 Seabee veterans of the Pacific War found, there was also time to meet with those who carry on their "Can Do" tradition in today's Naval Construction Force. The Seabees of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 7 were proud to host the veterans on board Camp Shields, and give them a chance to see how a modern battalion operates.

The tour included a slide presentation by Battalion Public Affairs Officer Lt. J. T. Stone, lunch in the Camp Shields galley, a static weapons display and an open house in the company spaces. Perhaps the biggest attraction was the chance to meet what really makes a battalion work — its Seabees.

"I had a ball," said tour guide EO1 Tim Merriam, who spent the afternoon showing the veterans around the camp and swapping "sea stories."

Merriam said it was a good opportunity for an exchange of information between different generations.

"Talking to them, I know

used to have," he said. "In our battalions, the older guys had the good jobs. They didn't have training programs like you have now."



▲ GMG1 Julius Hilton demonstrates the MK-19 grenade launcher to World War II Seabee veterans at the Camp Shields Armory. (Photo by JO2 Randy Bagoly)

a little bit about what they did here," he said. "And they were interested in the way we do business now."

As the vets toured the company shops and talked with modern-day Seabees, they expressed their interest in how the men and women of a present-day mobile construction battalion perform their jobs.

Frank Flores, who served with the 20th, 36th, and 58th Seabee battalions during World War II, commented on differences in the size and level of training between battalions of his day and the present.

"They're a lot smaller, less than half the guys we

But, according to Merriam, one thing that hasn't changed is the camaraderie that binds together Seabees of any generation.

"We're a different breed of people," he said. "We have a unique sense of humor."

That sense of humor was evident throughout the day, as the veterans told their tales, and listened to the newer stories of younger Seabees.

In 1945, the Seabees' activities on Okinawa included the building of roadways and airstrips. The "Kadena Circle" is still a prominent part of the geography near Camp Shields.

The Awase airstrip was built by Seabees in the closing months of the war. It no longer exists, but 50 years later the Seabees of NMCB 7 were once again using their bulldozers and graders to shape the same area. This time the project consisted of improving a security road, clearing dense undergrowth, and stabilizing a seawall for Awase Point's current tenant, a Naval communications station.

One story of the Seabees on Okinawa in 1945, related by Merriam, tells of how the battalions were "the envy of the island" when some enterprising Seabees came up with a method for producing hot water for showers.

"Talking to them, I know a little bit about what they did here ... And they were interested in how we do business now."

They used submersible heaters to heat water in large tanks. Of course, there was some trial and error involved — experiments involving running water over obstacles to heat it "by friction" weren't so successful.

Overall, the event was a fitting tribute to the identity and spirit of the Seabees of World War II, and to today's Seabees who proudly carry on their tradition.



Reservist gets chance of a lifetime

Seabee ER physician serves on president's medical team

by CE1 R. Germinsky

When the message arrived at Second Naval Construction Brigade Headquarters from the Commanding Officer, U.S. Naval Hospital, Naples, Italy, NMCB 21's physician, Capt. (Dr.) Frank Nuar, MC, USNR, was pleased and very proud. "I did my annual training with them last year and received a highly commendatory Fit-

ness Report," he recalled.

The last thing he expected, however, was to be asked back in the capacity they were requesting. "They wanted me to come over and perform my Annual Training serving in the billet as co-chairman of the trauma team that would be tasked with providing emergency care, if needed, for President Clinton during the G-7 Economic Conference being

held in Naples."

According to Nuar, a Board Certified Emergency Medicine Physician, this was an exciting and no doubt a once in a lifetime assignment. "A number of specialty teams were set up for this event, including neurosurgery, thoracic, vascular and trauma, for which I was responsible." This was a challenging tour for all the personnel involved. The sole reason for all this medical talent was to provide, if called upon, the best possible care for the Commander-In-Chief.

There were daily briefings at the command level on procedures to be followed by all of the teams in the event of medical problems, as well as daily briefings on the President's health. Nuar said that all the medical personnel worked in close contact with the White House physicians. In addition, Nuar said, the medical teams were tasked with providing any needed care for the President's entourage. "We were responsible for Mrs. Clinton, the White House staff, and if necessary, the White House press corps."

During the conference, no medical emergencies involving the President or Mrs. Clinton arose. "The only problem we had occurred when one of the White House secretaries broke her leg." On the last day of the Naples conference, Nuar and his staff got their biggest surprise. "We were told to take an ambulance to the airport and stand by in the event we were needed before the President left." The President's trip to the air-

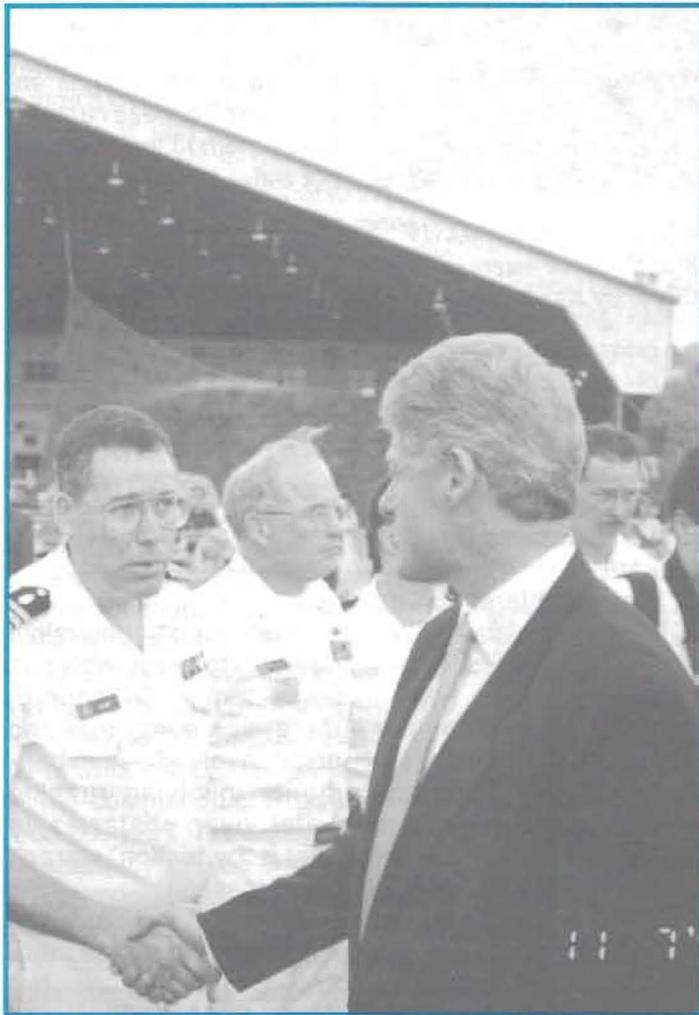
port went smoothly and no medical problems developed. Prior to their departure, and before boarding Air Force One, the President and First Lady stopped to talk with the Emergency Services Team personnel.

Two Gracious People

"It was totally unexpected. I was shocked but very pleased to have the opportunity to meet them," Nuar said. He described the Commander-In-Chief as, "a very sincere man. After only a few minutes, I felt that I had known him for a long time." The First Lady was no less gracious, according to Nuar. "She was extremely pleasant and very friendly. She put me at ease immediately. We discussed health care issues for a bit, and then she thanked all of us for coming to Naples to look after the President, herself, and the members of the staff."

According to Nuar, this event was an excellent example of the "One-Navy" concept, demonstrating how reservists and active-duty personnel can work well together. "We were introduced to the President and Mrs. Clinton as Naval Reservists, and I felt glad that we were recognized that way. I think it is important for people to realize that we reservists are just as capable, in our specialties, as our active duty counterparts," he adds.

Nuar, a Fellow of the American College of Emergency Physicians, resides with his wife Aime, a family-practice physician and Navy veteran, and their 10 chil-



▲ Capt. Frank Nuar, MC, USNR, greets President Bill Clinton in Naples, Italy. (Photo by CE1 Robert A. Germinsky)

dren in Newfield, N.J. He emigrated to the U.S. from Egypt in 1968 and joined the Navy while in medical school in 1975. He served on active duty from 1977 to 1981, and then affiliated with the Naval Reserve.

The corporate medical director for Wheaton Industries, an international manufacturer of cosmetic and scientific glassware, Nuar continues to sharpen his emergency medical skills at South Jersey Hospital. "I do that because I want to keep my skills up to date and current and also to remain Board Certified."

