

# Beeline



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# What's Buzzing?

Rear Adm. David Nash

I'm delighted to have the opportunity to contribute in this issue of the Beeline. Even as you read this, Seabees have once again answered the call to serve in the Balkans. Responsiveness and diverse construction capabilities are pivotal hallmarks of today's Seabees. These capabilities have made Seabees an invaluable asset in Desert Storm, Somalia, Gitmo, and now Bosnia, as well as throughout their proud and legendary history.

Seabees are undoubtedly the "engineer force of choice" for the armed services, as demonstrated in their recent deployment to Croatia as part of Operation Joint Endeavor. A "heavy" air detachment of more than 170 Seabees from Naval Mobile Construc-

**"Seabees are undoubtedly the 'engineer force of choice'..."**

tion Battalion 133 (currently deployed to Rota, Spain) completed construction of a 2,500-person camp near the Sava River to support Army personnel entering Bosnia. In addition to construction of several other troop camps, the Seabees were tasked with upgrading facilities to support IFOR headquarters in Tuzla.

Seabees are receiving worldwide recognition and support for this mission. CNO, Adm. Mike Boorda, stopped in Rota, Spain, to say goodbye to the Seabees prior to their deployment to Bosnia. CNO told the

troops, "People all over the world are talking about peace on earth, goodwill toward men. You Seabees are going now to do something about that."

## *"The Seabees' future is bright!"*

I'm proud to be associated with the men and women of such a capable and prestigious organization as the Seabees. I have been especially pleased with the integration of reserves and actives in the Naval Construction Force. We are truly recognized as leaders in the total force concept. We need to build upon our success and continue to find ways to leverage the talents and skills of our Seabees for traditional contingency operations upon which our *"Can Do"* reputation is built, as well as increasing our contribution to the highly critical maintenance and repair needs of today's base commanders.

The future for Seabees is bright! While we will continue to fight the budget battles as DOD and Navy budgets continue to see pressure to downsize and recapitalize weapon systems, I'm convinced that the "value added" Seabees bring to the CINC's warfighting capability and to base commanders in stretching their maintenance funds will insure Seabees remain a vital part of the team. Keep up the great work Seabees, CAN DO!

*Rear Adm. Nash is Chief of Civil Engineers and Commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command*

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*CECA Paulita A. Marrero practices her patrolling skills during NMCC 7's Field Exercise at Camp Shelby, Miss., in December. (Photo by JO2 Randy D. Bagoly)*

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# Long assumes command of Atlantic Fleet Seabees

by Daryl Smith

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Rear Adm. Noah H. Long Jr. (CEC, USNR) relieved Rear Adm. William A. Heine (CEC, USNR) as commander, Second Naval Construction Brigade in a ceremony at the Washington Navy Yard Oct. 20.

Headquartered at Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek in Norfolk, Va., the Second Brigade commands Seabees of the Atlantic Fleet, totalling about 3,000 active and 6,000 reserve Seabees. The change-of-command ceremony was also the retirement ceremony for Heine, who retired with more than 30 years in the Naval Construction Force. During the ceremony, he was awarded the Legion of Merit, gold star in lieu of second award.

The guest speaker was Wade R. Sanders, deputy assistant secretary of the Navy for Reserve Affairs. He



▲ Master Chief John West presents the Second Brigade flag to Rear Adm. William Heine (center) to pass to Rear Adm. Noah Long (right). (Photo by Daryl Smith)

commended Rear Adm. Heine as "one of those rare leaders, tested in combat, who understands the true value of our military family and who really cares for the people entrusted to him." Sanders added, "He has made the active-reserve Seabee team a model for the entire force."

Long previously served as director of the Naval Reserve Contingency Engineering Program. After graduation from NROTC at Tulane University, New Orleans, La., he was commissioned in the Civil Engineer Corps in July 1965, and served five years on active duty. His first assignment was to Naval Weapons Center, China Lake, Calif., followed by an assignment at Naval Air Station, Sanford, Fla. He was then ordered to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133 in July 1968, where he made two deployments to Vietnam, serving as DELTA Company commander and ALFA Company commander.

Upon release from active duty in 1970, he affiliated with Reserve Naval Mobile Construction Bat-

talion (RNMCB) 14, and served as ALFA company commander, followed by duty as operations officer and executive officer of RNMCB 24. Other assignments included: facilities and training officer of Naval Reserve Engineering Field Division, South; equipment officer of the Third Reserve Naval Construction Regiment; first commanding officer of Reserve Naval Construction Force Support Unit 1; and commanding officer of NMCB 24.

Long served on the staff of the Commander, Reserve Naval Construction Force, followed by a two-year assignment to the Office of the Director, Shore Facilities and Planning in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations. He next commanded the Third Reserve Naval Construction Regiment, headquartered in Atlanta, Ga. He served as deputy commander, Reserve Naval Construction Force, during which time more than 2,500 Seabees from the RNCF were recalled to active duty for Operation Desert Storm.

Rear Adm. Long served as vice commander of the Reserve Naval Construction Force Support Command in Gulfport, Miss. He also has served a three-year term on the Secretary of the Navy's National Naval Reserve Policy Board.

In his civilian career, Long is president of an architectural and engineering company. ■



▲ Rear Adm. William Heine (left) shakes Wade Sanders' hand. (Photo by Daryl Smith)

## Operation Green Thunder

# NMCB 27 focuses on tactics

by JO3 Zech Carmack

BRUNSWICK, Maine -- Imagine patrolling in the densely wooded area off the south end of an abandoned taxiway on Naval Air Station (NAS) Brunswick. Imagine dodging in and out of pine trees, totally dependent upon the surrounding foliage to provide you with enough concealment from the watchful eyes of the aggressors. Masked with camouflage face paint, your squad patrols the perimeter of the camp, hoping to "be invisible" as you practice security patrolling techniques. Through it all one question continues to ring in your head: "Where are they?"

For Seabees of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 27 at NAS Brunswick, Maine, military defensive tactical skills were the major focus of the three-day field training exercise (FTX) known as Operation Green Thunder.

Seabees from the Readiness Support Site (RSS) were trained in a variety of basic combat skills ranging from security patrolling to principles of small unit leadership.

Cmdr. Richard Michel, NMCB-27's commanding officer, commenting on the leadership experience the FTX provided said, "It was quite realistic for us to be working on an air base. If mobilized, one of our primary missions would be to conduct emergency rapid runway repair to damaged air strips, or create new ones."

During this training exercise the Seabees were exposed to numerous tactical aspects of terrain that the site offered. "We got hit by all of the types of variables, including the weather, dealt with it, and completed our training objectives," stated Lt. j.g. Larry Merola, NMCB-27's assistant officer in charge of the FTX.

The Seabees also received cooperative training from instructors of Auburn's A Company Q/304 76th Division of the Maine Army National Guard, and from Marines of MASS-6 NAS South Weymouth, Mass. The Guard instructors provided detailed instruction during the field 'classroom'



▲ Seabees try not to draw attention to themselves while practicing small unit patrolling procedures. (Photo by JO3 Zech Carmack)

portion of the FTX and later conducted a simulated attack against the Seabees during the tactical portion.