A Medical Innovator

Having rotated out of the battalion, Nuar is now director of health services for Naval Readiness Command Region Four (REDCOM 4) at Fort Dix, N.J. A true innovator, Nuar constantly searches for ways to better serve the sailors and Marines under his care. At REDCOM 4, he will get his chance.

Nuar has recently instituted his newly devised concept of a "Mobile Medical Team" that will serve the REDCOM's reserve centers.

"We want to bring Navy health services to people in the field. Sometimes it's difficult to schedule a doctor at the reserve center; some reserve centers don't have physicians drilling there, and you never find a doctor at the detachment level. The REDCOM mobile team will travel to different locations within the region, providing basic medical services to reservists who don't have access to Navy medical facilities," he says. 

NMCCB 23 CLEANS SEABEE MEMORIAL IN WASHINGTON, D.C.



▲ Seabees use a pressure spray to clean the Seabee Memorial. (Photo by Lt. Cmdr. Connie Wells)

by Lt. Cmdr. Connie Wells

Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 23 had the honor to serve the entire Seabee community recently by performing the annual cleaning of the Seabee Memorial.

The Memorial is located at the entrance to Arlington National Cemetery. It is dedicated to the men of the Naval Construction Battalions of World War II and honors all Seabees, past and present.

NMCB 23, headquartered at Fort Belvoir, Va., is assigned to the Third Naval Construction Regiment and is made up of reservists from Maryland, Virginia, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and the District of Columbia.

Bravo Company Commander, Lt. Anne Reese, expressed the sentiment of the battalion's men and women when she said, "It is an honor for us to have been chosen for the task of cleaning the Seabee Memorial. We're proud of the history it commemorates and glad to be a part of keeping the 'Can Do' tradition alive." 



▲ Seabees used pressure spray washers to clean Seabee Memorial. (Photo by Lt. Cmdr. Connie Wells)

Seabees find Success at SMI

by Lt. Priscilla Baird
COMTHIRDNCB PAO

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. — The Navy trains the cream of their crop — Seabee Military Instructors (SMI) at Marine Corps Camp Pendleton. The Seabees have been training with the Marines for the past 10 years, working side-by-side with their Marine counterparts.

A select group, the Seabees serve a twofold duty as both warriors and construction workers. The SMI Program maintains Seabee units in a high state of readiness to accomplish their mission.

In the warm June California sun, nearly 70 Seabee Military Instructors worked alongside Marines in the 1995 Seabee Military Instruction at Camp Pendleton. Reserve units of the Third Construction Brigade participated in this 12-day exercise.

The SMI program, an intense training exercise trains Seabee Military Instructors in basic combat requirements. The SMI's attend two phases of school, beginning with instructor training at Point Mugu. The second phase entails military application, where instructors are trained to teach all the basic military skills. The men and women going through this training are all Third Brigade unit members who will then go out to each detachment during regular drill weekends training Seabees in basic military skills.

"The concept of SMI is to teach our instructors how to train our Seabees in the basic keep-alive skills," said Master Chief George Faler, program manager for the SMI school. "You should be able to look across the field and recognize an SMI just by their overall presentation and bearing."

Petty Officer John Preku, 3rd Naval Construction Brigade SMI stated, "We ensure that our instructors are versed in all the basic military skills so when we have home port training,

we devote our time to skills that require teamwork and pick up the basics at drill. This enhances the readiness of the battalions immensely and enhances the pride of our Seabees.

"More often than not, our Seabees construct in a wartime environment, so the basic keep-alive skills we teach are important, such as terrain appreciation, compass navigation and proper communications. Without



▲ Seabees practice donning and removing MOPP gear during CBR decontamination exercise. (Photo by PH2 Kelton L. Washington)

proper communication even the best trained unit can't function," said Preku.

Instruction includes 25-28 separate military keep-alive skills. The program uses lecture and hands-on applications. The Seabees then go out in the field practicing and perfecting the skills learned in the classroom. They continue the same instruction when they return to their detachments.

"We're training a force of highly motivated instructors who are better than anyone out in the field," stated Preku. "The whole purpose is to establish camaraderie because we have a very strict command and control in the SMI program. Our detachment SMI's report to the battalion SMI who in turn reports to regimental headquarters and in turn to the brigade.

By utilizing the strict command and control at the brigade level we maintain a proper quality control on training in the field at the detachment level."

A normal day starts at 5:30 a.m. when SMI's hit the deck sporting Seabee style "high and tight" haircuts. Fifteen minutes later PT starts with a three-mile run through the hills of Camp Pendleton. Classroom instruction starts at 8:00 a.m. The day ends at 10:00 p.m., and "liberty" is used to prepare for the next day. Every morning the Seabees show up ready to go, boots polished, uniforms pressed, clean shaven with mustaches trimmed. Discipline, discipline, discipline. That's what it's all about.

The ultimate goal at SMI school is to teach skills such as how to dig a fighting hole, put up aiming stakes, weapons fire, cover and concealment, night noise abatement techniques, weapons fire, ambush tactics, hand signals, squad movements and discipline. Noted Master Chief Faler, "If the enemy knows where you are, you've lost the battle already."

Seabees participated in numerous training sessions with active and reserve Marines, including M-60 and mortar live fire exercises, establishing defensive perimeters, use of deadly force, and proper patrol procedures. Training emphasized individual defense, team defense and perimeter defense. Instruction included mines and booby traps encountered in the field, weapons systems, M-60, M-16, M-60 mortar A-74, crew-served weapons and other specialized heavy weapons.

"These people here are highly motivated, for them, it's not just a weekend job," said Faler. "These men and women have a sense of pride and professionalism. They are the cream of the crop. We teach our instructors how to teach their troops and we stress small unit leadership. We try to get our people involved with each other, increasing proficiency,"



Hurricane Erin

Gulfport Seabees get first-hand experience with their DRT skills

by Lt. Priscilla Baird

CBC GULFPORT —At one a.m. a sharp knock at the door jarred residents at the Gulfport Construction Battalion Center (CBC) Inn out of a deep sleep. "Hurricane condition One! Prepare to evacuate the BOQ!" shouted Petty Officer Kenneth Jones, fully dressed in camouflage.

As Hurricane Erin raced menacingly toward Gulfport, the winds picked up slightly in the warm August breeze. Still out over Gulf waters, the hurricane was fewer than 24 hours from landfall as the Seabees evacuated all civilian and military personnel on the base at CBC Gulfport. More than 1,000 personnel were roused from the warmth of their beds and transported to the safety of

warehouses 18, 19 and 20 near the center of the base.

The training center and barracks were evacuated first, then the BOQ, BEQ and Navy Lodge. Civilians were brought on the base after base personnel were secured.

CBC Gulfport Seabees had prepared rigorously for this contingency, undergoing one-day annual training in hurricane disaster preparedness. Hurricane Condition five takes effect in June, and kicks off the season for hurricane warnings. Hurricane condition four means a hurricane has been spotted, and is being watched for potential activity.

Condition three signifies a hurricane is 48 hours from landfall. Condition two marks 24-hour arrival of a hurricane. A Hurricane condition two, manning procedures are started, including registration table set-up, providing an adequate supply of cots, cordoning off of the



▲ *CMCN Jessica Ingalls tells her son, Justin, to be good when she leaves both of her children with YNSN Yesenia Laroche. Ingalls is a member of NMCB 7's Disaster Recovery Team. (Photo by JOSA Angela M. Fitzgerald)*

medical area, providing portable toilets and a water supply "buffalo tanks."

SK2 John Tennyson, a member of the Navy Disaster Team manned the area with a walkie-talkie, getting little, if any sleep through the 24-hour ordeal. A volunteer fireman and medic in the local county, Tennyson offered help to the 450 people in warehouse 18, directing them to medical and messing areas.

Cmdr. Gene Bertrand, Navy chaplain, walked the floor the entire night, chatting with shelter residents. "My role is to express words of encouragement and to offer moral support," noted the priest.

Marita Tippet, evacuated from the Navy Lodge, spent the night on a cot next to the Seabee green heavy equipment, including trucks and bulldozers. "This is my first vacation in years. I wasn't expecting this!" said the Platteville, Wis., resident. Her daughter, Delores Young and son-in-law SFC Jim Young (retired army)

spent the night next to her on matching cots. "Well, the cots are more comfortable than the concrete," quipped Delores.

In the morning, shelter residents listened intently as the voice of Lt. Cmdr. Davis, Officer in Charge of the two shelters, boomed over the loudspeaker, "Hurricane Erin made landfall at 10 this morning in Pensacola, Fla. We'll be standing down at 1300." The shelter was officially secured at 3:00 p.m.

Pvt. Jon Baril, US Army, was among the last to help secure the area, tying up cots and securing the area. "We're happy to assist," said the young private as he folded up one of the last cots.

Although Gulfport did not sustain a direct hit, the evacuation procedure was a great training experience for the Seabees. Pensacola sustained the worst damage, where Hurricane Erin made landfall. Power was down for days. Last official figures of damage are estimated at \$360 million.



▲ *Family members sleep, play and wait beneath storage shelves. (Photo by JOSA Angela M. Fitzgerald)*

Seabees lead teenage construction crew

Community projects bring reservists, active duty Seabees and local teenagers together

by Daryl Smith
COMSECONDNCB

NANTUCKET, Mass. — Each morning at 7:30, the work crew arrives at the construction site and receives instructions from their crew leaders. Soon the morning quiet is filled with the banging of hammers and buzzing of saws as they begin the day's work. What makes the scene unusual is that the construction crew members are local teenagers and the crew leaders are Navy Seabees.

Six Navy Seabees, one active duty and five reservists, are serving as crew leaders for 21 teenagers

working on two community-improvement projects in Nantucket, Mass. The six-week project is part of a new Civil-Military Cooperation Program designed to give "at-risk" youths work experience and skills while performing meaningful projects for the community. The program is managed by the U.S. Army Reserve and is designed to allow military members to serve as role models for youth.

The teens learned about the program at their school and volunteered through the Nantucket Boys' and Girls' Club. They are provided safety gear and are paid an hourly wage for the summer.



▲ SWCS Robert Kenny of New York, N.Y. gives a teenage worker some pointers in operating a saw during demolition work at the old laundromat. (Photo by Daryl Smith)



▲ Rear Adm. Heine, Commander Second Naval Construction Brigade, shakes hands with student workers at a ceremony at the Children's Beach July 9, 1995.

"The kids are performing better than we ever thought possible, and we haven't had anyone quit," said Constructionman Master Chief (CUCM), Seabee Combat Warfare (SCW) Robert Kuchta, who is the project manager on Nantucket. A reservist currently on active duty at the Second Naval Construction Brigade in Norfolk, Va., CUCM Kuchta and his family have lived across Nantucket Sound in Falmouth, Mass., for the last 17 years.

The Seabees and their young crews are working on two separate projects. One is constructing a 24-by-36-foot concession building for a new ball field, and the other involves renovating a former laundromat and turning it into municipal offices for the town.

"We're teaching them basic construction skills. We

start out with safety to ensure no one gets hurt on the construction site, and we make sure they know the proper use of hand tools. Hopefully, we'll provide them some skills and some self-esteem for the future," he added.

"They're all good kids who just need a little help and attention, which is something I can fully identify with," said Kuchta, who was assisted by his local Boys' Club after his parents were divorced when he was eight years old. "They need the reinforcement of someone else in their lives to help keep them in the right direction," he said.

Leadership roles, such as safety chief and quality control manager, are rotated among the youngsters each day. The 21 volunteers consist of 16 boys and 5 girls, and half work at each of the



▲ BU1 William Butts (top) of New Milford, Conn., and a teenage worker nail beams into place for the roof of concession building for the new ballfield. (Photo by Daryl Smith)

two sites daily. The young workers expressed satisfaction at learning new skills and accomplishing something important for the community. "I found the importance of teamwork and learned not to horseplay around," said John.

"If it wasn't for this job, I would probably just get in trouble," said Chevonne.

"It's a good opportunity to do some work and make some money," said Scott.

Utilitiesman Senior Chief (SCW) Tom McGrath knows what it is like to grow up on the tiny island. He is a native of Nantucket and a 1974 graduate of Nantucket High

School. "Overall, it was a great place to grow up. I knew a lot more people there and felt more a member of the community. We never locked our doors," he said.

The only active duty Seabee working on Nantucket, UTCS McGrath is the assistant project leader. Like CUCM Kuchta, he is also currently assigned to the Second Naval Construction Brigade in Norfolk.

McGrath joined the Seabees right after high school and has been with them ever since. "The Seabees are really very similar to my background. We're a relatively small group and

we look out for each other. When I left Nantucket, I left a small, close-knit community and joined another small, close-knit community in the military," he said.

UTCS McGrath noted that the Seabees perform humanitarian and community service work all over the world, but it is especially satisfying to be able to help your own hometown. "Having grown up in Nantucket, it's great for me to be able to go home and work with the kids and give something back that will help them in the future," he said.

The other Seabees working on Nantucket are Steelworker Senior Chief Robert Kenny of New York, N.Y.; Builder First Class Shawn Crosby of Chester, Pa.; Builder First Class William Butts Jr., of New Milford, Conn.; and Construction Electrician Donald Gadreau of Bangor, Maine.

As part of the project, Army Reserve Engineers built a bandstand and will install new, handicap-accessible playground equipment at the Children's Beach.

A dedication ceremony was held at the Children's Beach July 9 to recognize the Seabees, Army Reserve, community leaders, volunteers and teenage workers involved in the project. Rear Admiral William Heine, Commander, Second Naval Construction Brigade helped cut the ribbon and shook hands with all of the youngsters working with the Seabees.

The program is part of the National Defense Authorization Act of 1993 introduced by Senator Sam Nunn. It started last year with a project in Somerville, Mass., involving Army and Air Force personnel. This year, a total of five communities in Massachusetts are participating.



▲ SWCS Kenny (right) supervises demolition work on the old laundromat. (Photo by Daryl Smith)