The Marines provided communications training and officers' and chiefs' training.

Lt. j.g. Craig Rachupka, NMCB-27's FTX officer-in-charge, stated that the training objectives of this field exercise were to "expose the Seabees to a defensive tactical environment, to reinforce the principles of small unit leadership, and establish unit integrity throughout the members of Hotel, Alfa, and Bravo Companies of NMCB-27."

"It was a classic training and logistics evolution in which we learned what it takes to mobilize and defend such a detachment if ever called upon to do so. It is important to remember that our 'prospective operating environment' is in the field and *not* the office," said Michel.

Merola stressed the necessity of field exercises. "Because we are a construction battalion, we must train to maintain our tactical readiness posture as well as our construction skills," he said. □



▲ NMCB 27 Seabees listen to an instructor from the Maine National Guard. (Photo by JO3 Zech Carmack)

# UCT 1 helps diving mishap victims

by JO2 Drew Scharnhorst

Four German divers are in good health today due to the combined efforts of several U.S. Navy teams and a little luck.

Members of Naval Underwater Construction Team (UCT) 1 aided the divers Sept. 8 following a potentially fatal diving accident off the coast of Portugal. According to UCT 1's SWC (SCW/DV) David Aalders, the Germans ran into trouble in about 140 feet of water while filming a coral reef near the top of a sea mountian for a German television program.

"They'd been doing 140 feet (dives) for 30 to 40 minutes with decompression stops," said Aalders. "They got stuck in a current on the bottom and they ran out of air."

The lack of air forced the divers to abandon the normal diving practice of rising slowly to acclimate their bodies

to the pressure change. "They came straight to the surface, and skipped about 15 minutes of decompression," said HM1 Daryl Stanga, a diving medical technician.

"When you dive, your body's always trying to achieve equilibrium with its environment," he explained.

As a swimmer dives deeper, external pressure increases, and so does the nitrogen in the air the diver breathes. The body tries to absorb the nitrogen from the lungs into the tissues. Coming back up, the process is reversed. Bubbles are formed if the diver comes back up faster than the body can get the nitrogen out of his tissues. The bubbles displace nerves, blood vessels and tissues, which causes "the bends."

USS Wasp (LHD 1), responding to a distress call from the divers' ship, dispatched a search-and-rescue helicopter and team. The four Germans

were flown to Naval Station Rota, where UCT's decompression chamber was waiting.

Because the chamber isn't very large, two of the Germans sat on small benches built into the chamber, and the others lay down on the deck. "I had a little walkway of about two steps in the middle, to go back and forth between them to monitor their progress, while other members watched the gauges and valves outside the chamber, Stanga said.

The Germans were observed for about 10 minutes after they exited the chamber. "We were watching for any recurring symptoms ... like dizziness, (or) numbness. We had to check them out properly before we could let them go," Stanga explained.

The four divers spent the night at Naval Hospital Rota for observation before being released.



▲ UCT 1 members observe and talk with the rescued divers. (Photo by JO2 Drew Scharnhorst)

# CBMU 202 Seabees push training exercise to limit

by JO2 Scot Cregan

CAMP FOGARTY, R.I. — Seabee Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit (CBMU) 202, headquartered in Groton, Conn., conducted a three day weekend Field Exercise (FEX) here September 22-24.

At night and in heavy New England rain, CBMU 202's three detachments from New London, Conn., Newport, R.I., and Albany, N.Y., were issued everything they needed to survive the weekend: their field gear, Meals Ready to Eat (MRE), an M-16 service rifle and an M-9 pistol.

The Seabees quickly set up shelter-half tents in the inclement weather.

Fortunately, the unit's advance party had already set up the command tents and established communications. Equipment, weapons and field gear were also staged for issue to the arriving main body.

After military classroom training the following day, the unit began a main tactical exercise utilizing the skills they had learned. The woods of Camp Fogarty were lit up by trip flares and automatic fire bursts as the unit engaged the aggressor force of Marine Corps instructors throughout the evening. One highlight of the evening occurred when two Seabee security



▲ Seabee Military Instructors BU1 Don Fumarell, and EO2 Steven Ferreira, CBMU 202, set up simulated flash booby traps. (Photo by JO2 Scot Cregan)



▲ Reserve Seabees of Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit (CBMU) 202 establish a command tent during the unit's three-day field exercise (FEX) at Camp Fogarty, R.I. (Photo by JO2 Scot Cregan.)

patrols pinned down the aggressors as they were planning an attack on the Seabee compound.

On the final day, after a debriefing on lessons learned, CBMU 202 members cleaned their weapons, packed their tents and gear, and convoyed back to their detachment sites.

"I've been to numerous field exercises," commented Lt. Michael Schafer, the unit's executive officer, who acted as the unit's operations officer during the exercise, "and many of them have a lot of down time waiting for training to begin, supplies to arrive and so on. This weekend FEX was well organized with continuous training supplied back-to-back."

Rear Adm. W. A. Heine, CEC, USNR, former Commander of the Second Naval Construction Brigade, who was present at the FEX for a change of command ceremony, praised the unit's military readiness training effort during the exercise.



▲ A Seabee cuts limbs off a fallen tree. (Photo by Daryl Smith)

by Daryl Smith

**GREAT BARRINGTON, Mass.** — Seabees recently helped residents of Massachusetts recover from a devastating tornado that cut a seven-mile swath through the South Berkshire County area last Memorial Day.

In addition to wrecking more than 100 homes and businesses, leveling the fairgrounds grandstand and killing three people, the twister left thousands of downed trees strewn across the hilly countryside. Combined with a summer-long drought, the dry trees created a serious fire hazard for the towns of Great Barrington, Monterey and Egremont. The area did not qualify for federal aid, and homeowners insurance does not cover removal of fallen trees unless they strike a dwelling.

U.S. Senator John Kerry sought assistance from the military, and the Seabees responded. Funding for the project was provided by the Office of the Secretary of Defense under the Civilian Military Cooperative Action program.

The program allows military personnel to receive training by performing meaningful work for communities.

"This unique plan makes government work for the communities trying

## Seabees help Mass. community after tornado

to recover from the tornado," Sen. Kerry said.

The work crew consisted of 11 reserve Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 27, headquartered at Brunswick, Maine; NMCB 133 Reserve Augment from Albany, N.Y.; and Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit (CBMU) 202 from New London, Conn. They worked on the project from Sept. 11-30.

"It was a tinderbox when we first came here," said Lt. Cmdr. A. Mike Edgar, officer-in-charge of the project. "I think it was great that the Navy did commit to do this project ... it feels really good to be associated with a task like this that benefits real people," he said.

Operating out of a basement office in a historic law building in Great Barrington, Edgar and his team met daily with town emergency services officials to plan each phase of the recovery effort.

Maps on the wall were dotted with



▲ EA2 Passarelli, of NMCB 27, attaches a rope to a leaning tree. (Photo by Daryl Smith)

colored pins, marking sites for cleanup along the tornado's path. The scope of the Seabees' work was to remove downed trees and brush that presented a fire hazard near homes and to build firebreaks to prevent brush fires from spreading toward homes in wooded areas.