CBU 403 and together for Contributor

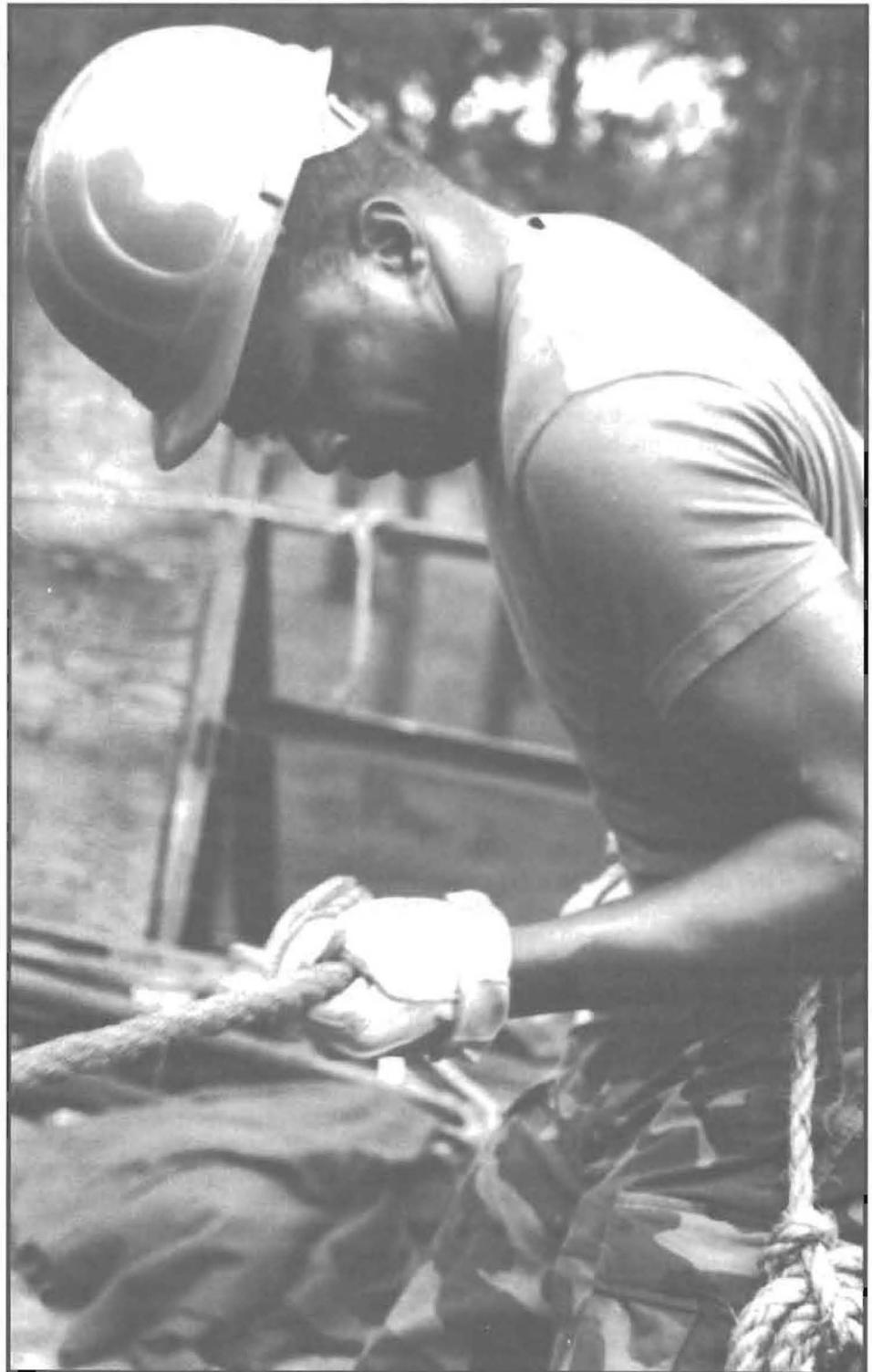
Photos and Article by JOSA Angela



▲ *CM3 Longmire and CM1 Atwell demonstrate how difficult stopping BUCN Rhodes is as he zips down the Teypher Line during the last day Basic Rescue Training. Seabees from CBU 403 and CBU 422 attended two weeks of training September 19-30 at the Naval Construction Training Center, Gulfport, Miss. They underwent training from Basic Rescue to Chemical/Biological/Radiological Warfare. Teamwork was stressed throughout the training.*

422 train better Support

tzgerald



▲ BU2 Lyman, of CBU-403, lowers a victim to the awaiting ground team during CBR training at NCTC Gulfport, MS.

◀ The ground team handle an abdominal casualty on AW D-Ring stretcher and provide transportation to the first aid station set up during the Disaster Recovery Training.

Seabees Assist U.S. Operations in Haiti

by JO2 Rodney J. Furry

PORT HUENEME, Calif. — There are many people in the Navy with foreign heritages, but it's not often that they have to face the idea of invading their own country. But when the United States decided to intervene in the failing Haitian military government last summer, Haitian speaking service members from all over the world were called upon to pack their gear and join the team.

Seabee Builder Second Class Ronald Jean-Pierre is one of almost 300 service members who speak Haitian Creole, a blend of Spanish, African, and French. As a child, he lived in Haiti with his family, some of whom still live there. Jean-Pierre hadn't seen the country where he was born since the age of seven.

When the call went out for Creole speaking service members, BU2 Jean-Pierre was in Okinawa with U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 5 on a far east deployment. Less than 48 hours after receiving the call for assistance, Jean-Pierre, with 782 gear in hand, boarded a plane bound for familiar shores.

"I really didn't have much time to take care of the paperwork and gather all the personal gear I knew I needed, but it's amazing what you can accomplish in a few hours if you set your mind to it," he said.

After a brief stop at Fort Bragg, N.C., for a medical exam, Jean-Pierre was transported down to Haiti where he was assigned as an interpreter for the Army's 10th Mountain Division. There wasn't much time to get over the "fish out of water" feeling as he was immediately attached to the Army Headquarters Company, 2nd Brigade, 22nd Infantry where he dove right into performing scouting missions and reconnaissance patrols in the streets of the capital city of Port-au-Prince.

With over 20,000 troops on the

ground, he was constantly busy supporting patrols as a translator. Jean-Pierre and almost 300 other translators worked long hours assisting the daily patrols in communicating with the local people and gathering intelligence information. The information gathered during those patrols proved invaluable as the Army began to take over and occupy all of the nation's military and government agencies.

According to Jean-Pierre, getting the local people to cooperate wasn't as difficult as it might seem. As they worked their way through the city streets, they were usually mobbed by well wishers and curious locals. "The Haitian people were extremely glad to see us. The majority of the people were so happy to see things changing, they eagerly offered us information and often helped us find the things we were looking for."

What they were looking for was the many stockpiles of weapons left behind by General Raul Cedras' military regime. In all, Jean-Pierre's patrols confiscated over 15 tons of weapons including ammunition, small arms, mortars, and anti-tank weapons. One particular cache produced 20 tanks. Systematically, the teams closed down the nation's military and captured many of Haiti's military officials, attaches, and terrorists.

Once the country was secure enough for ousted President Jean-Bertrande Aristide to return, Jean-Pierre's unit was asked to provide security for the many presidential motorcades and meetings. For six weeks, Jean-Pierre and his squad protected President Aristide as he made tours of his recovering homeland.

Protecting government officials also meant protecting family. Many of Jean-Pierre's family live in Port-au-Prince, and during one of the many patrols through the city's crowded streets, he heard his name called out from the crowd. Although

surprised to hear his name, he wasn't at all shocked to look into the crowd and see his grandmother's face. Several cousins he'd never even met were with her, and the family had a short, but joyous reunion.

His father also later flew in from the U. S. to visit the family for the holidays, but Jean-Pierre's duties kept his family visits brief.

Disaster struck the island and Jean-Pierre's family in early November in the form of a tropical storm that devastated the island, taking over 500 lives including Jean-Pierre's aunt.

The U.S. military was then forced to take on the government role of providing humanitarian relief to the storm ravaged nation. "We took the storm in stride," he said, "There were a lot of damage assessment trips into the rural areas, and I spent a long time talking to the people who had lost their homes and crops. It was a tremendous setback for them." U. S. service members suffered their share of hardships as well. Most of the three-day storm was spent in a tent flooded under two feet of water.

Communicating with the local people, it seemed, had become Jean-Pierre's permanent occupation. He served with four different Army units throughout his five month tour. But then one day in January, it all ended as abruptly as it had begun. With only a day's notice, he was told to pack his gear and return to NMCB 5.

Jean-Pierre reflects on his departure with mixed feelings. He said, "I was glad to get the opportunity to go back to Haiti after all of these years, but after all we went through, I was more than ready to come home." Because he has the pleasure of calling two different places home, he takes great pride in having had the opportunity to serve them both at the same time.



Seabees come to the Aid of Community

by: E02 Ernest J. Varga

Fifteen voluntary participants from Seabee Det 0825 of Great Lakes Naval Reserve participated with various local Disaster and Emergency oriented businesses in an agricultural hazardous waste spill drill.

While filling spring herbicide and fertilizer chemicals into machinery, a farmer slipped and injured himself. In the process he was placed in direct contact with the various chemicals and rendered unconscious. His family members attempted to assist him, but succeeded only in inhaling the chemicals and becoming ill. They contacted the local fire department. Meanwhile Seabee Naval Reserve Det 0825 marched into the area and were also exposed by inhalation. In a matter of 5 minutes the peaceful setting was transformed into a disaster zone with 20 victims.

Initial triage was set up and the various patients diagnosed. The Seabee's were so successful in convincing the paramedics that they were injured that they were given free rides to the two participating hospitals. At the hospitals, the Seabee's were decontaminated by fire department personnel and diagnosed in the emergency room.

Following the incident, the CB's were asked to participate in a critique of the event at the fire house. Some of the CB's fulfilled childhood dreams and got to ride back on the fire trucks. The CB's participated in the discussion, and were not only thanked for their participation, but also offered to participate in a future exercise.

The CB's participated in this event as part of their readiness training and community service. The CB's not only learned a great deal about the dangers other than foreign military enemies that exist in the world, but also were able to give assistance in a direct way to the community.

NMCB 7 Det Gitmo earns Joint Service Award



▲ Members of NMCB 7's air detachment at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, constructed the frame for a strongback tent during their recently-completed deployment. (Photo by Lt. Joel L. Baldwin)

by JO2 Randy Bagoly

The Seabees of NMCB 7's Detail Cuba recently earned the Department of Defense's Joint Meritorious Unit Award for their work with Joint Task Force 160 in Guantanamo Bay.

Those receiving the award include all soldiers, sailors, Marines, airmen and Coast guardsmen who were assigned to the joint task force between May 20, 1994 and May 19, 1995. During this time, JTF 160 provided emergency temporary humanitarian assistance to both Cuban and Haitian migrants. NMCB 7's 68-member air detachment worked to build seven messing facilities, nine chapels, eight basketball courts, 24 guard towers, a central galley facility, and 16 school buildings. The detail also completed a water line saddle project to supply water to over 14,000 Cuban migrants. Working with members of NMCB 4, the detachment helped to erect over 1,300 tents on wooden frames. "For the most part, everything was complete and usable when we left," said detail OIC Lt. Joel L. Baldwin.

NMCB 7 was relieved by NMCB 5 in July. The incoming battalion will complete the galley project and perform road repairs.

Baldwin said one of the highlights of the deployment was the chance to work with Cuban construction workers.

"Initially, we were very reserved," he said of the prospect of working with the Cubans. "After a week, I said, 'give me more'."

Baldwin praised the Cuban workers, and noted that the Seabees developed a good relationship with them.

"They were very hard working, were always on time," he said. "Some of the guys were very close to them — they were part of the team."

The Seabees communicated with the Cubans through Army interpreters and a few Spanish speaking members of the detachment.

The detail also earned the Humanitarian Service Medal for their efforts.

"It was very hard on the troops — they really made us look good over there," said Baldwin. "It was a super experience."

Short Bursts

by Lt. Kelly Watson
Bupers Public Affairs

Washington (NNS) — The Navy Uniform Board recently authorized a policy change which allows the wearing of two earned warfare devices or breast insignia on working uniforms.

A change to the Uniform Regulations (NAVPERS 15665I), and the standards for wearing the camouflage utility uniform by Naval personnel (OPNAV Instruction 1020.4D) sets new policy for wearing two earned warfare devices or breast insignia on working uniforms. With this change, there is now one policy for the wearing of devices/insignia on all uniforms.

The insignia may be worn in the same relative positions as described in Uniform Regs, Article 5201.2.B. It may be pin-on, molded, stenciled or embroidered and may be worn on working khaki, dungarees, indoor duty white, winter working blue, aviation working green, and camouflage utility. Pin on devices shall not be worn on working uniforms when metal devices might present a safety hazard.

More information about this and other changes/updates is available on the BUPERS Home Page (<http://www.navy.mil/homepages/bupers>) on the world wide Web in the uniform matters section, or from the Navy Uniform Matters Office (PERS-333) at DSN 224-5076 or (703) 614-5076.

Cmdr. Jerry Hart
CO PSA, Jacksonville

Recently, several Navy personnel going on TAD orders purchased their own airline tickets directly from specific airlines and not through official Navy Transportation channels.

These individuals were well intentioned and thought they were saving the Navy money by purchasing a "one time good deal."

What they didn't know, though, is that in the long run, they actually cost the Navy more money and ran the risk of losing money out of their own pocket.

Each year, the Navy enters into a legal and binding contract with certain air carriers which agree to give the Navy a certain set reduced price for air travel between specific routes (regardless of airline price fluctuations) and the Navy agrees that it will use these airlines.

In the Personal Support Activity Jacksonville network alone last year, use of government air contract flights saved the Navy more than \$100 million.

Despite the fluctuations of airfares, particularly during the Holiday season, Navy personnel purchasing special air fare tickets outside of Navy channels are not entitled to reimbursement, except under certain circumstances.

Those circumstances include: tickets in areas where a government travel office or contractor is not available; airline tickets that are cancelled at the last minute and other arrangements must be made, and instance when it is impossible to reach the PSD duty personnel after normal working hours for travel arrangements.

Additionally, reduced-air fare tickets usually are non-refundable, the traveler must travel during specific periods, and any itinerary change carries with it a penalty charge to issue a new ticket plus increased costs, etc. Another factor to consider is the insurance liability that the government contractor agrees to provide to government travelers.

JO2 Scott Cregan

Camp Fogarty, RI — Seabee Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit (CBMU) 202, headquartered on CINCLANT's Naval Submarine Base New London, Groton, CT, conducted

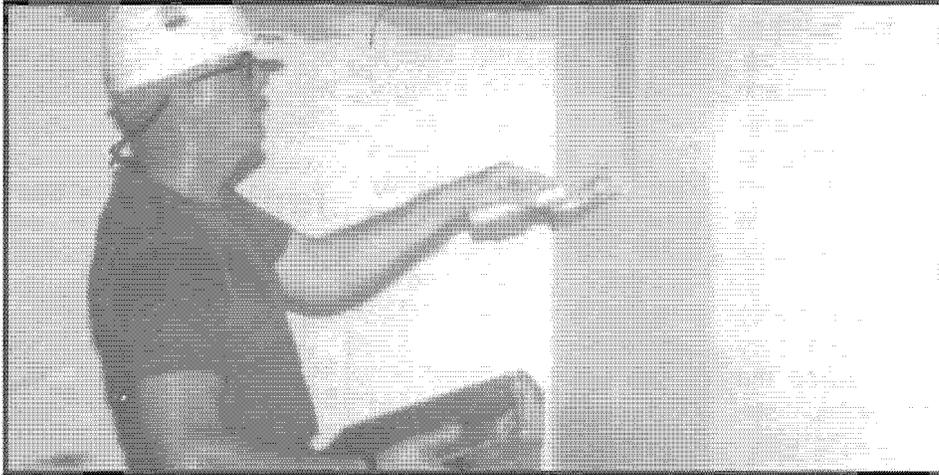
a change of command ceremony during a three day Field Exercise (FEX) at Camp Fogarty, RI on September 22-24.

Lt. Cmdr. Tracy A. Proctor, CEC, USNR, from Rockville, MD became the first woman commanding officer in the Naval Construction Force on September 23. She succeeded the unit's first commanding officer, CDR Charles F. Vaughan, CEC, USNR, of Kittery Point, ME. Lt. Cmdr. Proctor had served previously as the unit's first executive officer at its commissioning in October 1993.

RADM W. A. Heine, CEC, USNR, the Commander of the Second Naval Construction Brigade (COMSECONDNCB) also attended the ceremony. He praised CBMU 202's accomplishments; from cost-saving construction projects at Naval facilities at New London, CT and Newport, RI to peacetime contributory support operations in Cuba and around the world. RADM Heine also praised the unit's military readiness during the FEX, and at military training accomplished at Camp Lejeune, NC.

CBMU 202, with detachments in New London, CT, Newport, RI, and Albany, NY, maintains its mission: In wartime, it provides technically trained personnel and specialized equipment required for public works services. This includes maintenance, repair, and operation of structures and utilities at an advanced base constructed by other units or to backfill or augment the public works services at an existing base. In peacetime, CBMU 202's mission is to provide trained Naval Construction Force (NCF) personnel for contributory support at shore establishments - accomplishing new, maintenance, and repair construction projects. The unit is also equipped to provide disaster recovery assistance to local area commands should the need arise.

Seabees renovate work spaces for Ceremonial Guard



▲ *Equipment Operator Chief (EOC) William Peters repairs drywall. (Photo by Daryl Smith)*

by Daryl Smith
COMSECONDN CB PAO

NS ANACOSTIA —Members of the Navy's Ceremonial Guard will soon have a much nicer place to work and practice, thanks to the Seabees.

Seabees are renovating the entire second floor of Building 47, which is across the street from the Ceremonial Guard's barracks at the Naval Station Anacostia, Washington, D.C. The 20,000 square-foot area of the former seaplane hangar is being turned into offices, storage spaces and practice areas.

The Ceremonial Guard represents the Navy at official ceremonies, such as funerals at Arlington National Cemetery and various White House functions. It is made up of about 150 young men and women recruited straight from boot camp who serve a two-year tour before attending "A" School.

The sharp appearance of the Ceremonial Guard is in stark contrast to the environment in which they have lived and worked at Enterprise Hall. "The present building really just doesn't suit our needs," said Lt. Lisa Truesdale,

officer-in-charge of the Ceremonial Guard. "It's old and it shows a lot of wear and tear... because it wasn't made to drill in," she said.

"Taps on their shoes tear up the floor tiles, and their rifles have punched holes in the ceilings during practice. It was decided to move their work and practice out of their living spaces so that they can be kept clean and livable," said Lt. Cmdr. Edward Brown of the Second Naval Construction Brigade. "These young sailors come to the Ceremonial Guard with a lot of enthusiasm and motivation, and they deserve a decent place to live and work," he said.

The four-month renovation project evolved from the Chief of Naval Operations Quality of Life Quality Management Board, which identified poor conditions at the Guard's barracks. There are also plans to begin renovating Enterprise Hall this fall.

Fourteen reserve Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalions (NMCBs) 21, 23 and 24 and active-duty Seabees from Construction Battalion Unit (CBU) 422 are working on the project in Building 47. NMCB 23 is

coordinating the project under the guidance of the Third Naval Construction Regiment. Despite adverse weather and the large amount of work, the project has remained on schedule. "Our hands will be full until September 29th," said Builder Senior Chief (BUCS) Ken Kubilus, officer-in-charge of the project. "We're right on time, though, and don't expect any delays. We've got the right mix of people to finish the job."