The amount of uprooted and broken trees to be removed was staggering. In some places, the tornado had left trees piled on top of each other nearly eight feet thick.

To accomplish the work, Seabees rented specialized equipment, such as chainsaws, chippers, skidders, a front-end loader and a tracked excavator. They also received chainsaw safety training.

During the three-week project, the Seabees cleared trees from areas around 32 homes, cut two firebreaks and cleared nine access roads so that firefighting equipment could get to wooded areas should a fire occur.

"The work they did was really great," said Edward McCormick, Emergency Management director for the area. "Once they got the equipment, they really worked very efficiently and cooperated well with the public and private sector ... They worked hard from sunup to sundown."

McCormick said members from the town are very thankful for the Seabees' assistance. "The Seabees are very professional and cooperative and just very nice people to deal with. I was very impressed with their demeanor and interaction with everyone in the community."

In addition to the satisfaction of helping the community, Edgar stated that the experience has provided realistic training. "It's good to be able to confirm that you can go into a mission, work with a group of people, organize and execute a plan and have it work ... It's good to test systems and see them work in the way they're supposed to," he commented.

# Adm. Boorda sends NMCB 133's Air Det to Bosnia with words of hope

by JOC (SW) Terry Briggs

ROTA, Spain (NWSA) — It's not often that the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) shows up to say goodbye to deploying squadrons. But for more than 175 Seabees in Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 133, their deployment to Tuzla, Bosnia, is hardly routine.

Adm. Mike Boorda, the Navy's top military officer, dropped by to talk with the troops Dec. 18, and reinforce his support of their vital mission.

"People all over the world are talking about peace on earth, goodwill toward men. You Seabees are going now

to do something about that," said Boorda. "This is the Christmas season and you're living what it is about."

The Seabees were given a brief history lesson as Boorda outlined the history and culture of Bosnia.

World War I began with an assassination in Sarajevo, Boorda reminded the audience, "And that war led to World War II. Twenty years later more than 40 million people had died. And it all started in Sarajevo," said Boorda.

The CNO expressed concern about the safety of the mission, telling the Seabees about the training they were to receive in mine warfare.

Millions of anti-personnel mines are known to litter the landscape in Bosnia-Herzegovina, said Boorda, "so stay alert, pay attention to the training because the Navy wants you back."

More than 300 Seabees

Boorda went into a nearby building to talk with Seabees who were unable to attend the formation.

Meeting and greeting are Boorda's speciality and he did plenty of both with the Seabees.

*"People all over the world are talking about peace on earth, goodwill toward men. You Seabees are going now to do something about that."*

gathered at Camp Mitchell to hear Boorda and ask questions of the four-star admiral.

Before leaving the camp,

"It's great that he came to see us," said Builder 3rd Class Sam H. Rutherford. The lanky Parkersburg, W. Va., native wasn't even in the Navy when war erupted in Bosnia four years ago.

But he agreed with Boorda's call for action. "He's right, they need us there right now and if I can do something to help, I will," said Rutherford.

Boorda told the Seabees that he's met many veterans of World War II this past year. "They didn't remember the evaluation system or how many people slept to a room; they tell you how they went and won a tragic war," he said.

In 50 years, Boorda said, the Seabees of NMCB 133 may have similar stories.

The admiral flew in Europe on Sunday, December 17, and visited seven deployed ships before stopping in Rota.

Boorda was here for about an hour and a half before flying back to Washington D.C.



▲ Adm. Mike Boorda holds a "CNO call" while visiting the NMCB 133 Seabees prior to their deployment to Croatia and then on to Bosnia. (Photo by PH2 Douglas F. Mooney)

# 133's Air Det suits up to ship out

by JO2 Drew Scharnhorst

**NORFOLK (NWSA)** — Cold weather training in the mild climate of Spain might seem a bit unusual, but for the more than 175 Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 133 headed for Bosnia, it's a must.

The battalion, homeported in Gulfport, Miss., and deployed throughout the Mediterranean, was ready logically for the mission. However, they needed proper training to prepare them for the bitter cold of the Bosnian winter.

The battalion learned a lot from a small group of Marines from Camp Lejeune, N.C. The group travels around the world, training military personnel on cold-weather situations. Led by Marine Staff Sgt. Don Barker, the battalion gives lectures and shows photos relating to problems associ-



▲ County singer Larry Gatlan performs for Seabees at Kaposvár Norty barracks on Christmas Eve. (Official U.S. Navy Photo)

ated with Arctic-type environments.

One such problem, according to Barker, is individual or group hibernation, which is "where no one wants to 'come out and play'. People will stay in their hooches and want to

sit around the stove, keeping warm."

The San Francisco native stressed the need for interpersonal contact and communication, so personnel don't become what he termed "cocooned" or too wrapped up in their own little

world.

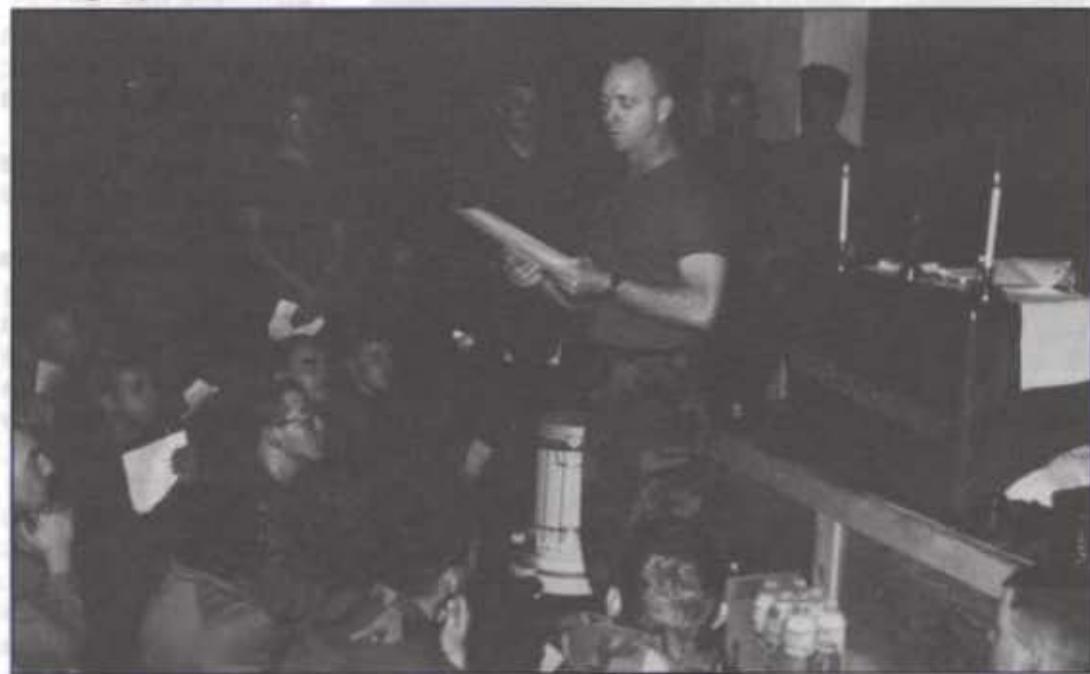
Another part of the cold-weather training dealt with the causes, symptoms and treatments of such ailments as frostbite, snow blindness and even dehydration. Baker advises students to wear sunglasses, even on cloudy days.