The project involves demolition, dry-wall work, painting and installation of new floor tile, 600 square yards of carpet, 20,000 square feet of drop ceilings and insulation, and 244 lighting fixtures. Civilian contractors will install heating, air conditioning and sprinkler systems. In addition to office and practice spaces, the new facility will include a laundry, flag storage room, locker storage room, barber shop and armory. Extra high ceilings in the main hallway will prevent rifle damage during practice.

"It's going to be wonderful," Lt. Truesdale said. "Right now it's hard to find people because they're spread out all over the building. It will be a dramatic improvement for our group identity and cohesiveness ... We're indebted to the Seabees," she said.

A unique aspect of this quality-of-life improvement project is that all of the reserve Seabees worked for the duration of the project, which ran June 5 through Sept. 29. Ordinarily, reserve Seabee crews rotate every two weeks. The reserves are funded by Active Duty for Service Work (ADSW) orders for this project.

"This is an experiment to see how ADSW will take care of us," said BUCS Kubilus. "So far, everything has worked out real well. It's good for the Navy, and it's good for the Seabees." 

From the ArcHive

Seabees fought and won Iwo Jima's "Engineering War"

by JO1 Luis M. Luque

The battle of Iwo Jima is regarded as one of the classic amphibious operations in history. That's perhaps because it was bitter and bloody and it inspired Adm. Chester Nimitz to say that on Iwo Jima "uncommon valor was a common virtue." Still, while the assault may have been classic in strategic terms, it defined an important role of an entirely new Navy outfit: the naval construction battalion.

Engineers' War

More than any previous war, World War II was an engineers' war. It was a war fought across pontoon bridges and makeshift runways. The battle went beyond the enemy itself. The men had to battle the mud, rock, sand and jungle.

To fight thousands of miles from home, we would need dozens of bases. They would have to be built in the middle of nowhere out of nothing, on desert sands, carved into cliffs and slashed from jungles, usually under enemy fire and constantly under repair.

Shortly after Pearl Harbor, the Navy created the Seabees, construction battalions organized by the Navy Civil Bureau of Docks, which oversaw the Civil Engineer Corps. They were re-

cruited from America's road, dam, and bridge builders, steel workers, men who operated heavy equipment and knew how to run warehouses, shipping docks and fuel depots - the structures our troops would need to support ships and planes far from home.

The civilians contracted to do it had the necessary skills, but they lacked the training, weapons and discipline needed to fight when their projects came under attack.

Logistics was a major reason for invading Iwo Jima. Airfields were an important link in the island-hopping chain, and we needed an emergency landing or refueling field for B-29 Superfortresses and their shorter range fighter escorts, the P-51 Mustangs. The tiny island had three airfields. Army Air Corp's Gen. Hap Arnold realized as early as July 1944 we would need to take the island.

"... the total number of casualties was over 24,000."

The Marines were just finishing in Saipan and still had Guam and Tinian ahead. The allies had their hearts set on Formosa, but it was too far for effective bombing missions.

According to legend, Arnold drew a line on a map from the Marianas Islands to Japan: it ran straight through Iwo Jima. The island lies about 750 miles from Tokyo, roughly halfway between the Marianas and Japan. The P-51's could provide better support, and B-29's had a place to land in emergencies.

The Japanese could see what was coming and placed 21,000 men on the 12 square-mile island. Gen. Tadamichi Kuribayashi, the Japanese commander, was determined to make the low volcanic island into a fortress. He abandoned the idea of repelling the invaders with guns on the beaches. The Marines had proved they could land successfully under fire at Normandy, the Gilberts and Marshalls, Saipan, Tinian and Guam.

Kuribayashi knew he could not hold the island forever without the support of ships, planes and plenty of men. "Give them to me and I will hold Iwo," he said. But he also knew he would never get them, so he came up with a plan to make the invasion as costly to the Americans as possible. He succeeded.

Even though U.S. forces outnumbered the Japanese by more than three to one, Iwo Jima was the deadliest Pacific battle for the Marines. The Japanese killed more than 6,000 men: the total number of casualties was

over 24,000. This was due largely to the work of Japan's best fortifications engineers, with combat experience in China.

Japanese Engineering

Except for Mount Suribachi, an extinct volcano 556-feet high at the island's southern tip, Iwo's natural defenses were weak. The Japanese concocted a mix of volcanic ash and cement to turn the island into a concrete honeycomb where they camouflaged artillery, mortars and anti-tank guns.

The walls of the bunkers were four feet thick and steel reinforced. Miles of tunnels ran underneath airstrips, especially in the north, linking positions as far apart as half a mile. Engineers and laborers wired caves for electricity, some big enough to hold a few hundred soldiers. They built several levels of defense in many of the hills, and moved command posts as much as 75 feet underground. Mines, ditches and booby traps stood in the way of the invasion force on the beaches and all travel routes.

Kuribayashi's plan was to hold fire until the Marines were 500 yards inland. At that point they would open with automatic weapons near Caldera Airfield. Artillery support would come from Suribachi in the south

and onto the Motoyama plateau in the north. Underground installations in the northern center of the island would provide the main defense.

Kuribayashi would enforce strict fire discipline so the defenders could last for months if necessary. Weapons and ammunition were to be conserved to the utmost even though they had plenty. They could store three to six months of food because he knew not to count on supply shipments. They also had plenty of radios, fuel and rations. What they lacked, what had always been in short supply on this island of sulfur and volcanic ash, was fresh water. Kuribayashi decreed strict rationing for weeks before the invasion.

“Their defenses were such that they could cover the entire island with rounds at once if necessary.”

The plan violated all Japanese military doctrines and although it was not popular, it came to be accepted as inevitable.

The Japanese knew they were doomed. It only made them more determined.

The Invasion

For weeks beforehand, American planes bombed the island with little effect. Most of the defenses were still intact by D-Day. As the attack began, Feb. 19, 1945, the thought of dying may have escaped the minds of

many Japanese soldiers because the plan worked to perfection.

The first line of defense was the beach itself. The water near the shore was deep and violent. The sand was too soft even for tracked vehicles to maneuver easily. Many were immobilized by the sand or stalled by the water, others were simply rolled over by the waves.

U.S. forces met only oc-

entire island with rounds at once if necessary.

Tarawa was nothing compared to this. “You could’ve held up a cigarette and lit it on the stuff going by,” Col. Justus Chambers recalled.

NCB 133 Joins Invasion Force

It was under these circum-

stuck on the beach unloading cargo and ammunition, preparing roadways and moving equipment.

As the Marines continued to move inland, the Kangroos kept them supplied. They also found and destroyed mines.

By the end of the first day, more than 4,000 men went ashore. The Marines’ Fifth Division had split the island in the south, cutting off



▲ Seabee Mess Hall under construction on one of the Pacific islands during WWII.

asionally with light enemy fire. They must have thought their task would be a breeze. “There’s something screwy here,” remarked Marine Cpl. Leonce Oliver, remembering how the first assault wave was shelled at Tarawa.

Once the beach was crowded with men and machine, Kuribayashi launched his defense in earnest. The Japanese began a fierce artillery barrage, stunning the Americans.

Their defenses were such that they could cover the

stances that the U.S. allowed a Seabee battalion to join the Marines in the main invasion force for the first time in the Pacific. The 133rd Seabees, all 1,032 of them led by officer-in-charge Cmdr. Ray Murphy, were on the beach by 4 p.m. The “Kangaroo” battalion acted as a shore party maintaining supply lines to the Fourth Marine Division.

When the Japanese struck, the Marines found safer territory by moving inland, but the Kangroos were

Mount Suribachi from the main defenses in the northern center. Guns in Suribachi’s caves, and mortars near one of the airfields, continued to rain on Navy support ships, and on the beach, where Kangroos were still unloading cargo. The Japanese viewed this beachhead overflowing with men and equipment as the U.S. forces’ “center of gravity.” If they could destroy the beachhead and cut off the Marines, the invasion would be a failure.



▲ Seabees unloading planes on one of the Pacific islands.

The Kangroos' casualties were heavy, the worst of any Seabee battalion in the war.

That first afternoon, two officers and 37 enlisted men were killed, 137 were evacuated because of their wounds. Tending the wounded took others out of the battle.

As a result, the battalion was virtually out of commission for several days. It was the last time Seabees were included in the first wave assault. Because the whole point of the invasion was to repair the three bombed-out runways and set up an air base on the island as quickly as possible, they couldn't afford to lose that many Seabees. Several days later came the 31st, 62nd, 70th and 90th Naval Construction Battalions. They were joined still later by the 8th, 90th, 95th, 23rd, 301st and 106th Battalions.

Inch by inch, cave by cave, after 36 days of hell,

the Marines took over the island. They had expected the battle to last two or three weeks at the most, but the Japanese fought nearly to the last man.

Meanwhile, the Seabees had begun rehabilitating the island's three airstrips as soon as they were taken. After the first two weeks, they worked day and night. Until then, enemy fire prevented them from working after dark, but even after the island was declared secure, they still had to contend with occasional sniper fire. Hundreds of Japanese were still operating on the northern part of the island.

By early April, 7,000 Seabees were working 10-hour shifts, seven days a week on Iwo Jima. They moved more than three million yards of earth, leveling Motoyana central plateau for a giant aerodrome.

The main runway, 10,000-foot long, was the longest in

the Pacific. Besides the runways, they paved more than 55 miles of roads.

Reorganizing after D-Day, NMCB 133 assembled the rock-crushing plant, crushing over 60-tons per hour. They also built an asphalt-batch plant that produced a total of 150,000 tons of asphalt-concrete, working at the rate of 130 tons per hour. They also laid over 6,000 feet of drainpipe, and placed more than 4,000 feet of conduit.

The Japanese realized that without the quarry or batch plant, the U.S. could not achieve its final objective. As a result, the 133rd again became the focus of their attacks. More than 200 members of the battalion were awarded Purple Hearts. Ten earned Bronze Stars. The battalion won the Navy Unit Commendation for its work on D-Day and the construction that followed.

Land-based fighters from Iwo Jima accompanied the B-29's to Japan on April 7, 1945 for the first time. The Seabees had succeeded in making Iwo Jima the great airfield they intended it to be. By the end of the war, more than 2,200 B-29's with some 24,000 crewmen had used the Iwo Jima emergency airfields ... But it cost us.

"This," said the Seabee boss, Capt. Robert Johnson, "is the most expensive piece of real estate the United States has ever purchased. We paid 550 lives and 2,500 wounded for every square mile of this rock. Pretty expensive."

"The Kangroos' casualties were heavy, the worst of any Seabee battalion in the war."

But Fleet Adm. Ernest King would later say that the "lives saved exceeded lives lost in the capture of the island itself."

Feb. 19, 1995 marked the 50th anniversary of the Iwo Jima invasion. NMCB 133, the only battalion to fight in the battle that is still active today, held a ceremony at its forward-deployed base, Camp Covington, Guam, in honor of those who fought at Iwo Jima. The 133rd was decommissioned immediately after the war and re-commissioned for the Vietnam War on August 15, 1966. Today it is based at the Construction Battalion Center in Gulfport, Miss.

News to Use

Advancement information for Reserve Seabees

Courtesy of COMNAVRESFOR
Public Affairs Office

NEW ORLEANS — The advancement outlook remains good for the majority of enlisted personnel in the Selected Reserve according to the latest Enlisted Community Management Objectives (ECMO) message.

This quarterly report, the Naval Reserve equivalent of the Navy's Career Reenlistment Objectives (CREO) list, provides career opportunity information for enlisted personnel in pay grades E-1 through E-6.

The good news for Reservists is that a majority of the rates shifted from the overmanned category to the adequately manned category. Additionally, three NECs came off the critical list (which represents an undermanned condition) while only two NECs were added.

The report shows that twenty four rates shifted from category "C" to categories "A" or "B" and only 17 rates shifted into category "C" during the last quarter.

"If historical loss rates continue, we anticipate stable advancement num-

bers in the next cycle," said Naval Reserve Force Strength Plan/Community Management Branch Head, Lt. Cmdr. Donna Grisham. "This latest report, combined with previous ECMO messages and past advancement information, provides an outstanding tool for senior enlisted personnel to counsel subordinates in career opportunities. It also gives our junior enlisted personnel a good tool to track career paths."

The current ECMO message was released September 27 as ALNAVRESFOR 23/95. The ECMO lists each rating by rank along with a description using A, B, C, or N/A codes as the current manning levels. "A" indicates undermanned, "B" indicates adequately manned, "C" indicates overmanned, and N/A indicates no requirements in that paygrade for the specific rating. These ECMO categories are designed to give guidance to enlisted personnel for career and advancement opportunities, but just because a rate is listed as ECMO "C" does not mean there will be no advancement in that rate.

Some reasons ratings become stag-

nated and change to ECMO "C" include, but are not limited to, lack of passers to the next higher paygrade, especially at the E-7 and E-6 paygrades, programmatic reductions, which reduces manpower requirements, and rates having limited requirements initially.

Selected Reserve Enlisted Community Management Objectives (ECMO)

RATINGS	E1/E4	E5	E6
BM	A	C	A
BU	A	C	C
CE	A	C	C
CM	A	C	C
EA	A	C	C
EO	A	A	C
HM	A	A	B
JO	C	B	B
LN	N/A	C	C
MA	A	B	B
MS	A	C	C
NC	N/A	N/A	C
PN	C	C	C
SK	B	C	C
SW	A	C	C
YN	C	C	C

Straight to the top ... literally!



▲ Naval Reserve Force Master Chief Michael Krbec spoke to the class of new Career Counselors.

by JOSA Angela Fitzgerald

October 30 through November 3 was school time for a select group of Seabees.

NCC (SW/AW) Paul Shoemaker, Reserve Naval Construction Force Career Counselor, and NCC (SW) Steve Warner, 31st Naval Construction Regiment Career Coun-

selor, instructed Reserve Career Information Training for 22 Reserve Seabees in Colorado Springs, Colo.

The newly revised Reserve Seabee Career Information course, which consists of one week of classroom training and then one week of training at their individual unit sites was very successful.

"Returning back to their units to initiate their individual programs received infallible results and showed increased support from local Reserve Centers," said Shoemaker.

AVCM Michael Krbec, Naval Reserve Force Master Chief, spoke to the class about the need for good career counselors to take charge of the Career Information Program in their reserve centers Friday night before they received their certificates. He also answered many questions concerning Right Sizing and High Year Tenure Issues.

The course is projected to be taught twice a year with the next tentatively scheduled to begin April 29, 1996. For further information about attending a future course contact NCC Shoemaker at 1-800-782-3510.

Seabees Dig Up Extras in Key West

by BU2 Dwight K. Hamborsky

NAS KEY WEST - Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 14 are saving the Navy money working on "quality of life" projects while on active duty at NAS Key West.

Seabee from nine southern states, totaling over 200 Naval Mobile Construction Battalion reservists, took foothold on a backlog of "quality-of-life" public works projects at a time when the Navy's funds were limited.

The projects originated from the Key West Public Works Department. Five local projects were assigned.

NMCB 14 completed road grading on Fleming Key and construction at the new Perry Court and Sigsbee family housing, which held most of the Seabee's attention.

Trenches were dug and pipe laid for electrical cables that will provide electrical power for night lighting and an electronic scoreboard at the new baseball field constructed near Sigsbee family housing.

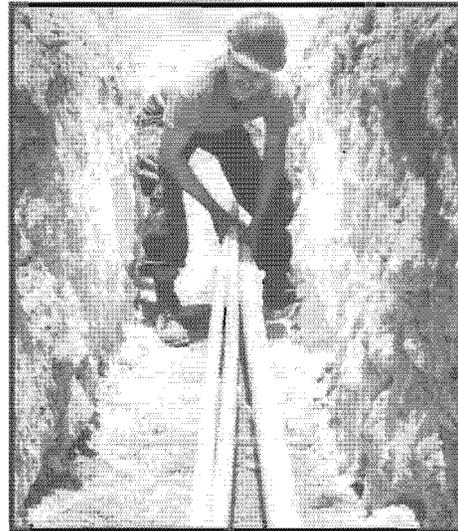
"This job would cost several thousand dollars in labor cost alone," says Construction Electrician First Class Mark Monaghan, the project crew leader. Monaghan, of Titusville, Florida, regularly estimates electrical projects for NASA's space shuttle tracking stations, where he is a senior electrical engineer.

"Approximately \$100,000 to \$150,000 would already have been spent on materials and equipment," adds Monaghan.

Lt. Cdmr. Michael Abate, Assistant Public Works Officer for Naval Base Keywest, agrees with Monaghan's cost estimates. "This would be a \$300,000 project without

the Seabees doing the work. We probably would not get the funding for "quality-of-life" projects and now, thanks to the reserve Seabees, we have extras. Instead of a no-frills ball field we got a class act."

NMCB 14 Seabees also completed the expansion of the Key West



▲ CE3 Ricky Mitzel lays electrical conduit in the trenches. (Photo by PH2 Larry Busby)

Navy Exchange. The expansion will house a garden shop and furniture mart. It also will allow the exchange to carry more much needed lines of teen clothing.