Tennessee native Marine Sgt. Tony Camacho, another of the group's instructors, explained that the sun's ultraviolet rays are unaffected by clouds. When the rays reflect off snow on the ground, the eye's retinas can become sunburned — a condition common to skiers.

Dehydration prevention was also stressed. Because people won't perspire as much in the Bosnian chill, Camacho said, they may not consume as much water as they should. He recommended drinking about three quarts of water daily.

Conserving one's energy is equally important.

Barker said the body's



▲ A Christmas candlelight service is held at Kaposvár, Hungary. The service was conducted by Lt. Dean Hoelv, CEC, USNR. Seabees were staying in an old Russian Scud Missile barracks. (Official U.S. Navy Photo)

ability to get used to a frigid climate depends on several factors, including altitude. "It usually takes about 30 days," Baker said. "Everybody is different."

Lt. Cmdr. Doug Morton, the battalion's operations officer, said the Seabees' mission is to build four base camps for the U.S. Army: one will accommodate 1,800 soldiers and two others are each sized for 1,200 more. The largest should accommodate 2,500, Morton said.

Morton described 133's job for the Army as providing "hotel services" — good quality-of-life housing, medical, dining, facilities and showers.

Morton, from China Grove, N.C., said the Seabees are self-sufficient and don't need to order any special equipment to go into war-torn regions.

"Our forte' is when the balloon goes up, somebody

says there's a contingency, we are able to assimilate our heavy construction equipment and our camp support equipment and be self-sustaining," said Morton. "We can move to whatever theater of operations they need us."

For the unit's personal needs, the 2nd Naval Construction Brigade in Norfolk had been keeping an eye on the situation in Bosnia and ordered all of the state-of-the-art cold-weather gear necessary, including polypropylene gloves and sweaters, Gortex jackets and cold-weather boots, said Morton. "We've outfitted everybody in the detachment, and we have plenty left over in case we need it."

The Seabees, normally trained in weapons use, also learned about rules of engaging hostile forces. Morton said the Seabees' camps will be set up in areas already cleared of hazards by Army mine-countermeasures teams, but the battalion learned mine recognition and countermeasures — just in case.



▲ Members of NMCB 133 ready equipment for upcoming operations in Bosnia. (Official U.S. Navy Photo)

ards by Army mine-countermeasures teams, but the battalion learned mine recognition and countermeasures — just in case.

Morton said he knew what to expect prior to going into Bosnia. "We know that it's snowing; we know it's cold; that's why we're going through the training; that's why we have the gear."

Many Seabees have expressed positive feelings about their deployment. Storekeeper 2nd Class Ken Clark, from Farrell, Pa., said, "It makes me feel good to know we're helping our own to make their tour better."

Builder Constructionman Recruit Cristina Iaconcig said she's surprised to find herself going to Bosnia. The Harrisonburg, Va., native said she's been attached to the battalion only a month, and in the Navy for only seven (months). "What a welcome aboard," she said, laughing.

Steel Worker 2nd Class Nathaniel Poke, from Asburn, Ga., said he's excited about the deployment. "This is one of the biggest



▲ NMCB 133's Air Det prepares for deployment to NATO peacekeeping operations in Bosnia. (Official U.S. Navy Photo)

# ... And they're off!

## NMCB 133's Air Det sets out for Bosnia with warm wishes and hopeful spirits

Lt. Elizabeth Brown

ROTA, Spain (NWSA) -- Airplanes filled with Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133 covered the skies over Rota, Spain recently, as they deployed in support of Operation Joint Endeavor. After almost a week of being on standby, nearly 180 Seabees from NMCB 133 headed to the former Republic of Yugoslavia to build camps for Army personnel arriving in theater.

"I am just glad we're fi-

nally going," said Construction Mechanic 2nd Class Russell Preston of Jacksonville, Ill.

"This is believed to be the largest embark of Seabee equipment and material on an air transport since the Vietnam War," said Lt. Brent Miller, NMCB 133 public affairs officer. "This is also the first time in history that Seabees have loaded a C-17 aircraft," Miller said. The deployment, which started at 4:30 a.m., consisted of loading 20 planes with 275,000 pounds of palletized mate-

rial, 58 tons of building equipment ranging from portable generators to front-end loaders, as well as HUMVEEs, medical vehicles and trucks, all with IFOR markings freshly stenciled on their sides.

"It feels good to support the Seabees," said Air Force crew member Staff Sgt. Joe Baldwin. "It looks like they are ready to go."

Seabees not deploying were busy preparing and loading equipment which lined the runway, under the glare of floodlights. A typical air detachment consists of 36 pieces of equipment and 87 people and is loaded in 48 hours, said Master Chief Utilitiesman Tom Lavinski of the battalion's Mount Out Control Center, the heart of the embark operation in Rota.

In addition to equipment shipped from Spain, Seabees at the battalion's homeport in Gulfport, Miss., shipped 520,000 pounds of building material on four C-5 aircraft destined for Hungary. This material is enough to build just one of the four Army camps — similar shipments are expected in the coming weeks.

Before boarding the plane, the deploying Seabees dressed in cold weather gear and stopped by the battalion armory where they were issued M-16s and given a weapons brief. Seabees were extensively prepared for their mission by Navy, Marine Corps and Army personnel over the last two weeks.

*g deployment to Bosnia. 133's U.S. operations by CNO Adm. (to)*

things I'm ever going to do. I'm going to go and do my best, help my comrades, get the job done and move out."

Clark, Iaconcig and Poke said they've seen cold-weather climates in the United States before, but expressed appreciation for the cold-weather training they received.

"I don't think [the weather there] is going to be too drastic," said Clark. "And if it is ... then [the training] will help me a lot."

Poke said, "I've been in cold weather before, and this (training) kind of enhanced on that. It just went into more detail on cold weather. I know I'll be O.K."

"They know this is what they're to do; this is what they signed up for," Morton said. "They are all experts in their field of contingency construction, and they are all fired up. They just want to get to work."



▲ CNO Adm. Mike Boorda thanks EO2 Joshua Turner and EOCN Michael Woodin for their efforts in preparing NMCB 133 for deployment to Croatia and then to Bosnia. (Photo by PH2 Douglas F. Mooney)

# Short Bursts

## New Uniform Regulations

**WASHINGTON (NSS)** — The latest version of the Navy's uniform regulations, NAVPERS 15665I, is now being distributed. With more women assigned to deployable units, the Navy uniform board has reformatted the uniform regulations to better demonstrate the uniform differences between the genders by positioning men and women in the same uniform on facing pages.

Prior to the "I" version, the manual was broken down by both gender and paygrade. Now, the manual is divided into three categories — officer, enlisted and chief's uniforms. Next month NAVPERS 15665I will also be available on CD-ROM. The reformatting of the regs makes scrolling through the manual much easier. A "Hypertext Link" quickly guides Sailors to topics or instructions related to the material they are viewing on the screen.

## Good Conduct Medals

**WASHINGTON (NSS)** — Sailors can now earn a good conduct medal in three years, instead of the four years previously required, because of a change in eligibility approved last week by Secretary of the Navy John Dalton.

The Secretary's action also affects the Marine Corps Reserve Medal and the Naval Reserve Meritorious Service Medal. The change for all three became effective January 1.

The Navy Good Conduct Medal was established by the Secretary of the Navy on April 26, 1869, to recognize the "all around good Navy enlisted person, qualified in all phases of conduct and performance." The award was given based on three-year increments until November 1, 1963, when requirements were lengthened to four years.

The change will bring the Navy in line with the other military services

which currently award good conduct medals for three-year periods.

A forthcoming NAVADMIN will contain details.

## Naval Academy Annapolis Repairs

A 10-person crew of Seabee divers from Underwater Construction Team (UCT) 1 recently completed repairs to two waterfront facilities at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md.

Both projects involved extensive diving to repair pilings and other underwater supports, which were damaged or deteriorated.

The first project was the reinforcement of several pilings supporting a large boat storage building on the Severn River.

The second project was the refurbishment of a 550-foot wooden pedestrian bridge over Dorsey Creek.

The foot bridge was built in 1959 and connects the main campus of the Naval Academy to an area known as hospital point, where the midshipmen obstacle course and playing fields are located.

## Fairwinds '96 Improves Haitian Life

**PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti** - U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 5 has been involved in significant construction improving the quality of life for some Haitian residents recently, as part of Exercise Fairwinds '96.

NMCB 5 deployed an 88-person detail to Haiti December 5, 1995, in support of the exercise, which is a USACOM joint engineer exercise being administrated by Support Group Haiti.

Prior to the deployment, a Planning and Estimating team of nine Seabees arrived to prioritize and plan the various projects that have been requested by local officials.

Leading Petty Officer, BU1 Bob Godden said, "We are working with the U.S. Support Group, whose primary focus is on engineering efforts that improve the quality of life for the Haitians."

According to BU1 Bob Godden, who was LPO of the P&E team, the Deployment for Training (DFT) had to overcome many logistical and funding issues before completing its tasking.

Projects tasked to the Seabees included: repairing three schools; 700 cubic yards of concrete road construction; water well development and base camp improvements. NMCB 7 will relieve the current detail and continue operations through May '96. Security support for the Seabees is provided by 63 U.S. Marines from Fleet Antiterrorist Security Team, Norfolk, Va.

While the construction projects will provide an optimum training experience for the Seabees, they will also have a positive impact on the quality of life for the Haitian people. Seabees deployed an advance party to take over projects from Air Force's 820th Red Horse Squadron.

## FY 97 CPO Selection Boards

A message sent out by the Chief of Naval Personnel Aug. 22, 1995, announced opportunities for highly motivated Master Chief Petty Officers to serve on FY 97 Enlisted Reserve Selection Boards. Chiefs who served on FY 96 selection boards are not eligible to serve on a FY 97 board. Applicants must certify their availability for duty during the entire period the board is scheduled to be in session and must conform to current Physical Readiness Program standards. Applications from minority and female members are strongly encouraged to ensure necessary representation.

For application deadlines refer to Narrative Admin Message COMNAVRESFOR 130858Z SEP 95.

# NMCB 18 Air Det gets there first

by JO2 Maurice N. Regnier

**FORT HUNTER-LIGGETT Calif.** - The elite fighting force from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 18, known as the battalion's Air Detachment, recently flew into Ft. Hunter-Liggett aboard C-130 aircraft combat ready.

Part of the Operation Bearing Dual training exercise conducted on the California coastal mountain military reservation, the NMCB 18 Air Det was tasked to be the first element of the battalion to deploy into the mobilization position.

Taking charge of the first stages of the mission, 73 NMCB 18 Air Det members quickly established a defensive perimeter around the dirt landing strip, designated Schoonover LZ. With their arrival, the Seabees of 18 had landed.

To beat the battalion main body and advance party to the Operation Bearing Dual exercise area, Air Det members loaded their rolling stock aboard C-130 transport aircraft flown by the 115th Squadron of the California Air National Guard. Mounting out from the Naval Air Station Point Mugu airfield, Air Guard loadmasters instructed the Seabees on aircraft loading techniques.

The correct placement of heavy equipment aboard the transports is critical in flying through narrow mountain passes to a precise landing area.

Each Air Det member is a volunteer. "Through word of mouth among the battalion detachments, NMCB 18 Seabees hear about the existence of the Air Det," said Air Det Officer-In-Charge, Lt. Morgan D. Shepard. "We don't advertise, so recruitment into the Air Det has traditionally been quite informal," he added.

According to NMCB 18 force structuring requirements, specific rates are sought for Air Det duty.

"Because we must be a self-contained unit — since we are directed to be the first Seabee element sent into

an actual mobilization site, the Air Det operates like its own mini battalion," Shepard stated.

"To do this, specific rates needed include EO, CM, BU, SW, UT, CE, and headquarters rates. To be combat ready, we encourage Seabees interested in joining the Air Det to have completed the Seabee Special Warfare program," he said.

Once occupying the Ft. Hunter-Liggett LZ, a dirt landing strip five miles away from the designated NMCB-18 encampment site, Air Det members had to contend with foul weather as they launched their mission.

"The second night we were here, the sky dumped freezing rain, sleet, and blowing snow on us. The temperature dipped to the low 20's," Lt. Shepard said. "We dug fighting pits, and used our ponchos and half shelters to stay dry."

On the third day, they moved out to the encampment site, and immediately assisted advance party NMCB 18 Bravo Company members in setting up tents and establishing the defense perimeter.

"Nothing was set up when we got there, three days prior to the scheduled arrival of the battalion's main

body," noted the Air Det OIC.

"After we welcomed the first advance party convoy to the encampment site, we helped unload the trucks and began to set up the camp."

"Setting up the Air Det command post and the camp perimeter was the first priority, since, by the rules of the exercise engagement, we had been placed in a tactical situation," he added.

Following the arrival of the NMCB 18 main body, Air Det members were assimilated into standing companies. One of their most important contributions to the success of the exercise was to become the backbone of the quick reaction security teams.

"Because the Air Det is specifically geared to provide security for the vital battalion Command Operations Center area, members became the official COC REAC force," Shepard said.

"The Operation Bearing Dual situation provided an excellent opportunity for the NMCB 18 Air Det to show what it can do. To the members credit, when the chips were down, everybody pulled together."

Bolstering that opinion, the battalion Marine Corps military advisor, Staff Sgt. Mike Rorvik said, "The NMCB-18 Air Det is a very good working team. They are some of the best the battalion has, and they proved it."



▲ NMCB 18's Air Det members descend from California Air National Guard C-130 aircraft at Fort Hunter-Liggett's dirt landing strip. (Photo by JO2 Maurice Regnier)

# From the ArchIve

## Reserve Seabees contributed to 'Total Force' during Operation Desert Storm

*At the end of Gulf War hostilities, almost one-fourth of all Seabees on active duty and more than one third of all Seabees in the Persian Gulf area were Naval Reservists ...*

by JOCS Tim Padgett, USN (Ret.)

Five years ago, 2,849 Reserve Naval Construction Force (RNCF) Seabees were recalled, in support of Operation Desert Storm, in the largest activation of naval reservists since the Korean War. They were deployed to Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, and sites throughout the Pacific Ocean, Puerto Rico, and the United States.

These "citizen-Seabees" performed a variety of tasks, including construction support of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force and the 2nd Marine Division in Saudi Arabia, loading ships, and ensuring the flow of supplies and equipment to the Persian Gulf.

By the end of hostilities, almost one-fourth of all Seabees on active duty and more than one-third of all Seabees in the Persian Gulf area were Naval Reservists, giving further credence to the "Total Force" concept.

More than two-thirds of the recalled RNCF members belonged to Reserve Naval Mobile Construction Battalions (NMCBs) 16, 23, and 24. NMCB 24 was deployed to Saudi Arabia in December 1990, NMCB 23 was deployed to the Pacific in November 1990, and NMCB 16 was deployed to Puerto Rico to backfill for active duty Seabees transferred to the Persian Gulf.

The balance of recalled RNCF members were drawn from 17 different units. They served throughout the country and overseas, in support of fleet hospitals, and supply, construction and general administrative units.



▲ NMCB 24's "Sprung" crew assembles the frame for a tension fabric structure. The verticals are hydraulically extended five inches after fabric is captured in the groove to create a tight cover. (NR PWC Subic Bay, Philippines)



▲ The "Sprung" crew at SPECWARGRU (SEALS) Camp at Half Moon Bay (KSA) completes the frame up and stands ready to thread in the fabric panels. (NR PWC Subic Bay, Philippines)

# When Desert Shield became Desert Storm

by JOCS Tim Padgett, USN (Ret.)

CAMP ROHRBACH, Saudi Arabia — At 0001 Zulu (or 3:00 a.m. local time in Saudi Arabia) on January 16, 1991, Operation Desert Shield officially became Operation Desert Storm.

The first indication of the change to the reservists of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 24 came at about 2 a.m. local time, when the battalion's commanding officer, Cmdr. Jim McGarrah, was informed that the communications section was receiving urgent messages for the regiment.

Shortly after 3:00 a.m. local time, McGarrah was called to the Combat Operations Center (COC) where he received official word from Cmdr. Jack Ward, chief staff officer of the Third Naval Construction Regiment, that the conflict had started.

McGarrah and Cmdr. John Doyle, C.O., NMCB 40, decided that it would be prudent for the first couple of hours to have the men in their bunkers in case of retaliatory strike, although there was no indication of any such reaction by Iraq.

As local Saudi air raid sirens filled the night, the battalion was awakened, dressed in anti-chemical warfare gear, took their air raid packs and mustered in their assigned bunkers.

The bunkers quickly reported in to the command bunker by telephone that all personnel were accounted for. Everyone briefly gathered around portable radios to listen to Armed Forces Radio/Television Services (AFRTS) broadcasting then-President George Bush's address and news reports describing massive air strikes against Iraq as well as targets in Kuwait.

At 6:00 a.m. the men were secured from air raid stations, informed that breakfast would soon be served, and advised that they would report to critical projects. A quick call to 24's Readiness Support Site (RSS) supervisor, CMCS Tom Manes, initiated a notification sequence through the battalion's ombuds-men, telling families that "All is well!"



▲ NMCB 24 main body on C-141 flight from Cubi Point, Philippines, to Bahrain. (Photo by PWC Subic Bay, Philippines)

## Cuban migrants volunteer for Seabee projects

by Lt. Timothy C. Liberatore

GUANTANAMO BAY -- The 22nd Naval Construction Regiment (Forward) recently met the challenge of employing an additional labor force of more than 100 Cuban migrants, who volunteered to assist the Seabees on projects while awaiting processing to the United States.

The enthusiastic and often highly skilled migrants provided invaluable assistance on the job sites where they increased productivity while at the same time improved the quality of life at Gitmo.

As Operation Sea Signal draws nearer to completion, Joint Task Force 160 has adjusted its focus towards beautifying and restoring the Naval Station to a condition better than when the task force arrived. The Cuban volunteers assisted the program by joining forces under three Seabee platoon commanders and several squad leaders.

Since their employment, the Cuban volunteers were a key factor in meeting the deadline for several extremely important projects including the migrant galley complex, and the Gloria Estefan concert stage.

According to Lt. Ray Green, retrograde project officer, projects under the new base restoration and beautification program required less Seabee supervision and incorporated more migrant labor.

## News to Use

## *What You'll Make in '96*

**MONTHLY BASIC PAY TABLE**

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RESERVE PAY FOR 1 MONTH

JOURNAL OF CLIMATE

# Seabee Memorial Scholarships awarded

by JOSA Angela Fitzgerald

At the 1995 annual meeting of the Seabee Memorial Scholarship Award (SMSA) Board of Directors meeting the amount of the annual scholarship award was increased from \$1,300 to \$1,350 with the number of awardees at 66, including the two allowed for grandchildren.

For the 94-95 school year there were 67 students under scholarship. During this period \$83,850 was given to the students.

With 50 continuing students, the board selected 16 new recipients. The breakdown was 13 high school graduates, two college students and one grandchild awardee.

The recipients are as follows:

*Michelle L. Banta*, the daughter of CE1 Francisco P. Banta, Jr. CE1 Banta served with NMNCB 10 and CBMU 302. Michelle received the Captain Tom Mitchell Scholarship.

*Christina M. Boles*, the daughter of EO1 Terry L. Boles. EO1 Boles served with NMNCB 121 and drills with CBHU 11. Christina received the Cmdr. Joseph R. Decker, CEC, USNR Scholarship.

*Renee I. Butler*, the daughter of EA2 Joseph N. Butler. EA2 Butler served in Vietnam with NMNCB 121.

*Renee* received the Carolyn Bussey Saunders Scholarship.

*Charity E. Crabtree*, the daughter of SWC Edwin B. Crabtree. SWC Crabtree served during Operation Desert Storm and currently drills with NMNCB 24. Charity received The RNMNCB 24 Scholarship.

*Patrick Geoghegan* who is the son of UTP2 Laurence J. Geoghegan. UTP2 Geoghegan served with the Atlantic Support Activities, Det Alfa. Patrick received the Annie Vertice Wallace White Wood, Island X-24, SVA Memorial Scholarship.

*Samantha Hodges*, the daughter of BUCN Charles L. Hodges. BUCN Hodges served in Vietnam with NMNCB 9. Samantha received The Hellen M. Benline Scholarship.

*Sara Jutte*, the daughter of EO3 Robert A. Jutte. EO3 Jutte served with NMNCB 4. Sara received the Eileen M. Anderson Scholarship.

*Angela M. Krumi*, the daughter of CM2 John W Krumi. CM2 Krumi drills at the Naval Reserve Center Lincoln, Neb. Angela received the Robert McAlpin Memorial Scholarship.

*Wendi Lynn*, the daughter of EO3 Daniel B. Lynn. EO3 Lynn served in Vietnam with CBMU 302. Wendi received the Capt. Anthony P. Pasquariello, CEC, USNR Scholarship.

*Jessica L. Marsh*, the daughter of CM1 Jerry C. Marsh. CM1 Marsh drilled with NMNCB 28. Jessica received the Captain F. M. Derr/U.S. Naval Academy Class of 1957 Scholarship.

*Jamie L. McLaughlin*, the daughter of BU2 Robert D. McLaughlin. BU2 McLaughlin served with NMNCB 4 and drilled with RNMNCB 27. Jamie received the Peggy Cornell Benline Scholarship.

*Jamel R. Schmitz*, the daughter of CM2 Mark F. Schmitz. CM2 Schmitz served with NMNCB 26 during Vietnam. Jamel received the Frank Bonadio/Building Trades AFL-CIO Scholarship.

*Michael M. Vale*, the son of CM2 Earl M. Vale. CM2 Vale served with NMNCB 40 and CBPACDET in Vietnam. Michael received the Rear Admiral Richard M. Rohrbach Memorial Scholarship.

*Melanie Trestka*, the daughter of SC3C Stanley J. Trestka. SC3C Served at NCTC Davisville, RI, and with NCB 143 during World War II. Melanie received the Rear Admiral and Mrs. George Reider Scholarship.

*Nita Missig*, the daughter of CM3C Raymond J. Missig. CM3C Missig served with CBMU 548 during WWII. Nita received the Captain Herbert P. Levine Scholarship.

*Christina M. Davie*, the granddaughter of MM1C James G. Davie. MM1C Davie served with the 24th Construction Battalion during WWII. Christina received the SV&A scholarship, which fully funds an additional scholarship for Seabee grandchildren.

## NMNCB 25 moves headquarters to Fort McCoy

by JO2 Ron Flesvig

FT. McCOY, Wis. -- In August, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMNCB) 25 moved its headquarters to Ft. McCoy, Wis., after the Navy closed Glenview Naval Air Station (NAS) Illinois.

NMNCB 25 immediately began searching for a new home at other federal and military installations in

Wisconsin and Illinois.

Relocating to Ft. McCoy was advantageous to the Seabees for many reasons. Located in west, central Wisconsin, Ft. McCoy is near the center of the battalion's geographic area. Ft. McCoy covers 67,000 acres and serves as a training facility for the United States Army, United States Army Reserve, the National Guard, United States Marine Corps, United States

Marine Corp Reserve, and other national and international military and civilian agencies.

"We are pleased to have the Seabees with us," Lt. Col. Terry Sunderlage said. He was Ft. McCoy's director of plans and operations. He was familiar with NMNCB 25 because detachments from Wisconsin worked on construction projects for the fort.

# Battle 'E' awarded to NMCB 1

by Lt. John A. Klem

GULFPORT, Miss. -- Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 1 recently arrived at Naval Construction Battalion Center Gulfport to begin a seven month homeport period, after a deployment to Camp Mitchell, Rota, Spain. The deployment culminated with the award of the Battle "E" to the Battalion.

During its deployment, NMBC 1 conducted deployments for training (DFT) to Tunisia and Albania; loaded European Excess Civil Engineer Support Equipment (CESE) on four military sealift ships bound for the United States; built an instrument landing system platform out of heavy timber, and completed an instructional facility.

The battalion's two DFT's played a key role in NMBC 1's selection as the Atlantic Fleet Naval Construction Force Best of Type for fiscal year 95.

Operation Atlas Drop, located in Tunisia, presented the battalion with challenging construction projects. The battalion was tasked with building an aircraft bombing and strafing range that will be jointly used by the Tunisian and

United States' military.

Immediately after DFT Tunisia returned, NMCB 1 sent its second DFT into Albania. This short-fused deployment was part of a Secretary of Defense initiative entitled "Partnership for Peace".

NMBC 1 was tasked with making upgrades to the region's only trauma hospital. The DFT worked as part of a Joint Task Force alongside the South Carolina National Guard and the Marine Corps Reserves.

Lt. Nicholas Merry, DFT officer in charge, spoke about his experiences in Albania saying, "Joint operations are the wave of the future; this project opened our eyes to the capabilities of the National Guard and United States Marine Corps Reserves and made them aware of what the Seabees are and what Seabee 'Can Do' spirit means."

The battalion worked all deployment on a project to improve the water quality at Naval Station, Rota. The waterline project will replace many of the corroded ductile iron pipes that are in use around the station with newer polyvinyl chloride (PVC) pipes. In some places around the base the older duc-

tile iron pipes had completely rusted through and were leaking water. Since southern Spain is currently experiencing a severe drought, water could not afford to be lost.

The battalion also completed two important projects for the Naval Station: the Family Service Center Instructional Facility and the Instrument Landing System (ILS). Seabees worked closely with the Air Force and the Naval Station's Air Operation Department in the completion of the ILS project.

NMBC 1 deployed five details throughout the European Theater and within the continental United States. Battalion Detachment sites included Edzell, Scotland; Sigonella, Italy; Naples, Italy; Souda Bay, Greece; and Thurmont, Md.

Det. Sigonella was primarily tasked with the construction of the battalion's biggest project, a 900-foot underground culvert.

The Thurmont, Maryland, Det went to work at Camp David, completing two major projects. One was the renovation of the medical facility, which consisted of the demolition of the interior of the facility, construction of a new room and renovation of the interior of the building with gypsum wall board, carpet and wood trim.

The other project was the demolition of four existing security towers and construction of nine new towers in their place.

## Seabee joins U.N. troops in Western Africa

by JOSA Angela Fitzgerald

Lt. Michael O'Sullivan, of NMBC 27, is part of the 10th U.S. contingent, consisting of 31 military officers, to go to Morocco Feb. 6, supporting peacekeeping efforts that began Sept. 6, 1991.

O'Sullivan said his primary mission would be to "observe and enforce compliance with the cease fire agreement by the Moroccan government and the Polisario rebel forces."

"The principal duty of U.N. peacekeepers is to report on movement of troops or weapons systems, live firing that threatens the cease fire agree-

ment, intelligence gathering by aerial observations and improvement and new construction of defensive positions," he added.

This area became a region of interest to the U.N. after a 16-year war between Morocco and the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (Polisario rebel forces) - both claiming a 266,000-square-kilometer area as theirs.

The region has very few known minerals and no known deposits of oil or natural gas. Daytime temperatures rise as high as 150 degrees Fahrenheit and drop below freezing at night. There are few archaeological signs that the land has ever had human inhabitation.

The United States viewed the conflict as a potential danger to Morocco's government's stability. If this area were taken over by a new radical fundamentalist state, access to the Mediterranean Sea might someday be threatened.

The Moroccans decided to seek a political solution to avoid the constant threat of harassment from the Polisario rebel forces. The United Nations Security Council Resolution 690 was passed in 1990. On Sept. 6, 1991 a cease fire was affected by the arrival of United Nations military observers. Since U.N. troops arrived no shots have been fired from either side.

# Career Corner

The first place you look to plan your future.

## Attention: CEC Reserve Officers

In December, career planning documents were mailed to all CEC reserve officers to initiate the FY97 officer billet assignment detailing process.

All reserve CEC officers should use the Reserve Officer Data Card (RODC) provided to update their personal and professional information in the RNCFSC data bases.

Additionally, all CEC officers should use the duty preference cards (DPC) provided to indicate their FY97 billet preferences.

Personnel applying for commander or captain billets will also have to submit application packages for those billets, unless they are continuing for FY97 in their same billet for a second year.

The RODCs, DPCs and application packages are due back to RNCFSC by Feb. 15.

The O-4 and below detailing boards, as well as the command screening boards, are tentatively scheduled for April 1996.

The national command selection board is anticipated to occur in July, with no firm date yet selected.

Questions may be referred to the RNCFSC Manpower office at 1-800-782-3510.

## IDTT In Conjunction With AT/ADT Policy Change

IDTT performed before AT/ADT creates confusion in crediting the constructive day of travel. If the constructive day of travel is credited for the same period as IDTT, IDT pay is not authorized and will be recouped by Defense Finance Accounting Service. To ensure IDT pay is not jeopardized, the IDTT portion of the orders will be only after the AT/ADT.

## FY96 Program And Policy Guidance

As was the case last fiscal year, FY96 budgetary constraints require strict adherence to established fiscal policies.

Three major policies that need to be recognized when requesting AT are: Split AT is limited to a maximum of two sets of AT orders per fiscal year. Split cost AT travel is authorized for one period of AT only. The second portion of a split AT or subsequent authorized segmented AT will be limited to duty stations within a reasonable commuting distance of the member's residence, unless the member voluntarily travels at his or her own expense, without reimbursement for travel costs.

AT/IDTT/ADT order requests, which

require arrangement of air or group travel through NAVPTO/SATO New Orleans will be submitted to COMRNCFSC no later than 60 days and no more than 120 days prior to the event start date.

For more information refer to administrative messages COMNAVRESFOR 061100Z OCT 95 and COMNAVSURFRESFOR 051300Z OCT 95.

## AT Not Permitted For Some Reservists

Personnel not authorized AT include those reaching High Year Tenure (HYT) between Oct. 1, 1995 and Dec. 31, 1996 who are in receipt of a BUPERS approved waiver or are not advanced to new HYT gate.

Personnel with known retirement dates or who have submitted retirement requests are not authorized AT.

Members submitting, or with pending, reserve transitional benefits are not authorized AT.

Personnel will not perform AT within the fiscal year when they are released from active duty in the same fiscal year. All personnel accessed after March 31 aren't authorized AT in FY96 unless a waiver approval is granted by COMNAVSURFRESFOR via COMRNCFSC.

# Letters of Hope

Individuals and organizations sending mail to U.S. Sailors, Soldiers, Airmen, and Marines supporting Operation Determined Effort and Joint Endeavor in the former Yugoslavia may do so at the following addresses:

If you wish your mail to be directed to shipboard personnel supporting these operations write to:

*Any Service Member  
Operation Determined  
Effort / Joint Endeavor  
APO AE 09398*

The following address for

land-based personnel went into effect Jan. 18. Use this address if you want to send letters to "Any Seabee":

*Any Service Member  
Operation Determined  
Effort / Joint Endeavor  
APO AE 09397*

Your participation is the only factor that will make this morale-boosting opportunity a success.

# From the Force Master Chief

by CUCM (SCW) George W. Gooch

Greetings from Washington. I hope every one got what they wanted for Christmas. If Santa missed your tent, hang in there, he may have gotten tied up in traffic on the Beltway.

It has been busy over the past three months since Master Chief Race retired. I want to take the time and acknowledge the outstanding turnover that Master Chief Race gave me prior to his retirement on Oct. 10, 1995. His retirement ceremony was one that all who attended will remember for a long time. Master Chief Race brought the Seabees to the forefront of the Navy in his dealings with the MCPON, and other D.C. area commands and Command Master Chiefs. We all wish him and his wife "Good luck, fair winds and following seas."

January begins a new era in evaluations. This is a needed change and it is very important that we get involved in the process. The new evaluation gives us the chance to tell the troops the way it is without the fluff and flowers. We have to be able to say "No you are not 4.0 (5.0)" and be ready to accept that ourselves. The standards which are written on the evaluation form should ease this apparent difficulty. We have to counsel the troops using the actual forms. Therefore, they should never have any evaluation surprises. Let's make this changeover an easy one.

On the active side, we have 22 master chief petty officers assigned to the Command Master Chief program. This is a good program and it opens up a lot of doors for duty

assignments. The hesitation of going into the program seemed to be fear of the unknown. We, as the senior leadership, should grasp the challenge of doing what Seabees do best: *Leadership*. Check the program out.

Regarding leadership, I had the opportunity to attend a COMNAVSURFRESFOR Senior Enlisted Leadership Conference, in New Orleans, La., in November. We had many guest speakers during the conference, and the one constant of all the speakers was the praise our Seabees received. I was impressed and proud to hear these comments. It really fostered the "One NCF" concept. Keep up the good work.

As I sit in D.C. and look out my window and see the gray of winter that covers the skies, it reminds me of the clouds that are looming over the Navy as a result of various incidents. A couple of old sayings come to mind, "It is better to be thought a fool than to open your mouth and remove all doubt" and "Engage brain before putting mouth in gear." It is our responsibility to ensure that we, the troops, don't let this cloud remain over our heads. Don't be complacent when it comes to what is going on around you. Do the right thing. "Measure twice and cut once."

Well, until next time: Stay sharp, stay in shape and stay in touch.

George W. Gooch  
CUCM(SCW) USN  
Master Chief of the Seabees

## To the Chiefs:

by EQCM Hank L. Barstow, COMRNCFSC CMC

I want to direct your attention to the article in "Short Bursts" about CPO Selection Boards. It's late for this year, but apply regardless. The E-7 Board is later in July and needs members for both the board and the assistant recorders. It's our responsibility to sit these boards and select the future leaders.

The board is three weeks of hard work, but it is the most rewarding job you will ever do. I know its hard for many Selected Reservists (SELRES) to take three weeks off work, but please give it serious consideration. (Plan Ahead!!!) If you're going to retire, reaching High Year Tenure this year or are not eligible for AT, the Selection Board is a way to make your last year count. It's funded by the BUPERS as special ADT.

Master Chief Gooch addresses the new evaluation system and stresses the importance of our getting involved. To achieve high marks under the new eval system will be

even more time consuming for a SELRES, when you consider that a month is turned into a weekend and a year is turned into two weeks. Approach the evaluations positively and know they are well worth your time and effort. Think back to when you were coming up the ranks and your chief took the time to counsel you and talk honestly about how you were doing and what you could do better. Let's give that peace of mind to the next generation. Ask for help and delegate down. Part of accepting responsibility and being a leader comes from your knowledge and use of the structure. Finding the time to participate completely in all aspects of our jobs is hard, but you'll find, it is very rewarding.

In closing, remember the "One Navy" concept is here to stay, but understand that while we all use the same construction skills to get the job done, the reserve administrative process to get to the job is very different and much more involved. It helps to learn the system and provide the correct input with ample lead time so we can all accomplish our mission. Friendly communications are always better than frustrated demands.

-Your link to COMRESFOR and COMSURFRESFOR