"Labor cost alone would have made the NEX project impossible," says officer-in-charge of the exchange Lt. Cdr. Rick Jones.

BU2 Michael McClelland, a St. Petersburg masonry contractor was responsible for the decorative block work that gives the exchange outdoor expansion a light, airy look. "I would have to estimate \$50,000 to \$60,000 for labor alone on a job like this," McClelland says. BU2 McClelland was also responsible for

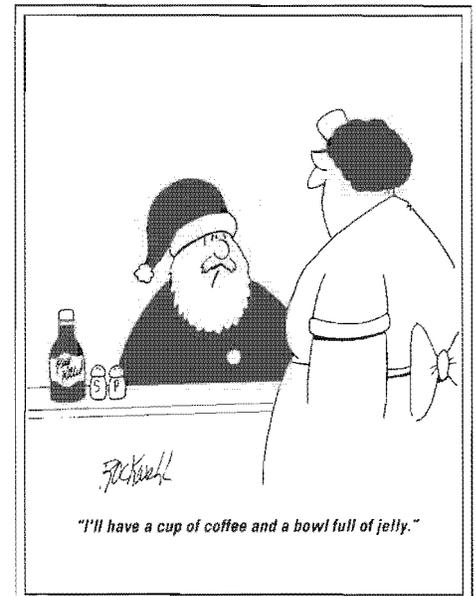
masonry work done on the block concession stand at the baseball field.

Previous crews worked with regular forces and civilian public works employees during the early phases of construction. The addition's fire safety sprinkler system was an all-Seabee project with the systems final testing by NMCB 14's UT2 Jack Cook.

"These are very high-profile jobs because they are important to the safety of the exchange and their customers," says UT2 Cook.

At the same time, NMCB 14 Seabees greatly increased their individual readiness. The Key West assignments gave them the experience that will ensure future effectiveness. "Performing actual Navy projects combined with working with experienced craftsmen provides excellent training for our younger Seabees," says Detachment Officer-in-Charge, Lt. Mike Guglicelli.

But Key West military personnel and their families receive the biggest benefits.



Career Corner

Opening Opportunities

by JOSA Angela M. Fitzgerald

In today's reserve Seabee force 2,957 E-4 and below billets are empty and until October 1, 1995, there was no way to fill these openings.

Currently the largest gaps in manning are in the Equipment Operator and the Construction Mechanic rates. Equipment Operator is 1,713 undermanned, and Construction Mechanic is 481 under the number allotted.

New recruiting programs developed by RNCF Support Command, NAVSURFRESFOR, NAVDAC and NAVRESFOR are underway to solve this problem.

Fiscal Year '96 makes the beginning of three new junior enlisted programs ... the 2x8 program, the Construction Basic-Sea and Air Mariner (CB-SAM) program and the Construction Basic-Veteran (CB-VET) program.

The 2x8 program allows a recruit to enter the Seabee force through two years active duty service and four years reserve service.

A 2x8'er would go through boot camp, attend "A" school and then finish the two year tour in an active duty battalion. After the tour is over, the Seabee would then join a reserve battalion or an augment unit and finish with a four-year tour in the Selected Reserve. At the end of the four-year tour, the reservist would go into Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) for a two year period.

This program goes into effect January 1, 1996. Recruiters are looking for 240 Seabees to enter this program per year.

Each active duty battalion will get 30 2x8'ers and by the end of two years

each battalion should have 60 members from the program. The beginning of the third year would mark the end of the first 2x8'ers' active duty enlistment and they would go to reserve units. As each 2x8'er rotates out, a new 2x8'er would rotate in, keeping 60 members from this program in the active battalion at any given time.

The CB-SAM program allows a recruit to go to boot camp, "A" school, a one week combat skills training course and then go directly into the Reserve Construction Force. Recruiting Command has already recruited over 100 Seabees through this program and new CB-SAMs will start showing up in the units as soon as March '96. There are 440 accessions in FY '96, approximately 330 in FY '97 with planned increases in FY '98 and beyond.

The CB-VET program allows veterans from any service with little or no construction skills who have completed initial active duty training, have a qualifying reenlistment code and a qualifying ASVAB score to enter the Seabees without going through an "A" school.

The CB-VET Seabee would have two years to complete a rating equivalency skills program developed for the rate. The skills program would be equivalent to "A" school.

The skills program is similar to PARS, but would have to be completed in addition to all of the current military requirements for "A" school graduates. The equivalency skills qualifications could be completed through training obtained in a civilian or Navy environment.

On the job training with a contractor, community college, union apprentice schools, vocational-technical school and drill weekends or annual training are all avenues of completing

the skills requirements. The skills training qualifications would have to be completed within two years to continue the program.

The CB-VET Seabee would enlist as an E-3 and must pass the E-4 exam within the first three years of enlistment, or the Seabee will be put in inactive reserve status for the last three years of his tour.

The CB-VET program isn't recruiting yet, but is expected to be open to recruiting in July 1996.

This combination of programs will have a substantial impact on the Seabee reserve force of the future.

For more information contact your local recruiter, NCC Paul Shoemaker at 1-800-782-3510 or Cmdr. Scott Perkins at 1-510-423-0580. 



Bacteriologist Alexander Fleming is best known for what discovery?

Penicillin

Russian blue, Egyptian mau and Turkish angora are breeds of what animal?

Cat

What state contains Hells Canyon, Craters of the Moon and Sawtooth National Recreation Area?

Idaho

What future congressman led the American Football League in passing in 1960?

Jack Kemp

Ovambo is the largest ethnic group in what African country?

Namibia

China lies across how many time zones?

Five

When did Tripoli declare war on the United States for refusing to pay tribute to Arab corsairs?

1801

From the Force Master Chief

To all Seabees and Civil Engineer Corps Officers...

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for your hard work and dedication over the years. Seabees have a legendary reputation which began during World War II and continues today. It's that "Can Do" attitude both past and present that makes the Naval Construction Force, in my opinion, the finest organization in the entire Department of Defense. This will be my last article as Master Chief of the Seabees, so I would also like to thank each of you for all

the support and help in making my job easy and a most enjoyable one. My relief, CUCM(SCW) George Gooch is on board now and is enthusiastic about being your representative here in Washington. He also plans to visit Seabees world-wide, so with your continued support, I know he will do well. Welcome aboard George.

Josephine and I plan to retire in Panama City Beach, Florida, so if you ever pass through that area, be sure to look us up. Keep the "Can Do" attitude going.

All the best,

CUCM(SCW) Rick Race

Holiday Messages from . . .

Secretary of Defense, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

The holiday season brings to mind a snow-covered landscape with people gathered inside by a cozy fire and warmed by the closeness of friends and families.

This is not the typical holiday scene for many American service members. Many of you look out into the jungles of Panama or across the sands of the Middle East. Others battle winter seas or fly through snowstorms. Still others stand guard in Korea or work to aid the U.N. and NATO efforts in the former Yugoslavia.

Being separated from your families and friends during holidays is part of the sacrifice you bear as the shield for the United States. But the work you are doing is absolutely vital to the peace of the United States and the world. American service members are the surest guarantee that the United States will remain a free country, capable of providing leadership around the globe.

The holidays are a time for celebrating peace. It is fitting, then, in this season of peace to thank you and your families for the magnificent work you do.

Wherever you are this holiday season, I wish you joy and a peaceful new Year.

William J. Perry
Secretary of Defense

Heartfelt greetings for a joyful holiday season and best wishes for a peaceful New Year. During this special time, we share the wonders of faith, the spirit of goodwill and the hope for a future filled with promise.

One of the greatest privileges as Chairman is sending a personal holiday greeting to the men and women in uniform. Ours is a unique calling - each of you has a hand in establishing and preserving peace and stability throughout the world. You are a shining symbols of American goodwill, freedom and democracy. In travels throughout this great Nation, time and again I am told how very grateful Americans are for the job and personal sacrifices that you make. Your dedicated service makes me proud.

For those fortunate enough during this blessed season to be with loved ones, let's take a few moments to remember fellow soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen on station around the globe, from the Balkans to the Ecuador-Peru border to the deployed in ships at sea, the field and remote air bases, our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Mrs. Shalikhshvili and the Joint Chiefs of Staff join me in sending warmest wishes for a safe, enjoyable holiday season. May 1996 be filled with every blessing that you and your families so richly deserve.

Gen. John Shalikhshvili
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff